

**PTA General Meeting
June 14, 2023 at 10:00 am
via Zoom**

Meeting Minutes



75 MORTON | MS 297 NYC

- I. Call to Order
 - A. Attendees: Rebecca Lupardo, Corinne Moreno-Geis, Hope Flamm, Elly Guirovich, Valerie Leak, Jean Lane, Erika Soto-Lamb, Florin Dorobantu, Karl Apfel, Yodit Walker, Thom Lee, Sharon Lewinter, Mandy Weare, Dacia Morris, Matt Kirwan, Kim Rose

- II. Review and Approval of the May Minutes
 - A. Motion to waive reading of the minutes passed; no abstentions

- III. Principal's Report
 - A. What's happening: Today is 6th Grade Intrepid field trip and 8th Grade Regents exams and late start. Last night was 8th Grade awards ceremony in the yard which went very well. Lots of families came. About 70 students received awards for academics, service, sportsmanship and more
 - B. Farewell and THANK YOU to outgoing PTA Co-President Rebecca who has been a great support, been at every PTA meeting and will be greatly missed
 - C. Culture & Climate working group has been discussing how to get more parent voices and feedback from a variety of parents and come up with 2 main ideas:
 1. Surveys – Corinne and Danielle K created questions for feedback surveys for all students and parents, including outgoing 8th Graders. Questions are mainly focused on culture, climate and community but there is at least one question about teachers and academics (parents can also reach out to Valerie with this feedback)
 2. Community Circles – First one will be a small breakfast June 21 @ 9am with teachers and 6th & 7th Grade students and parents. Plan to do more regularly next year. Community Circles are modeled after a Mayor Adams citywide initiative “Breaking Bread Building Bonds,” one of which took place in the library earlier this year and involved different stakeholders in the community such as teachers, parents, reps from mayor’s office, police officers, etc. Purpose of these breakfasts/events is to bring community together (i.e., just people talking and bonding, not a feedback session – which is what the surveys are for). Note: potluck

breakfast, about one hour, will be in lieu of Hope's monthly Coffee Talk for June.

IV. Treasurer's Report

- A. May 2023 financials: Total revenue \$26,839. Biggest revenue item was auction-related Charity Buzz \$18,798. Biggest expenditures: teacher appreciation luncheon/events, 8th Grade trip, graduation party. Will end year close to on budget, maybe slightly in the red as expenses keep coming in.
- B. Next year's budget: Decreasing from \$195K to \$132K. This year we only raised \$108K. We need to rethink Yearbooks for next year – a big expense (\$10K) that we receive little \$ for in exchange; Corinne is soliciting ideas.
- C. PTA has a LARGE bank account balance of \$343K
 - 1. \$100K is a grant from Tides Foundation that can only be used for technology. \$243K is the amount allowed to be spent on non-tech expenditures. Thom Lee suggest breaking down the bank account balance to show this.
 - 2. Florin and Corinne have discussed putting in a savings account.
 - 3. This is a rainy day fund, but we can also look at and vote on proposals to spend (some of) it on big expenses.
 - 4. Keep in mind: School budgets are getting slashed; we don't know what Valerie's budget will be next year and she needs to pay teachers. PTA may need to cover additional costs.
- D. Budget vote: All in attendance voted to approve
 - 1. Budget is a working document. It can be changed based on changed circumstances, if something comes up next year, etc.

V. Presidents' Report

A. Past Events & Initiatives

- 1. 6th Grade orientation: Last week. About 23 new students came with their families. Students went on tours, parents had a Q&A with Hope in the cafeteria.
- 2. Music Majors Spring Concert – went very well
- 3. 7th Grade Spring Fling – went very well

B. Upcoming Events & Initiatives

- 1. Graduation – Ceremony Friday, June 16 (6th Graders have Field Day; 7th Graders have a field trip). Party Tuesday, June 20, 2-6pm at Cellar Dog with DJ Manny.
- 2. End of Year Teacher Gifts
- 3. Yearbook
- 4. School Supplies 2023-2024
- 5. 2023-2024 PTA/SLT Elections:
 - a. SLT: No election. Daniele and Jordan are staying for year 2 of 2 and we will have an election in the fall to add at least one incoming 6th Grade parent.
 - b. PTA Exec Board: Co-Presidents Corinne Moreno-Geis and Lili Felciano; VPs Daniele Strain, Thom Lee, Yodit Walker and Karl Apfel; Secretary Elly Guirovich; Treasurer Florin Dorobantu; Member-at-Large Erika Soto Lamb (new to EB) – All ran candidates ran

unopposed and all were approved by Secretary's vote.
More Members-at-Large will be voted on in Fall.

6. Next year's 8th Grade Committee: Thom has emailed a survey to gauge interest in committees and volunteering and will have a Zoom kickoff meeting to discuss. He will amend the survey form so there is an option to volunteer for only some (and not all) committees without leading a committee.
7. Summer outreach: Lili would like to contact families prior to the first day of school. Hope says PTA can email anyone who is in the Membership Toolkit – which includes most current 6th and 7th Grade families and some new incoming families that registered at the open house. Hope is still compiling full incoming class list and determining whether people are coming.

VI. SLT

- A. CEP Goals: SLT has been working on Comprehensive Education Plan that every NY school is required to create. SLT drafted three different CEP goals. Superintendent will provide feedback. Final version will be submitted and published in Fall 2023.

VII. Old Business

VIII. New Business

IX. Adjournment 10:52am

2022-2023 PTA Executive Board
pta@75morton.org

Co-Presidents (pta@75morton.org): Rebecca Lupardo & Corinne Moreno-Geis

Co-1st Vice Presidents: Deborah Posternak Assayag

Co-2nd Vice Presidents: Daniel Strain & Thom Lee

Treasurer (ptaTreasurer@75morton.org): Florin Dorobantu

Co-Secretaries: Elly Guirovich

Members-at-Large: Kevin Hickman, Laura Hickman, Grey Seamans, Karl Apfel, Lilibeth Feliciano, Yodit Walker