**PTA General Membership Meeting**

**December 15, 2021**

**Via Zoom, 9:30AM**

**Meeting Minutes**

1. 9:32- Meeting called to order by Maya co- PTA President

a. Greetings, Reminder of zoom protocols-Leave questions in the chat. They will be answered during this meeting, in upcoming newsletter or as a direct email.

b. Motion to waive the approval and reading of minutes from the Nov 2021 PTA meeting Motion, second and approved.

c. We have some special guest from the teaching staff-Principal Valerie will introduce them

2.    9:34-Principal Valerie- Update

a. Great month of December, successful school tours.  Last in person tour- tomorrow.  It’s been very well received Bea, the comfort dog is the star of the show.

b.Thank you so much for the Friendsgiving pies to our teachers and staff

c. Hired new school aid Hope and a second school aid, Hay.  We are very excited about them joining our staff and supporting us.

d. New sporting equipment has been purchased and students have been loving it and using it during yard time during recess.

e. Asking for parent volunteers to help during the mornings for 8-8:30AM with flexibility on time.  Taking volunteers to greet families, students, help keep the morning entrance orderly. Orange vests can be provided so that the parent volunteer can be official adult who they can go to or that is watching over them. One day a week, five days a week, we will take what ever availability works for the parent volunteer.

f. Author Kyle Lukoff is  coming next Wednesday coming to speak to the GSA.  He wrote a book called “Too Bright to See” Students will get to meet the author and talk with them

g. The Club Dungeons and Dragons is a hit. Jonathan has been working on that with the students

h. Black Student Alliance had their first meeting Friday afternoon which was very exciting for student and staff.

i. Transitioning back to jumprope a standard space grading platform. Jumprope has work habit participation, homework, effort but 75% of total grades is academic outcomes- it’s how we know how well your student is performing.  Jumprope helps align are teaching practices and assessments across grade and vertically through department based on rubric and standards. They have to align everything they access to a standard. It gives multiple opportunities for student growth.

3. Introducing teacher from 8th grade Algebra 1 teacher, Ayanna  she will share an example of Math academic outcomes in jumprope so you get a deeper understanding and Teresa who teaches ELA will tell us what it looks like for English.

9:40-Ayanna

a. Good Morning.  A bit about a shift from last year, we didn’t use jumprope so things were different.  At 75 Morton view Math as a learning process.  We focus a lot on the process that gets to the answer as oppose to the solution. The goal is for students to learn how to solve problems.  We encourage students to show their thinking through different models, annotations and explanations and supported through our curriculum choices which are big on rigor and deepening the understanding around Math topics.  We provide lessons that provide student multiple opportunities to practices processing math and building those connections.

b. In Math there are standards and practices.. What we teach each grade is based on NGLS-Next Generation Learning Standards which is an adapted form of the common core standards, NYC update from the common core, changed some of the wording and now it’s called NGLS.  These standards are in depth and thorough and organized by grade in document.

c. In 8th grade we do Algebra 1 work which is a 9th grade level class so our students can go into High school with that credit already completed.  These standards are focused on in a specific unit and in each grade.  They are very skill based. (Presentation [link](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1b8bUnLkIuYyPdyFO8wXFDTpuQPrTet_ZTwBPO2m8yvM/edit?usp=sharing).)

d. Each grade starts with 8 standards for mathematical practices.

K-High School no matter what math skill they are learning they are engaging in those practices. We access student on that because they can demonstrate mastery throughout the year. Learning outcomes- Example of Algebra 1 class. Contemplate and calculate routine. Think about what you are doing without actually counting. How could you group circles without showing the value. We assess the students on how they are

Solving problems and checking solutions. A 4 is a clear annotation marking 3 steps and show the strategy. We are looking for students to show their work and be clear of how they are arriving to the answer.

We ask them to develop these so we have students that are problem solvers not just answer getters.

9:45AM

Teresa- ELA sharing the example of how this grading works

1. As you know, ELA is broken up into reading and writing so I will delve into both of those.

a. ELA at 75 Morton we use the common core standards. Common Core State standards as they fall into reading and writing. Here’s an example of the Standard common core that we use for narrative writing. There is a slight variation within 6 7th & 8th grade. These standards help us come up with our academic outcomes.

b. In ELA in 6th grade we put a focus on managing and independent writing and narrative and information and focus on demonstrating control over the conventions of English.

c. In ELA- we have the Writer’s notebook for students to develop their own ideas, their own process. We also do writing projects in class. All of these align with state standards. An example of a writer’s notebook. Write 8 pages- We grade for the control over the conventions of English, a 4 would be a student who writes more than 8 pages and use edits and rewriting and improving. There are multiple opportunities to do it. We give more opportunities to edit and recreating a page to demonstrated their improvements. Help them develop their own skills.

2. In Reading we have a 30 book goal. We encourage them in various ways including Book clubs throughout the year, our library projects. We look at a standard.

3. They have multiple opportunity to master showing the significance of an object or the detail in a text and using sound reasoning.

a. An example of the rubric: A breakdown of the learning outcome and the multiple opportunities may be laid out. I can make sense of the text that I am reading- an exit ticketing,

b. A quiz about a chapter in the book.

c. The third might be a more involved project that may span a full week of work. Each with the idea that we are going to see more and more improvement and more mastery. Here is the ELA presentation Image Mastery-Based Grading

9:50AM

Valerie- The slide 5 is an example of highly effective teaching and what it looks like to assess students on a standard they are teaching.

9:53AM:

Chat Questions & Answers

1. Maya- Chat- We are about to send a blast out about High school admissions in the next half hour from Elaine, Rachel & Jill.

2. Question about out lunch and not being able to come back to school during the out-lunch.

a. We are limited on the staff and the person checking swipe out then goes and does another tasks and comes back to supervise the swipe back in. We can’t let the students come in and out because we lose the sense of control.

b. Out-lunch is a privilege. They don’t have to go, they can eat in the lunch room. That is the school policy. It’s also a safety issue.

3. Question from chat answered by Valerie: The system of grading is a decaying one that promotes growth.

a. From first to fourth assignment as they are teaching the first one will be less weight. If you get a “1” on the first assignment but a “4” on the last one, your jumprope grade will be closer to a “4”. The newest ones always have the most growth.

b. Many other schools are using jumprope and the same conversion charts that we are.

9:56AM

Thank you Ayana and Teresa

9:57AM

Mike Sobel Treasurer’s Report:

* + 1. Budget Update
    2. As of November 2021, we raised 2300- Friendsgiving.
    3. a. Direct appeal through the end of November is 12,260 a lot lower than what we raised in the past just for comparison, different years and different amount of people as well. Through November 2020 we had raised 37,000 and November 2019 we were at 68,000.
    4. Our total revenue through November is 23,000.  On the expenditure side, we have spent about 15% of our budgeted amounts for academic support for the year, 21% on general administrative expenses and 25% for PTA Expenses.  Total expenditures are at 28,000 which puts us at a negative of 5000.00, 4900.00. If you have any questions, please email me at [ptatreasurer@75morton.org](mailto:ptatreasurerer@75morton.org)

10:03AM:

1. Maya- Past Events and Initiatives-

a. Friendsgiving- Thank you all who donated a pie.

b. Java with Jill- Java was actually without Jill but John Rover joined. We will bring him back in 2022.

3.Coat and Clothing Drive- Jill- Thanks to all who donated. We are in good shape in terms of outerwear. What we could still use is things like sweatpants, sweatshirts more winter non-outerwear. If you know of who wants to get rid of that stuff. It should be in “like new” condition. If you know someone looking to donate, we are happy to take it.

4. Planting bulbs

Thank you to our science teacher, Olivia and those parents that came help us plant bulbs that we will reap the rewards of Spring.

Maya- We will send more reminders about End-of-Year giving. We want to get participation up.

5. Last night we had our magic show and it was delightful 6th grade event.

It’s something we should continue to do.

10:08AM:

Rebecca for upcoming events:

1.We have the teacher holiday gifts rolling in.

a. Thanks to Deborah for taking on the roll of collecting this year.

b. Heads up January/February we will have a wine tasting for grown ups. Thank you, Corinne and Sarah for helping run that.

c. February- Cooking event with Cara Silman, who is a parent at this school and there is much more to come in 2022.

10:11AM

1.Valerie- Thank you to PTA

a. Shout out to the PTA for organizing a place to have a holiday party for the staff. We appreciate making that happen on a short timeline.

b. We are having our Morton days, snowflake making. 8th grade doing door decorating again. Kids spoke to their advisor to come up with a plan.

c. We are having a student only holiday showcase on Thursday before break. Each grade performing for their presenting. We will record for parents to see. Office hours for parents today.

d. Line Ambassadors Request- 8-8:30AM is the ideal time but very flexible.

e. 8th grade office hours is next week.

2. Valerie- High School Information

a. We all got the same information at the same time from the DOE.

Jill Bennett 10:17AM

1. Letter Number 3 to go to 8th grade families. A couple very quickly. There have been a couple of changes that in my years working at the DOE and as a parent something in the process has changed exponentially.
2. They will look at the first grade marking for 8th grade students. This year the only criteria they are looking at.
3. Report cards will be in by the end of the day today. When we leave this meeting you should be able to upload your students report card.
4. Students can submit a work sample from last year. Schools will ask for different thing. Some schools will say essay or video.
5. It’s up to parent to see the high school website to see what criteria they are asking for. Across the board, it’s the first 8th grade marking period.
6. The High school Applications open week of January 24th and submission the week of February 28th.
7. The other big change is that High schools are not going to be doing their own ranking individually. That will all be done centrally by the DOE. If 8th grade families have any questions you can reach out to Jill, Rachel or Elaine.

10:22AM

Maya- Thank you principal Valerie, Jill and everyone! Have a wonderful holiday!