



MINUTES

MS54 PTA General Meeting
September 24, 2019 @ 8:00 am, Auditorium
BTW54PTA@ms54PTA.org

CALL TO ORDER & MINUTES: Reviewed and approved June minutes

PRESIDENTS' REPORT

- **BBQ recap:** ~400 people came; cafeteria staff cooked the food; school store, Yankees fundraiser, and committee sign-ups went well; ended with impromptu karaoke
- **Safety meeting recap:** monthly meeting to discuss any concerns – installed new procedures, all else is good
- **Equity Team recap:** first meeting of the year 9/23 with new steering committee leading it (parent Judy Scott-Clayton, teachers Ms. Tsai & Ms. Johnson); next up is to survey parents for input
- **Class Parent update:** there are a few slots left - if interested, contact Anne Pejovich / AMcIntosh6@schools.nyc.gov
- **High School Admissions update:**
Booker's guidance counselor Rebecca Mansell held a presentation 9/17 about the process, resources, and to-do's; this year there will be waitlists instead of round 2 appeals; proposed changes to SHS admissions aren't happening for this round, but we'll continue to monitor.

There is a CEC3 meeting 9/25 to go over a number of recommendations (removing district barriers, etc.) so please come and participate and share your opinion.

There is a new superintendent for D3; there are no high schools that give priority to D3 students, and while there is a lot of concern around the D2-priority/exclusive schools, there is no action and D2 even wants to expand D2 priority

Booker T parent and education advocate Larry Lee recommends F.A.C.E. NYC (Friends of Accelerated Curriculum and Education in NYC) - a Facebook Group supporting academic achievement and merit found in the NYC Gifted & Talented programs and schools, the advanced curriculum in NYC Screened Schools and the NYC Specialized High Schools (*link: <http://bit.ly/facenyc>*)

- **108th St construction update:** started the concrete and steel phase of development, which will go through March; there will be a mobile crane that will cause many street closures on 108th

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

- Thanks the PTA for funding: summer bridge program, bringing in 30 kids for 4 days to give them a head start; supplies, planners, iPad cases; 3 new positions for the school. These wouldn't happen without the PTA support
- Jupiter is always available this year, to monitor grades/assignments
- Cellphone collection is going smoothly; fewer student trips to the bathroom
- Library renovation almost done, kids will start to be able to use next week
- Added health to 6th grade curriculum; reconfigured 7th grade math classes so they are all regents-tracked; 8th graders now have gym just one day/week, and use the extra period for humanities
- Early academy brings in about 600 kids each Tuesday and Thursday

TREASURERS' REPORT

- **Treasury update:** we're on track for income, as well as expenses - biggest bucket this year is educational consultants/guidance counselors
- **Annual appeal update:** looking for someone to lead this; \$16K ahead of where we were last year; activities typically include mailing, marketing, and a phoneathon; there are annual appeal envelopes available in back

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Fundraising**

Complete: Yankees game raised \$1000, and School Supplies raised \$4000

Upcoming:

- **Party Book**— NEW! instead of one big blowout event, want to crowd-source individual events to raise funds (*e.g. host a scavenger hunt, meet & greet, superbowl party*) See Dana Grant / fundraising@ms54pta.org
- **School Store**— new cart with merchandise will be out at all events; can also order online any time
- **Online Auction**— historically a big success for raising funds, need contributions and participation
- **Spring Event**— March 21st 2020, get involved to help, first meeting 10/7
- **Battle of the Bands**— approached by a group of schools to join an adult Battle of the Bands at Symphony Space on February 9th; we have no standing band, but interested parents should speak up!
- **Fairway**— cards available; when used, PTA gets % back of what you spend; double points today 9/24!
- **Grants**— a great way to improve the school with other money; last year got grants to get A/C for auditorium and gym; any grant ideas or to help, contact Kyle Clayton / assttreasurer@ms54pta.org
- **Other fundraisers**— Broadway night in early December, a fun showcase of Booker parent/alumni/staff talent. Performers and help, contact Anne Pejovich / AMclntosh6@schools.nyc.gov

The membership present at the meeting voted unanimously to move forward with the above fundraising activities

- **Events:** there are a lot of events, need a small committee to help with this – it's fun, useful and necessary
- **Communications:** always looking for help spreading the word – join Facebook group; take pictures and share them yourself or send to webmaster@ms54pta.org (particularly for school team sporting events)
- **Wellness:** Wellness Day happens in March, where kids attend two presentations related to social, emotional, nutrition and health (*e.g. mindfulness, yoga, meditation...*) Any contacts or presenters, please reach out to wellness committee / wellness@ms54pta.org. There will be monthly wellness tips, both for students and in the parent e-newsletter

OTHER BUSINESS

- **PTA Executive Board Elections:** Board recommended Anne Rosenberg for Co-Treasurer; called for additional nominees (none); took a vote of membership present: unanimous vote in favor, Anne is now Co-Treasurer
- **Topics for upcoming PTA meetings**
 - Oct – Elections & Teacher Panel on Studying
 - Nov –
 - Dec --
 - Jan – Tutor Fair
 - Feb –
 - Mar – Teachers Panel on State Tests
 - Apr –
 - May Budget Presentation/Student panel on the high school process
 - Jun - PTA & SLT Elections/Budget Vote

There's a 6th grade safety assembly that starts at 9am in this auditorium, parents are welcome to stay

Next General PTA Meeting: October 7 @ 7:00 pm

Grant overview for MS 54 PTA Exec Board (Sept. 23, 2019)

This document is intended to summarize grant awards from the 2018-19 school year and provide context on the grants process for the current school year.

2018-19 recap:

- Last year Kyle worked with Dr. Elster and PTA co-Presidents (Jerome and Chris) in Fall/Winter to identify capital projects that MS 54 needed funded. The two most promising projects that emerged were the following:
 - [Providing air conditioning in the Auditorium and Gym](#)
 - [Renovating the basement to create a new Band Room](#)
- FY 2020 [ResoA process](#) for capital grants at MS 54:
 - With input from budget staff for the Manhattan Borough President's Office and our City Councilmember, we determined that the Air Conditioning project was more likely to be funded. Band Room project had a less refined estimate and questions existed on school's certificates of occupancy for the basement.
 - We applied for capital funding for \$345k for air conditioning in February, with a 50-50 split between the City Council and MBPO.
 - It looks like \$290k in funding will be available for the air conditioning project, although only \$90k has been directly confirmed so far.
 - MBPO budget office [notified MS 54](#) that \$90k was awarded for our project
 - Most [recent City Council budget](#) includes \$200k for MS 54 air conditioning. Note is out to Mark Levine's office seeking confirmation.

Grant process for this year:

- In late August, Dr. Elster met with Chris, Jerome, Juhi and Kyle to discuss capital needs at the school this year.
 - Dr. Elster is working with Facilities to execute on previously funded projects such as the Library renovation and starting on the A/C project.
 - Initial capital project ideas:
 - More funding for A/Cs - gap between our application and the awards is in the range of \$55k. We also have discussed getting A/Cs in the cafeteria
 - Band Room project (with more refined plans / estimates than last year)
 - MS 54 would also benefit from a few services, which might be eligible for grants
 - Mental health services
 - Physical activity / wellness

- Options for seeking funding (initial list):
 - Capital Grants:
 - ResoA Process for 2021 - deadlines will very likely be in February '20, with precursor meeting and project refinement starting in the fall.
 - [Participatory Budgeting](#) - capital projects \$50k+ can be submitted by October 11th. The process:

PARTICIPATING COUNCIL MEMBERS

<p>MANHATTAN: Margaret Chin (District 1) Carlina Rivera (District 2) Corey Johnson (District 3) Keith Powers (District 4) Ben Kallos (District 5) Helen Rosenthal (District 6) Mark Levine (District 7) Diana Ayala (District 8) Bill Perkins (District 9) Ydanis Rodriguez (District 10)</p>	<p>BRONX: Diana Ayala (District 8) Mark Gjonaj (District 13) Ritchie Torres (District 15) Vanessa Gibson (District 16) Rafael Salamanca (District 17)</p> <p>STATEN ISLAND: Debi Rose (District 49)</p>	<p>QUEENS: Paul Vallone (District 19) Costa Constantinides (District 22) Jimmy Van Bramer (District 26) I.Daneek Miller (District 27) Adrienne Adams (District 28) Karen Koslowitz (District 29) Donovan Richards (District 31)</p>	<p>BROOKLYN: Stephen Levin (District 33) Antonio Reynoso (District 34) Laurie Cumbo (District 35) Robert Cornegy (District 36) Carlos Menchaca (District 38) Brad Lander (District 39) Mathieu Eugene (District 40) Alicka Ampry-Samuel (District 41) Justin Brannan (District 43) Farah Louis (District 45) Mark Treyger (District 47)</p>
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TIMELINE:

The PB process involves a series of meetings that feed into the City's annual budget cycle. The **2019-2020** cycle has **four main phases**, beginning in August 2019 and continuing into 2020.

<p>IDEA COLLECTION AND VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT</p> <p>August 2019 – October 2019</p> <p>Through community meetings, residents brainstorm ideas and recruit Budget Delegates for the current cycle.</p>	<p>PROPOSAL DEVELOPMENT</p> <p>October 2019 – January 2020</p> <p>Budget Delegates transform ideas into full proposals, with support from city agencies and staff. Delegates narrow down proposals and select projects that meet the needs of the community.</p>	<p>GOTV AND VOTE WEEK</p> <p>March 2020 – April 2020</p> <p>Once proposals have been determined, Budget Delegates and residents get out the vote and prepare for a nine-day community vote.</p>	<p>EVALUATION AND PLANNING</p> <p>May 2020 – June 2020</p> <p>Winning projects are included in the New York City's upcoming fiscal year budget. Staff and stakeholders evaluate the process and oversee the implementation of winning projects by agencies.</p>
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To learn more visit: www.pbnyc.org • Email: pbnyc@council.nyc.gov • Follow: [@PB_NYC](https://twitter.com/PB_NYC)

- Expense grants
 - City Council budget requests generally due mid-February. Awards typically in the \$10s of K for services / programming.