



**PTA General Membership Meeting
February 24, 2021, 9:30am
Via Zoom
Meeting Minutes**

- I. 9:36am – meeting called to order by Maya & Stella, co-Presidents.
 - a. Reminder of zoom protocols – please leave questions in the chat.
 - b. Questions will be addressed in upcoming newsletters or direct email.
 - c. Please fill out attendance google sheet form.
- II. 9:36am – Maya, co-president, reading and approval of the minutes. Motion to waive reading, second, and approved.
- III. 9:37am – Treasures’ report, Mike gives an update | ptatreasurer@75morton.org
 - a. \$110K in revenue, \$42K in expenses.
 - b. Direct appeal, asking for \$75 for 75 Morton in the next few months to get us at 100% participation by June.
- IV. 9:38am - Principal’s report, Jacqui.
 - a. Along with Katie, Ilene, and Jill just got off a 28 agenda staff meeting.
 - b. Thank you to PTA for providing an amazing breakfast as a welcome back to the teachers and staff. PTA will be providing lunch as well. Nice to be back!
 - c. Down to 2 cohorts, A & B. Thank you to families for being flexible. Staff received very few emails saying that schedule did not work for them.
 - d. Cohort A meets in person on Mon/Tues. Cohort B meets on Thurs/Fri. Both groups alternate Wednesdays. Each room will have 6 – 9 students with the exception of one 6th grade with 11. They’ll be in the library.
 - e. School is ready – desks have been cleaned and organized. There will be longer pauses between classes so teachers can move from class to class. This will give everyone some breathing time.
 - f. According to the DOE there is not another opt in period for blended.
 - g. DOE policy - if your child misses two consecutive days of blended learning they lose their spot in school.
 - h. Some families still need to fill out consent form to receive Covid testing. First test is this Friday – 20% of kids and staff will get tested.
 - i. Families should expect closures. Based on DOE guidelines if one student gets Covid it could affect the entire pod and bungalow. Teachers teach across bungalows.
 - j. State tests – do not know if they’re having them. Digital test prep books have been ordered. ELA is scheduled for the end of March, computerized goes through April. Math is scheduled for the end of April, and computerized into May. The scores will not count even if the test is given. Waiting on the official word from the DOE.
 - k. Middle school applications closed yesterday. Morton had 12 casual conversations with elementary schools, which allowed them to see how well the school is handling Covid, education, and mission/vision during this time.
 - l. March 1st is the DOE deadline for HS admissions. If you haven’t sent it in, you will receive a call. The guidance team and administrative staff will help; please reach out.
 - m. Morton Day scheduled for March 26th before spring break.
 - n. Renee & Ken, who have had workshops with Morton families and staff in the past about equity, race, diversity and inclusion, will have another intimate conversation with families, “I’m Not a Racist...” on March 3rd. It’s an opportunity to explore feelings around this topic in



your own lives, world, work, school, etc. Please join us to learn about yourselves and listen to their wisdom.

- o. Daily health screening needs to be filled out on the days when kids are attending school in person.
- V. 9:49am – Presidents’ report, Stella and Maya.
 - a. Past events.
 - i. Video Festival – entries were great. Thanks to Glen & Jessica for organizing and Jake for hosting. The festival generated such joy they will continue at Morton for years to come.
 - ii. Morton Cookbook is still on sale on the website - \$25 for the hard copy; \$10 for the download. Send to family!
 - iii. Morton Day / Direct Appeal – 60% there. Please donate \$75 for 75 Morton. That’s just \$15 a month.
 - iv. Virtual Dance Party – kids had a great time! DJ Manny was incredible. Thanks to Mark for putting it all together. He had the best dance moves and kept the energy high! 50 – 60 kids showed up. Another party is planned for May.
 - b. Upcoming events.
 - i. Magic Show – February 25th at 3pm. Thank you to Jen Wenk and Marcia George. DR. Schreiber will go through the history of magic. Following the 30-minute family event, please stay on as one of our students, Chase, will do his own magic act. A blast will go out with a link later today.
 - ii. “I’m Not a Racist...” – March 3rd with Ken & Renee. Parents only – teachers will have their own workshop. Plan is to bring everyone together afterwards.
 - iii. Parent Teacher Conferences – March 10th in the evening & 11th in the afternoon. Students will have early dismissal at 11am. Look for info from advisor to sign up for a time.
 - iv. Cooking Class – March 24th with Cara. Her pizza dough recipe is in the Morton cookbook. Everyone will make pizza together that night and have it ready for dinner!
 - v. Other Events – School photos. Waiting on confirmation on dates, most likely in April. Kids in school will have photos taken on site; remote students will be able to sign up and take photos virtually through their phone or computer. Stomping Ground will make everyone look great. Group photos will be a compilation of the student photos.
 - vi. 8th grade students will learn from Jane Ferguson, a Special Correspondent for PBS *NewsHour*. Jane will be speaking on March 5th and share her experience from an article she wrote in April 2020 about her time in Beirut during the lockdown. She will do Q&A during the lunch hour.
 - c. 9:56am – PTA/SLT Elections.
 - i. Nominating Committee | nominations@75morton.org
 - ii. Thank you to our volunteers – Beverly, Sarah, Ute, Rae
 - iii. Actively looking for members of the Executive Board and SLT. Many seats are open. Two seats on the EB board are reserved for next year’s incoming 6th grade families, and one for SLT. Nominations will open in April, close in May, and the election will take place in June.
- VI. 9:57am – SLT, Bruce | slt@75morton.org
 - a. SLT took time to look at the vision and mission statement of 75 Morton through the lens of Covid to see if it still met the school’s expectations and current environment. They found



that it does. Delighted to find that it speaks to resilience, adaptability, and flexibility – important now and in the future. Our vision and mission statement are well drafted.

- VII. 9:59am - Community updates.
 - a. Marcia gives an update to Thunder Buddies event.
 - i. Sign up for the mocktails events for March. March 9th at 5pm.
 - b. Stella gives an update on Neighborhood meet-ups.
 - i. Revisit getting together after school for students who are attending and as the weather gets warmer we'll start neighborhood meetups.
 - c. Carmen gives an update on 8th graduation committee | graduation@75morton.org.
 - i. Planning is moving ahead. Focus more on the graduation events once March 1st High School deadlines are done.
 - ii. The graduation is tentatively planned for Monday, June 21st at 6pm. DJ Larry who helped produce last year's graduation is on board.
 - iii. An improv special event for 8th graders is planned for the morning of Morton Day, March 26th.
 - iv. Be on the lookout for a google form next week asking for your child's T-shirt sizes and name as they'd like it to appear in the yearbook and graduation diploma.
 - v. Asking for \$100 per student to help cover the costs of production, graduation, caps, yearbook, T-shirts, and virtual events.
- VIII. 10:06 – Cynthia from Manhattan Youth.
 - a. Not sure when they'll be back physically in school, if at all. A lot of wonderful clubs have been offered online. Looking to add debate for the spring.
 - b. This is a great way to have your kids meet other kids at school for social interaction.
- IX. 10:08 – Old Business – nothing to report
- X. 10:08 – New Business – nothing to report
- XI. 10:08 – Meeting Adjourned

See you at the next PTA meeting on Wednesday, March 17th

Submitted by Carmen Lamar Daehler & Marcia George, co-secretaries.

2020-2021 PTA Executive Board
pta@75morton.org

Co-presidents (pta@75morton.org): Maya Brewster-Dorian & Stella Chang
Co-1st Vice Presidents: Millet Israeli & Corrine Moreno-Geis
Co-2nd Vice Presidents: Beverly Buscemi & Mark DeLaBarre
Co-Treasurers (ptaTreasurer@75morton.org): Angel Marshall & Michael Sobel
CO-Secretaries: Marcia George & Carmen Lamar Daehler
Members at Large: Jake Daehler, Jessica Dillman, Glen Friedman, Rebecca Lupardo, Shannon Meglio, Kim Shay