



PTA General Membership Meeting

March 17, 2021, 9:30am

Via Zoom

Meeting Minutes

- I. 9:35am – 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 during the meeting, in upcoming newsletters or direct email.
 - c. Please fill out attendance google sheet form in the chat.
- II. 9:36am – Maya asks to waive reading and approval of the minutes. Motion to waive reading, second, and approved.
- III. 9:36am – Treasurer’s report, Mike gives an update | ptatreasurer@75morton.org
 - a. End of Feb revenue is at \$117K with total expenses at \$54.5K.
 - b. Plans are underway for graduation and associated expenses. Contributions are coming in for that.
 - c. We still need donations for Direct Appeal. \$45K short of our budget, which was already reduced. Please consider donating \$75 for 75 Morton.
- IV. 9:37am - Principal’s report, Jacqui. (with Katie, Ilene, and Jill)
 - a. Week 3 of coming back into the building. The staff is enjoying walking around the building and hearing the chatter in classrooms. More teachers are vaccinated. Teachers are more active in classroom and energized by having more kids in the classroom.
 - b. Thinking about September and how it will look. Some kids did well on the screen as they felt freer to participate. Thinking how to incorporate so many things adjusted to during covid.
 - c. HS applications are done! Congrats to parents. No news on when acceptance letters are coming.
 - d. The school will offer an additional Part 1 of the workshop “I Am Not a Racist...” with Ken & Renee for parents. Staff will be participating next Thursday. Maya will talk more about it in upcoming events.
 - e. Jane Ferguson, PBS correspondent, will be in school again before she heads off to Yemen. She’ll be doing another talk with some 8th graders and some 7th graders. The school hopes to establish a connection with other people.
 - f. Career Day on June 4th (Val to share more information). Hoping Jane can be there.
 - g. Katie discusses the HIV/AIDS DOE run curriculum; a mandate for every middle schooler. Josh and Kevin, PE teachers, will teach curriculum to their classes. Students with asynchronous PE will be doing those lessons with their advisors. If you don’t want your student participating, parents need to get in touch with Katie.
 - h. Tests. No updates. ELA test will take place during the days of April 19th to 29th and math during the days of May 4th – 14th. All tests will be held with small groups. The test will be one day and be multiple choice. Parents can decide if their children should take the test.
 - i. Regents are June 22nd and 23rd for Algebra and Living Environments. More details on testing when we get back from the break.
 - j. School is waiting for the budget to come in, so they can plan during summer for fall.
 - k. Morton maintains two closets in basement for students who need help. Wardrobe includes sock, shoes, jacket, backpacks, etc. If you can help, please contact Jill to drop off good, like new clean items. All sizes accepted as some students take items home to their siblings.
 - l. P/T conferences – thank you for joining. If you have lingering questions, reach out to the advisor, even to schedule time to talk with other teachers.



- m. During the Principals' meeting, Jacqui discovered that if you work during vacation time you can clock hours. Noted that teachers weren't allowed that perk and they work all the time.
 - n. Covid/Safety protocols. Katie thanks everyone for filling out the covid testing consent form and filling out the health screening every day. The school is running so beautifully and smoothly. When your kids are not feeling well, keep them home, and send an email. Continue to do that throughout the year. If anything changes to the DOE guidelines, we'll let you know. The school is very safe. Teachers and kids are happy. If you have any concerns reach out to Katie.
 - o. Ilene – the DOE has not adapted to the state's quarantine's guidelines. You still need to quarantine for 10 days if exposed to covid.
 - p. School started serving hot lunches. Chef Manny couldn't make another sandwich!
- V. 9:53am – Presidents' report, Stella and Maya.
- a. Past events.
 - i. Magic Show. Thank you Marcia and DR Schreiber. Very fun presentation which took us back in history while doing magic tricks. A highlight was Chase, a Morton student, ending the event with his own magic tricks. He was great!
 - ii. Workshop: "I'm Not a Racist..." Maya explains that Ken & Renee orchestrated an experience around this topic. They came prepared with tools and action items that you and your children can take out into the world. The parents who attended didn't want to leave. We'll repeat the Part 1 to give more people a chance to attend before we move on to the second one. If you only attend one event at the school, let this be the one. You don't have to keep your cameras on. "For our community and the world right now, it's an experience and you'll leave with a different perception. It was extraordinary." Also noted, parent Leona talked about her experience in Jacqui's recent newsletter.
 - b. Upcoming events.
 - i. Cooking Class – March 24th Freshmade owner, Cara. Sign up by Sunday, March 21st. Her pizza dough recipe is in the Morton cookbook. Everyone will make pizza together that night and have it ready for dinner! Sign up by March 21, and you will get the zoom link.
 - ii. Morton Day – 3rd Morton Day. Val explains the activities for that day will include Family Feud. Still working on building school culture and bonding online. The teachers are playing against each other and the students will be cheering them on. Students can make encouraging signs!
 - iii. School photos. April 6th & April 9th to cover Cohorts A & B. Remote photos will also be taken. Jill is creating the schedule to determine logistics with students in the building and students at home. Planning on shooting in the yard. Stomping Ground brings tents with them, and follows all covid protocols. No class pictures, but a compilation of student individual photos will be used. It's a fun day! There are no retakes. If your child is absent on the physical day, you can sign up for a remote photo shoot. There will be no paper proofs.
 - iv. Improv event April 22nd at 5pm with the Hideout Theatre company. Similar to the Choose Your Own Adventure books. They go through a story and then have the audience vote for the path to take. Parents encouraged to attend.
 - v. One last T-shirt drop. Kids will design and vote on their favorite.
 - vi. Another dance party is planned for May. The kids had such a great time. DJ Manny will be back.



- vii. Lost at the Smithsonian – an escape the room adventure for parents and kids. Prizes to be awarded. More info to come.
 - viii. Career Day – June 4th. Val is looking for 50 speakers. Speakers will be live on zoom and present their career for 10 – 15 minutes. This will take place during school periods. Don't be scared or shy – it's really fun and rewarding. Consider being a speaker. A form has been sent out.
- VI. 10:03am – Nominating Committee | nominations@75morton.org.
- a. Rae, Beverly and Ute are members of the nominating committee. Nominations will be open at the April meeting and close at the May meeting. Voting in June. Please consider running as we're losing a lot of 8th grade members. Questions about the position please contact the email above or the co-presidents.
- VII. 10:04am – SLT, Bruce | slt@75morton.org.
- a. Bruce could not attend, Maya does report. SLT is working on a survey to find out what we've learned during covid. Parents have such an interesting perspective being a part of their kids' education every day.
 - b. Gym and yard questions, Jill answers. Plans to reopen the gym and yard for lunch time use. Also figuring out how to do PE classes.
- VIII. 10:06am - Committee updates.
- a. Stella gives an update to Thunder Buddies event.
 - i. Last week we tested out the Family Feud game. Thanks to Jake for hosting. Next month we'll be doing mocktails.
 - b. Shannon gives an update on Neighborhood meet-ups.
 - i. Reintroduce the neighborhood meet ups for spring now that it's getting warmer. Based off the newsletter, parents have been reaching out. Parents interested in cohosting, please mention that as well.
 - c. Carmen gives an update on 8th graduation committee | graduation@75morton.org.
 - i. Event will be pre-recorded with recordings starting in April. It will be shown at a specific date and time so families and the entire school can watch.
 - ii. Working with Jacqui and the team to find out if and how we can do a small in-person celebration to hand out diplomas.
 - iii. Caps were distributed to students to decorate for the graduation zoom video. If you weren't able to pick up your cap, you may do so during school hours, 8:30 – 1:30pm or email us at graduation@75morton.org to pick up your cap near Union Square.
 - iv. Contest design for the Class of 2021 T-shirts. Designs are due by April 5th, after spring break.
 - v. Yearbook. All students will receive a yearbook. We're starting to design the pages. A big shout out to 8th grade parent Odine, who is working on the design and layout.
 - vi. Encourage your 8th grader to fill out the Class of 2021's Favorite Things. This will be a page in the yearbook and fun to look back on years from now.
 - vii. All grades will be represented in the yearbook, so parents please email photos of school activities to yearbook@75morton.org.
 - viii. 8th grade families, please contribute \$100 per student to cover the costs related to graduation. 1/3 of families have contributed \$12.5K. The goal is to raise \$21K; we're halfway there! A big thank you to families who've made additional donations to help sponsor other students. We do have volunteers helping with stuff. If you want to help, please reach out.
- IX. 10:13am – Old Business – nothing to report.



- X. 10:13am – New business. Community and Citywide Education Council Candidate forum for D2 forum will be on April 5th, 5 – 10pm. Overwhelming number of candidates this year. Parents attend this meeting to hear and learn about the candidates. Election in May. All parents are eligible to vote (which is different from previous years).
 - a. Cynthia, from Manhattan Youth. After school for 3rd trimester is starting.
 - b. Next meeting on a Friday because of test week, Friday the April 23rd.
- XI. 10:14am – Meeting Adjourned

See you at the next PTA meeting on **Friday**, April 23rd

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
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Co-Treasurers (ptaTreasurer@75morton.org): Angel Marshall & Michael Sobel
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