

## MINUTES - FINAL

### MS 54 General PTA Meeting: 10/18/17

The meeting was called to order and presided over by co-presidents Katie Miller and Jerome Kramer.

Quorum was achieved.

### CO-PRESIDENTS REPORT

- **Construction:**
  - Nothing new to report but PTA reps are keeping track of developments.
- **West Side Campaign Against Hunger Turkey Drive:**
  - Will see information and links in the e-newsletter
  - Looking for donations of turkeys or money
- **Call for Volunteers:**
  - **Nominating Committee Chair** - Paula Estrada volunteered
  - **Bake Sale:** Karen Asner volunteered to be second co-chair
  - **Red Cross Babysitting Event:**
    - Held in January or February
    - Students can get certified to babysit
    - Very popular – oversubscribed last year

### MS 54 SPECIAL ELECTION

- MS54 slate for uncontested vacant positions; all positions voted in:

PTA position	Nominated candidate
Corresponding Secretary	Joanne Giordano
Co-VP of Fundraising	Vijay Sinh
Co-Assistant Treasurer	Michele Samarel
7th grade representative	Sarah McLoughlin
Co-Recording Secretary	Trista Soh

- Matthew Strozier elected 6<sup>th</sup> grade representative

### TEACHER PANEL: SUPPORTING STUDY SKILLS AT HOME

- *Participating Teachers:* Deanne Orcher, Elisabeth Cohen, Rachel Weisz
- Designate a study space
- Have a calendar at home to see when long-term projects are due
- Keep separate record of a student's strengths and weaknesses
- Prevent students from reverting to "lowest energy state" studying
- Engage with material in a more active way; e.g., quiz yourself or have a parent or friend quiz you
- Parents can help students assimilate feedback; review teachers' comments and really understand them versus just looking at the overall grade
- Think about content in a variety of ways
- Help students figure out when they don't know something and help them advocate for themselves to get help
- Get organized ahead of time (e.g., gather all information, figure out if you have everything needed to study, reach out to teacher if something is missing)

- Extra credit varies by teacher
- Students should expect to receive Humanities homework 4 nights per week
- Parents can check planner to see what is written down and also look for blanks/what is not written down in case something is missing
- Break down work into pieces
- 6<sup>th</sup> graders should have on average 30 minutes per night for Math, 30 minutes for Science, 45 minutes Humanities. Should be a total of ~2 hours a night.
- Can take advantage of Homework Help after school Tuesdays – Thursdays (need to sign up)
- Build in family time for everyone reading independently at home
- Try to make connections from books a student currently likes to new books to expand their comfort zone/repertoire
- Ask public librarian for suggestions on what to read
- Alternate books your kids want to read with books you want them to read
- Alternate having student and parent read a book of the student's choosing vs. one of the parent's choosing
- AMightyGirl.com website provides book recommendations

### **TREASURY**

- Budget Overview given as of October 17, 2017:
  - Balance in Checking Account: \$247,890.61
  - Balance in Money Market: \$250,697.39
  - Total Income: \$137,831.17
  - Total Expenses: \$366,470.41
- Last Year Finished with Income of \$180,000
- Expecting lower income this year due to more after-school expenses carried over from last year in addition to new shades and new laptops

### **ANNUAL FUND / AUCTION / FUNDRAISING**

- **Annual Fund:**
  - It is important to donate; we are down 25% from where we were last year at this time
- **Auction (March 3, 2018):**
  - Distributed donation forms or can visit ms54.org to donate online
  - Solicit restaurants, jewelry making, space for parties, sporting-events, theater tickets
  - Need more volunteers to help with auction, reach out to Vijay Sinh
  - Planning mask-making evenings in December/January where students can make masks for adults to wear at the auction
  - Next meeting: Tuesday, October 31 at 8:40 am in Administrative Office (Room 133)
- **Thanksgiving Pie Sale:**
  - Flyers to be sent home this week
  - Pick-up for pies is Tuesday before Thanksgiving (11/21)
  - Pies are \$20-\$25
  - Can buy pies to donate to local charities
  - Consider organizing a pie event for your child's homeroom

### **PRINCIPAL'S REPORT**

- **Professional Development:**

- Teachers had first PD session on bullying on 10/16 that was mandated by the Chancellor
- School is vigilant but if you hear/see something, please inform the school. Can be anonymous so your child will not know you contacted the school
- **Progress Reports:** If you reached out to teachers and did not hear back, tell Dr. Elster since teachers are expected to respond within 48 hours
- **SLT meetings:**
  - Open to everyone to attend
  - Usually the second Friday of the month at 7:20 am
  - Policy changes are discussed; minutes posted on the website
- **Booker T Day (Friday, November 3):**
  - Thank you to those who have volunteered
  - Need more hosts and 50-60 chaperones; please reach out to Dr. Elster
  - Students leave school at 12:00, need to be back by 3:00
- **Thanked PTA for purchases this month:**
  - Funded Professional Development for 2 teachers
  - New laminator
  - Air conditioner for Band Room
  - School supplies including yard equipment

PTA and SLT information, member lists, meeting dates and minutes are on the school website under the PTA and SLT tab. The PTA Exec Board welcomes your comments and suggestions any time. Email us at [pta@ms54pta.org](mailto:pta@ms54pta.org).

**Next PTA General Meeting:** November 14 at 7:00pm.