



**PTA General Membership Meeting
February 12, 2020, 6:15pm
Minutes - DRAFT**

- I. Call to Order – 6:18pm
- II. Reading and Approval of January Minutes – 6:18pm
- III. Treasurers' Report – 6:19pm
 - a. Discussion of revenue and expenditures by Christie. So far, we have 25% participation for direct appeal. This seems low, but 25% participation is statistically on track for Middle Schools, even though it is low for Morton (b/c we had an exceptional first year).
 - b. Revenue for auction is budgeted at \$145,000. Also focusing on 8th grade graduation package of \$175 per student with a 40% participation rate.
 - c. Fiscal year closes June 20, 2020
 - d. On track for academic support and general admin expenses are lower than projected. We're keeping an eye on expenses so we can pay priority items.
 - e. If auction etc. isn't on target, we'll need to adjust amounts. Bob says folks have probably already given to direct appeal, so it may be tough to get new donations however, recurring billers will help close the shortfall.
- IV. Principal's Report
 - a. Met Bea! 8-year-old adorable comfort dog! She belongs to Brian, the 6th grade ELA teacher. It was Brian's idea to train Bea for this work. Parents need to sign permission slips for kids to interact with Bea. She'll be in designated rooms (not free-roaming); she can work 180 minutes a day. Teachers and guidance will determine who gets/needs to see her.
 - b. New school aide, Will Green, is starting last week of Feb. He worked with Manhattan Youth, came highly recommended, and all are excited to have him join the team. FYI: aides and teachers are acting as floor monitors and providing more adult presence during recess and in between classes etc.
 - c. Drama field trip to see *Timon of Athens* was cancelled due to cast sickness. So, kids will see the play, perhaps as a movie. 8th grade going to Bronx Museum of the Arts.
 - d. On March 20th, a student will have his art presented at the Met.
 - e. Dept of Ed has a program called "New York City Well" and a spokesperson named Grace will run four voluntary workshops with teachers on issues like mental health, crisis info, etc. She runs 60-minute workshops, some of the info will also be incorporated into a Java with Jacqui and Jill (taking away stigma of mental health, for example). Also, there's a group called Vibrant that does lunchtime workshops for girls that we are looking into.
 - f. Planning for Student Led Conferences now. Parents will find out more from their child's advisor.
- V. Presidents' Report
 - a. Past Events
 - i. Movie Night - Thursday, January 23rd - Thank you, Maya! Kids had a great time, but they did have a hard time sitting still for more than 45 mins!
 - ii. School Photos - Tuesday, February 11th & Wednesday, February 12th - Thank you Jill and Judy. Picture proofs and the codes to order the prints will come home with students. Make-up day is March 27th. 8th graders got measured for gowns (caps are all one-size).
 - b. Upcoming Events

- i. Snow Ball (7th Grade) - Thursday, Feb 13th - Thank you, Lydia. 6 teachers will be chaperoning. Dance runs 6-7:30 pm. 227 kids have RSVP'd. Bring in baked goods tomorrow!
 - ii. Java with Jacqui & Jill (Conflict vs Bullying with Kate Greenberg) - Friday, Feb 14th.
 - iii. High School 411 (7th Grade) - Wednesday, Feb 26th, 6-7:30 pm
 - 1. Demystifying the process by Elisa Stein. Only 7th grade parents. RSVP online.
 - iv. Theater Benefit - Monday, Mar 9
 - 1. THANK YOU, Corinne and Cathy! PS3 is giving us 30 tix to sell. \$125 early bird prices; The play is *God of Carnage* and it will be a reading at Atlantic Theater. All of the \$ goes to the school. Tix on sale this Friday.
 - v. Student Led Conferences - Thursday, Mar 12th (Early Dismissal)
 - 1. No Manhattan Youth or out lunch. Advisors will send info to families.
 - 2. Progress Reports were sent last Friday to kids' emails.
 - vi. Red Bulls - Saturday, Mar 28th – Tix on sale for \$36, limited tix. We'll be sending another reminder.
- II. Nominating Committee - Nominations due Wednesday, May 20th
 - a. The Committee is made up of 3 parents who won't run for office on Exec Board next year. They will get the word out that there will be nominations in May for an election in June. Nominations open April 8th and close May 20th. Anyone interested in running for EB let PTA know. No open position for SLT in the Spring - 1 spot is reserved for incoming families in the Fall.
- III. School Leadership Team (SLT) Report | slt@75morton.org – no update this month.
- IV. Committees & Events
 - a. Auction | auction@75morton.org - SAVE THE DATE – Thursday, April 2nd
 - i. Donations are due Friday, March 20th. We have around 80 items so far, going to “kick it up” after break. Please ask for donations and tell others to ask. Last year we had 450 items, but Stella wants 500!
 - ii. Select items will be in the party room, including the art. There will be a live auction and online auction and a super high-end online auction for fancy stuff (meet and greets etc.) Heather suggests sending email to restaurants with forms etc.
 - b. 8th Grade Graduation Committee | graduation@75morton.org
 - i. Kim Y says they met last week to decide between 3 places: A trippy space in Brooklyn (too many dark, unsupervised areas); Chelsea Piers (not big enough); Staten Island trampoline park (the winner!!).
 - ii. Need to get a bus for free from DOE. Waiting to hear if bus can pick up and drop off at Staten Island Ferry. In addition, need to see if buses will extend pick up time. It takes 35 minutes from ferry to trampoline park. Met with 35 kids to see what they want to do and the trampoline park was the favorite.
 - iii. Yearbook is figured out. Brian and Sasha have worked on yearbook. Thank you!
 - iv. The ceremony needs to be figured out. Grad party on June 23 in gym in the evening. Picnic – need to change the date, but don't want it to be too early in May b/c it's still cold outside.
 - v. Kids are into the idea of fundraising and need to focus on it: coin drives, bake sales etc.
 - vi. T-shirt: would like the design sent in 5 weeks. There will be a contest to design a 2-color t-shirt and names of 8th graders will go on the back.
 - vii. 8th grade has slotted class time to help with graduation – will talk to Donna about ceremony plans etc.
 - c. Gardening Committee | garden@75morton.org – no new updates; things are going well!
 - d. Library Committee | library@75morton.org
 - i. Space gets messy. Join in a clean-up every 1st Friday of the month, 11:30-12:30.
 - e. Community Building | 75 Morton Cares

