



75 MORTON | MS 297 NYC

PTA General Membership Meeting
May 20, 2020, 11am
meet.google.com/mok-jmtc-ire
Respectfully submitted by Carmen Lamar Daehler

11:03am – Alexandra calls the meeting to order. She explains how to be on a google meet (muting and using the chat to pose your questions).

11:04 – Waive the reading of the minutes. Posted online if you need to see them. Everyone unmuted to unanimously approve waiving the reading of the minutes.

11:05 – Treasurers' Report. Corinne speaks on their behalf.

- Income still coming in with monthly donations.
- 2K of spending
- Made \$900 last month.
- We're at a deficit, without our main auction we'll be 30K short.
- Letter from Jacqui asking for family donations, please help out.
- Why do we still have expenses? We're receiving invoices for things like yearbook, graduation, and equity workshops. We need money to pay these.
- Jacqui hasn't had any information from the DOE what her budget is going to be.
- Vote on a 2020-21 budget at the next PTA meeting.
- New direct appeal sent out through Jacqui's newsletter to make donations. 25k – 30K needs to be made up with direct donations. Whatever you can do.

11:08 – Jacqui

- Misses everyone!
- A lot of feedback from families and they take all into account. School is writing curriculum to keep up with remote learning. Teachers completed essays to administration on what it would look like to move from remote (home) to brick (at the school) learning.
- Donna Santman, 8th grade ELA teacher, has spent much of her past two months going to school to get computers from Ed and crew who are working at the school. Donna has driven around LI and Queens to kids who have not gotten computers from the DOE.
- Donna has also been spearheading a Book Drive – leaving books on the curbs for families. A source sent in Amazon GC used to buy books to a handful of children.
- P/T Conferences are happening this week. Please make sure you schedule yours.
- Many teachers host live office hours. Ask your child to drop in.
- Graduation – Stella, Nick, and Alexandra will go into this later.
- A lot going into virtual graduation.
- Field trips – the Whitney Museum virtual is happening this week.



- Speakers signed up to keep remote learning engaged. In ELA the Photo essay observations are poignant. Proud of ELA team for creating this project.
- Budget cuts could be 10-20%. Maintain staff and have money left over technology. Technology will be important remotely. Saving money for that.
- High School process for 7th graders - the school knows nothing yet. Parents will know as soon as the staff knows. Letters and blast sent to parents. Start the process now of looking into schools. Parents are responsible.
- Last two weeks of school will be set for planning. Teachers need time to get ready for September. Students will complete the required 120 days of schools – some days would have been about testing. What assessments can be used? Have to get ready for every scenario.
- Summer school will be for children who are academically challenged – it's not enrichment.
- The older brother of one of our 7th graders, Sasha Levine (at Stuy) – offering help to some of our kids. Free tutoring and help from many groups of college kids. They're coming up with wonderful ideas.
- Katie – next school year we're adding STEM intensive. Current 6th grade students can choose STEM or band, chorus, drama, visual art. 7th graders will stay in their regular intensives. STEM is only for incoming 6th graders and next year's 7th graders. School is receiving a \$100K grant from Tides/Google foundation for technology and for STEM.
- Jill – exciting news. Psychotherapy group on NYU campus, The Collaborative – a small grant to have mental health partnership with schools and Morton was asked to participate. Webinar in early June to support families, specifically parenting during the time of Coronavirus. 5 weeks of school remaining – webinar will address how to adapt to isolation and remote learning and minimize conflict. Considering tech use from the child and adult point of view – to what degree would the pandemic change the rules? We'll have smaller workshops when we're back in school. Email jill@75morton.org with any questions.
- Lockers – when we're allowed to come back to the building they'll put a system in place for small groups at a time to empty the lockers.
- Virtual SHSAT - ask Jill for details.
- To donate books – pass it along to Donna email donna@75morton.org.

11:23 – Presidents' Report

- Chancellor's Regulations A-660 Provisions Waived.
 - This is an official PTA meeting.
 - Oct, 31, 2020 – elections, not required to have it at the end of the school year. How do we do a virtual election? DOE will tell us.
 - Current officers' roles will be extended to new election dates.
 - Treasurers deadline for submitting financial report is October 31st.
- Past events



75 MORTON | MS 297 NYC

- Gratitude wall for teachers for teacher appreciation week. Thank you to everyone for writing.
- Upcoming events
 - Early June for orientation for new students (Elizabeth and Noah Smith) putting together a video to share with incoming families. Students writing letters to incoming class.
 - School supplies – will provide a list for families to bring to school. Organized by grade so you know what to get. Partnering with School Toolbox. Parents can purchase a box of supplies for their child – the box of supplies will be shipped directly to your home.
 - Question as to whether we can do an online Auction. It's better to wait as soon as we can do it in the fall. Donated items have expiration dates, physical items are locked in the school, and some of the businesses may have closed.

11:29 – SLT is meeting every two weeks

- Be a sounding board for admin to talk about running a zoned, inclusive school during a pandemic.
- How do we continue to support them remotely?
- Continue to send emails with ideas and thoughts.

11:30 – Questions

- Can we do a raffle? School needs to be three years old to do a raffle. It's possible we could do something in the fall.
- Virtual career day. It's a huge task to run and organize, so we can't do it this year. Moving curriculum to remote learning with virtual field trips and speakers.

11:32 – Graduation – Nick Gottlieb

- Everyone is super sad not to gather in person. We're doing our best to make up for it with the virtual experience. Hopefully in the fall there will be an opportunity to gather in the gym. Everyone gets to attend virtually, which is the good news.
- The graduation is **Monday**, June 22nd at 6pm. 8th grade families please read the emails. Zoom meetings with the bungalows will begin next Tuesday. What's recorded will be part of the Graduation ceremony.
- Asking students to dress up a little bit. Using Stomping Ground photos, choir performance, teachers, parent, and student speakers, TikToks and videos.
- They're working with an outside vendor to produce and live stream it on Monday, June 22nd.
- The graduation fee \$175 to cover 8th grade graduation costs. This amount still pertains as there are expenses. T-shirts will be distributed, 2020 tassel, yearbook, etc.
- Questions, comments, graduation@75morton.org. Encourage your kids to make videos and send in.



75 MORTON | MS 297 NYC

- yearbook@75morton.org for 8th grade photos and schoolwide photos. All students will receive a yearbook. They're \$25.
- If you can't cover the \$175 you'll still be entitled to everything – don't worry. If some parents can give more, or give what you can.

11:37 – Question. What are the chances of opening in September? The school is watching Cuomo and De Blasio and paying attention to the DOE. So far it looks like there is a plan to open in September. The school will get ready for that.

11:39 – Community Building

- Donated items to Wellington Hotel for families that live in temporary housing. Thanks to everyone who donated and to the donated PPE items to a hospital in Brookdale.
- Covid 19 T-shirts campaign ended. Those that ordered will receive their shirts in the next couple of weeks.
- Families should have received their Stomping Ground photos.

11:40 – New Business

- 75 Morton masks will be the next campaign, and an opportunity to donate additional money.
- 8th graders will get diploma cases.
- Funding for Manhattan Youth – city budget won't be finalized in June.
- Asking for donations for the yearbook as well. A blast will be sent again to pay.

11:43 – Last call for questions.

- June 16th next General Meeting.

11:44am – Meeting is adjourned.

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