



**PTA General Membership Meeting
December 16, 2020, 9:30am
Via Zoom
Meeting Minutes**

- I. 9:34am – meeting called to order by Maya & Stella, co-Presidents.
 - a. Welcome back Ilene!
- II. 9:35am – Marcia, co-secretary, reading and approval of the minutes. Motion to waive reading, second, and approved.
- III. 9:35 am – Treasurers’ report, Mike, co-Treasurer gives an update.
 - a. Revenue is at 56K through the end of November, 1/3 of projected budget.
 - b. Received 10K for auction, 5K from School Tool Box this month. Hoping for more year-end direct appeals.
 - c. Expect expenses to go up as teachers need more supplies throughout the spring. Overall net revenue at 29K.
- IV. 9:38am - Principal’s report, Jacqui.
 - a. Asynchronous day tomorrow (Thursday). Children will sign on to their first period class to do an assignment together. Students expected to do assignments.
 - b. Jacqui gives a much-deserved shout out to Stella and Maya (co-presidents), welcomes back Ilene, and thanks to Jill, Fish, Val, and Katie.
 - c. Working with teachers to strike the right balance with students who want to just dig in to work and others who need social-emotional contact first. Teachers set up beginning of class rituals with consistency.
 - d. Tuesday 22nd is Morton day. Val is hard at work putting this day together. It will happen once a month to give students a chance to bond.
 - e. DOE said admissions protocols would be out before Christmas. Once announced, a meeting will be planned with HS counselors, Elaine and Rachel, and Jill.
 - f. All middle schools will put up video with no live streaming or presentations. Jacqui has small casual chats scheduled with zoned elementary schools.
 - g. Thunder Studies programs – SETTS team are available to help students get extra help. Email Ilene if your child needs extra help. They are using study hall time expertly.
 - h. School is organizing lunch clubs in Anime, Podcasting, Coding, and more. GSA meeting will meet once a week, and there will be a 6th grade parent book club and 7th +8th grade combined book club.
 - i. Report cards are coming out today, waiting for the DOE system to upload.
- V. 9:46am - Parent Coordinator, Jill, update.
 - a. Covid testing consent forms will be sent out again for blended and newly blended students. Please note that if you filled it out before, it must be filled out again. The school must have this for students to attend school person. Online or hard copies to download will be available.
 - b. Javas with Jacqui and Jill will resume in the new year to help keep everyone engaged. –In January a workshop from NYU, “Communicating During Covid” will be offered. Workshops will be grade specific. In February, guest Michelle Lipkin will be back for online communication/media literacy program. Jill encourages families to share with her what subjects and issues they’d like covered for future Javas.



- VI. 9:51am – Presidents’ report, Stella and Maya.
- a. Past events.
 - i. Auction made just under 10K; exceeded expectations. Thanks to Mike who delivered the larger auction items around the city.
 - ii. Raffle is closed – and the winner will be selected randomly on who won the wine at the end of the meeting. Will look at a possible spring auction in the new year.
 - b. Upcoming events.
 - i. 3pm today is a virtual magic show. Thank you to Jennifer Wenk who found a magician and helped to organize the event. Afterwards the magician will give a “behind the scenes” lessons with families to show them how to do their own magic trick. All you need is a pen, a coin, a dollar bill, and deck of cards.
 - ii. Morton cookbook – submit recipes by next Wednesday, December 23rd. Great way to share some of our favorite dishes. It will be a small fundraiser for the school.
 - iii. Holiday teacher and staff gifts – as per the DOE families are not allowed to give teachers anything thing of value. Students may send heart-felt messages.
 - iv. Video festival – Students will make videos during the holiday and share with rest of the school. Videos may be 30 seconds to 3 minutes long and on a variety of categories from sports to drama, comedy to documentaries. Hoping for a lot of participation. Glen and Jessica, members-at-large are spearheading this. Videos are due on January 6. Screening will take place on January 20, Morton Day.
 - v. End of year giving – Asking for any amount before end of December. You will receive a tax write-off.
 - vi. More events coming up.
 1. A virtual dance party is planned for Feb. 10th. More details to come.
 2. Still looking for new ideas to keep the community together.
- VII. 9:59am – SLT.
- a. A new chair has been selected, Bruce. Bruce was not in attendance for the meeting, so Heather, former chair, summarized their last meeting.
 - b. Discussion of communication opportunities to help spread information about the wonderful things happening at Morton. For example, the wonderful article written by Jake, a member-at-large, about the pie delivery and the funny stories along the way. In addition to the PTA and the SLT, want to encourage families to share what they love about Morton.
 - c. Ideas on how to continue to support our teachers and children in the best way possible.
- VIII. 10:01am - Community updates.
- a. Marcia gives an update to our Thunder Buddies event.
 - i. Last meeting, we played Charades. It was so much fun! Encouraging suggestions from the 6th grade families of what they want to do. Please spread the word to join these events. January 12th is the next meeting. They meet the second Tuesday of every month.
 - b. Shannon gives an update on Neighborhood meet-ups.
 - i. Wants to make clear that at least one parent needs to be present and help coordinate.



- ii. 1st meet up this Saturday in Central Park with entrance at 81st Street for kids to play frisbees and catch. There will also be a scavenger hunt. Next meet-up in Union Square will be hosted by Stella on January 14th. These events don't need to be heavily planned, just organized so kids can get together safely, socialize, and play.
- IX. 10:06am - Raffle. Congratulations to parent Alvin!
- X. 10:07am - Any old or new business? From a question in the chat, Jacqui addresses that there will be no cohort changes until February when they know how many students actually come to school. Need to get back into school to plan accordingly.
- XI. 10:09am – meeting is adjourned. We hope everyone has a healthy holiday and stays safe. See you in the new year!

Submitted by Carmen Lamar Daehler, co-secretary.

2020-2021 PTA Executive Board
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