



**PTA General Membership Meeting
January 15, 2020, 8:45am
Minutes**

- I. Call to Order – 8:51am by the Alexandra & Stella (co-presidents)
- II. Reading and Approval of December Minutes – 8:51am
 - a. Co-Presidents introduce themselves & welcome new attendees.
- III. Treasurers' Report – 8:52am (Christie & Corrine)
 - a. Report shows through end of December & projected budget changes.
 - b. Treasurers point out adjusted revenue lines and expenses.
 - i. 8th grade graduation package added.
 - ii. Bowl-a-thon revenue lowered.
 - iii. Direct Appeal goal was not met for December. Projection has been lowered, although hope to get more donations between now and June.
 - c. Adding Fundraisers to make up for the loss, which means expenses will also need to be adjusted.
 - d. Auction income may increase revenue.
 - e. Reducing revenue means reducing expenses.
 - i. The position of mindfulness coach vacated by Colin will not be filled.
 - ii. Teacher's Fund is not needed.
 - iii. Reworking graduation package numbers.
 - f. Question asked about replacing Colin.
 - i. Jacqui explains Colin took a full-time job at a charter school with benefits. Takes a while to find a version of Colin so he cannot be replaced this year, this quickly.
 - ii. We'll have three guidance counselors next year.
 - iii. Admissions for HS is over; counselors have more time to attend to the students.
 - iv. Troy – is our new social worker. He's here Wednesdays and Friday working with our at-risk kids.
 - v. We need the money.
 - vi. School will most likely pay for a mindfulness coach next year and it won't come out of the PTA budget.
 - g. Academic Enrichment explanation – making sure we can reduce without radically changing our goals. PTA wants to keep Teacher Fund at \$400 to start up. Books are a separate line item.
 - h. Review and Approval of Revised Budget at 9:03am.
- IV. Principal's Report – 9:04am
 - a. Danielle, 6th grade science teacher, will explain Mastery Grading momentarily.
 - b. 8th grade math teachers are working with Metamorphosis staff to present algebra to students.
 - c. 6th graders on February 5th & 6th will see a Shakespeare play that they're studying.
 - d. End of January, 6th grade trip to go to Photography Center.
 - e. Snowball Dance for 7th graders only in February. Volunteer mtg set up for tomorrow.
 - f. Measuring 8th graders for cap and gown on photo day, Feb 11.
 - g. 75 Morton is a choice school, which means the school may schedule additional Professional Development dates to train teachers. Two tentative dates are Monday, May 18th and Friday, June 5th (no school for students). June 4th is already a planned DOE PD day where students are off.
 - h. Equity consultants will take one day to work with the entire staff with a focus on interpersonal relationships with students. A booklet will be put together for parents. The consultants are in Ghana right now.

- i. Maternity coverages – school is on it. Substitutes are in place.
 - j. As per the DOE, public schools are not allowed to implement a dress code.
- V. Presidents' Report – 9:12am
 - a. Past Events
 - i. Morton Day – thank you to the volunteers! Popcorn was a hit, but it was a lot of work. If someone is willing to take that on, then we can have more days afterschool to sell popcorn. A parent donated a freezer, so when the weather is nicer we can sell ice pops.
 - b. Upcoming Events
 - i. Movie Night – Thursday, January 23rd, next week. *Playing with Fire* movie was chosen. Free pizza and popcorn will be offered. Family event; siblings invited.
 - ii. School Photos – Tuesday, February 11th & Wednesday, February 12th, 8th graders scheduled for the 11th where they'll be measured for caps & gowns. More info TK.
 - iii. Snow Ball (7th graders) – Thursday, February 13th. No space to hold more than one grade at a time. There will be pizza, sweet treats, and dancing. Volunteers needed. Planning meeting and a sign up will be passed out.
 - iv. Java with Jacqui & Jill Feb. 14th. The focus is “conflict with bullying resolution” led by Kate Greenberg. She's done many workshops for teachers, staff, and parents on sexuality and bullying.
 - v. Red Bulls – Saturday, March 28th, Harrison, NJ. Tickets are \$36 each, \$10 off the regular price. They'll go on sale this week. Check out the PTA newsletter.
- VI. School Leadership Team (SLT) Report | slt@75morton.org – 9:18am. (Heather, chair of SLT.)
 - a. Discussions on testing. Katie will go to a Regents meeting. All children will be able to take the regents. More info coming.
 - b. Heather promises “to say yes!” to gathering information and helping parents. January 29th there is a Panel for Education Policy (PEP) meeting, 6pm at Bergen High School on Pearl Street. Chancellor and DOE attends and must listen to every parent.
 - i. Heather is going to ask for an easier 8th grade process to get information on the rubrics of each school on the DOE site and on the HS websites. Send an email to SLT if you'd like this information more readily available. The more names the better.
 - ii. She will ask how the schools use the rubric and how many kids scored what on their tests.
 - iii. Rubrics need to be available for 7th grade families as well. If 7th grade matters, families need to know the rubric earlier as waiting for 8th grade seems too late.
- VII. Presentation on Mastery Based Grading & JumpRope – Danielle, 6th grade science teacher – 9:24am
 - a. Danielle summarizes the key questions they've been getting from parents.
 - b. Two years ago, at Clinton, they used traditional grading system. At Morton, switched to Mastery Grading.
 - c. They'll stick with Mastery Grading as they feel it helps the students in their learning.
 - d. Focus on Learning Opportunities in the classroom and in homework.
 - e. Navigating JumpRope website; Danielle shows screenshots.
 - f. A lot of work for teachers to import information, but ultimately it is an efficient and comprehensive look at how the children are doing.
 - g. Students have 2 weeks to turn in missing assignments in regular classes. 1 (one) week to turn in missing assignments from a Regents class. Helping kids to stay responsible and ready for High School.
 - h. Students check JumpRope every other week in Advisory. Don't need to check in every day. Check in with your child. Email advisors when you have a question on JumpRope.
 - i. This presentation will be available on the school website.
- VIII. Committees & Events – 9:56am
 - a. Auction | auction@75morton.org. (Irma, Stella, and Millet, Auction co-chairs)
 - i. SAVE THE DATE – Thursday, April 2nd
 - ii. Hope to raise \$125K. With more children in the school, we can use those funds.



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- iii. 6:30-10pm in the gym. We have a special waiver to serve liquor. There will be music, live and silent auctions.
 - iv. Auctioneer will be Alasdair Nichol from Antique Road Show.
 - v. Online auction will be live prior to the event and we need lots of donations.
 - vi. Need volunteers to input data, editing some of the data before it goes live, sponsorships needed (\$500), event help, and donations. Calling all parents!
 - vii. Donations of food and drink last year, so hoping to not have to pay for that again this year.
 - viii. Asking for parents to bring in at least one item, but for the auction to be successful, asking for parents to solicit for donations and bring in more than one item.
 - ix. Two online auctions – one regular site and one more expensive called Charity Buzz. If we had 70 items worth \$1,000 we would more than make our goals. Wealthy people shop on that site. Examples: Walk-on role in a film, lunch with a producer, hard to get Broadway tickets, etc.
 - b. Gardening Committee | garden@75morton.org (Elizabeth)
 - i. Looking to have a lemonade & green market sale. Looking at ideas for ways to donate to the auction.
 - ii. New tree has been planted on Morton street, hoping to get more over the next couple of months.
 - iii. There will continue to be discussion on how to spend the grant they received.
 - iv. Pier 40 is having renovations. Ganesvoort plans for the full-sized field are moving ahead – all great for our kids.
 - c. Library Committee | library@75morton.org
 - i. Jessica & Kim continue to need volunteers to help in the library.
 - d. Community Building | 75 Morton Cares – (Beverly)
 - i. Toy Drive for Morgan Stanley Children’s Hospital – ends Friday, January 17th, need unopened toys. Don’t go out and buy, but donate a new toy you have lying around. Box is in the lobby of the school.
 - e. 8th Grade Graduation Committee | graduation@75morton.org
 - i. Nick introduces Janie (8th grade teacher) who is now involved in the 8th grade graduation.
 - ii. Class trip has been changed – looking for a more economical trip that will cost less (was Six Flags). Still looking for \$175 to cover the events, swag, and yearbooks from 8th grade families.
 - iii. Need to continue to brainstorm and decide what graduation is going to look like. Band performance, video montage (yes), speakers, special guests, etc. Join the committee a week from Friday at 8:45am in the cafeteria.
 - iv. Janie, video montage for graduation – please send appropriate pics to Janie.
 - f. PAC – Meeting today about the M20 bus. Staff is taking care of it and they’ll get back to us. Hoping to get the bus arriving more regularly.
 - g. School Store – Morton swag will be sold at more school and sports events. Need folks to help **Kim Shay**, who now has a full-time job.
- IX. Old Business – 10:11am
- a. Kim Youngberg has quotes for our insurance liability. About to sign our insurance policy. A big hand to Kim for working this out for the school – takes hours of her time.
- X. New Business – 10:11am
- a. Theatre Benefit – PS 3 and Beacon are working together to put on a show that will star actor Paul Rudd. We were offered 30 tickets to sell at \$75. Performance is Monday night, March 9th. Once we get the tickets we’ll post. Performance at Atlantic Theatre.
 - b. Talent Show – Sunday, April 26th. 6th graders are highly interested. More info to come.

- c. Gotham Comedy Event – May 4th is the date. More information to come.
 - d. 3 Bills proposed in Albany to vaccinate for flu and HPV. One of the items up for a vote is to vaccinate the children without permission from the parents. See Elizabeth DeLaBarre for more information.
- XI. Adjournment – 10:15am

See you at the next PTA meeting on Wednesday, February 12th, 6:15pm in the library!

2019-20 PTA Executive Board
pta@75morton.org

Co-Presidents (pta@75morton.org): Stella Chang | Alexandra van Schie

Co-1st Vice Presidents: Kim Shay | Kim Youngberg

Co-2nd Vice Presidents: Mark DeLaBarre | Irma Gomez-Dib

Co-Treasurers (ptaTreasurer@75morton.org): Corinne Moreno-Geis | Christie Peale

Co-Secretaries (ptaSecretary@75morton.org): Carmen Lamar Daehler | Meredith Hays

Members at Large: Beverly Buscemi | Maya Brewster Dorian | Millet Israeli | Jacqueline Luxenberg