



**PTA General Membership Meeting  
June 16, 2020, 11am – 12 noon | via Zoom  
Minutes**

**Respectfully submitted by Carmen Lamar Daehler & Meredith Hays**

11:06am – Alexandra calls the meeting to order and welcomes everyone to the last PTA meeting of the school year.

- Glen F. makes a motion to waive the reading of the minutes. Mark D. seconds. The motion passes.

11:08 – Treasurers' Report

- Corrine brings everyone's attention to the budget that was sent to all PTA members last night. These reflect all numbers up through May.
  - We will end with a loss of over \$6000, mostly because of poor yearbook sales. Hopefully we can close that gap and folks will purchase a \$25 yearbook for themselves and friends.
  - Current bank balance includes grant we received from the Tide Foundation.
- Christie focuses on the budget to approve for next school year. Projecting a much smaller budget.
  - No fundraisers scheduled for the first few months of the new school year.
  - On the expense side there are a few unknowns for fall. Morton doesn't have their budget, so very likely ours will need to supplement theirs.
  - Direct appeal is down and there is no auction. Projected \$125K - \$75 for the auction – really need to keep numbers there – want to get as many people to contribute. If we can't have an auction we'll have to be creative.
  - Expense priorities – teacher supplies, art materials – we don't know what kind of expenses will come up with a blended approach to teaching.
- Motion to approve the minutes – through a google doc. At 11:23 minutes were approved. 70 – yes; 2 – abstain.
- We'll need most likely revote for amended budget once the school year begins.

11:23 – Principal's Report, Jacqui

- Jacqui thanks everyone and gives a shout out to the founding parents and teachers. We also give a big hand to all the teachers as she calls their names.
- Jacqui assures everyone that she shares what she knows when she knows it. There is no inside scoop.
- Teachers and staff are rewriting the staff handbook to include the various scenarios of learning for the next school year. Jill will help update the family handbook.
- Working on the school schedule for a variety of different ways as well. Heart and soul of school is all of us.
- 8 categories of safety requirements to start school in September as set by the chancellor, mayor and governor. There appears to be a planning committee, but no one knows who is on it. Some safety items include
  - Start dates, alternating times and days.
  - 9-10 kids in a classroom and 1 teacher, how do we do all this safely?
  - Cleaning the school.
- How many computers will we have – a huge unknown.
- There will still be social distancing.
- Surveyed all your kids to find out what worked and didn't work. Gathering tons of data to move forward.
- Trust us and the community. Please read the emails this summer.

- Enrollment is lower – school will take a hit. Want to keep all our teachers. Hard decisions to make.
- Stay close and stay in touch. Asking for help to fund our school as it is a guarantee there will be lower funding from DOE.
- Please come to graduation on Monday. The event of the century!
- These next two weeks will be planning meetings for teachers, although some virtual field trips and exercises will be sent.
- From Katie. As we're closing the year out, teachers and advisors want to set up virtual classroom goodbyes. Stay tuned to your emails so students can say goodbye to teachers and friends.
- Please work with your kids on school work this summer. Think about how you're going to keep them on a schedule. All of our kids miss the social contact.
- Working on buddy system for student and parent – to reach out to new families in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade.
- Budget assessed by how many students are in the building. We are under enrolled. Looking at the DOE to cut \$500K in our budget. Parents need to support the school in a financial way.

#### 11:36 – Presidents' Report

- Stella and Alexandra attended the Presidents Council Meeting with Jennifer Greenblatt in attendance. Stella explains the election process for the coming year. There will be an expedited election in the fall for the PTA executive board & SLT. Only mandatory officers are allowed to stay on the board through October: President (Stella), Secretary (Carmen), and Treasurer (Corrine). Other board members will offer time and services so we can continue to function after June.
- We'll need a treasurer for the new year. Please let Stella and Alexandra know.
- The first PTA meeting will most likely be over Zoom. The second may be as well, but we'll likely vote via google doc again.

#### 11:40 – Past events

- Orientation for 6<sup>th</sup> graders put together by Elizabeth Smith, with help of students and teachers. Music from Teo a dad at the school. Lovely video – teachers and students did a great job. You can see it on the website.

#### 11:41 – Upcoming events

- Renee and Ken – equity leaders. Meeting tonight at 6pm. Open conversation about race and humanity. We can ask questions and talk with them. It's about what's happening in the world today since the killing of George Floyd by police.
- Graduation - Nick. Hard at work to come up with a fun, creative graduation program. Outside vendor has been helping.
  - Taking advantage that we're not stuck in an auditorium with a stream of speakers. We're not limited to 1,000 seats. Creative content.
  - Please share the invitation – opportunity to celebrate the 8<sup>th</sup> graders. It's 75 minutes long. Teachers have come up with a special treat for the students.
  - Join us on Monday the 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6pm. There's no zoom or interaction – just sit back and enjoy. Link will be posted on the front page of our website: 75Morton.org. Kids have worked hard on it too – worth sharing.
  - Still accepting contributions of \$175 for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade package. Package includes a t-shirt with back design listing every single 8<sup>th</sup> grader on back. Available for pick up as soon as the school opens.
  - Thank you to Jacqui, Katie, Ilene, Jill, the whole staff and teachers for an incredible experience.
  - If for any reason you're not able to watch on Monday, then you can see an encore presentation. 8<sup>th</sup> graders can download and keep the video.
- Alumni meeting for 8<sup>th</sup> graders in the works.
- Yearbooks – costs \$13K to print the yearbook, but we only have \$5K at the moment. Brian, Sasha and the kids have been working hard on the yearbook. Go to website, click on the link to school store to purchase.



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- Question to share the t-shirt for 8<sup>th</sup> grade families to see? Stella to find image to share.
- When will students be allowed to pick up stuff from their lockers? It'll be awhile. There was a lot of paperwork just to allow the teachers to come in and clear up their classrooms. As soon as volunteers and students allowed, all things will be picked up – lockers and 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduation things.
- School supplies – we're not collecting money for that this year. No ordering of supplies from teachers. Families will purchase their own supplies. Next week link will be sent of supplies needed for returning students. 6<sup>th</sup> grade list was already sent. Art supply list will be sent out as well. Working with School Toolbox – one stop shop – for grade specific school supplies. We also have a line item in the budget to purchase items for families who need extra assistance.
- Last day of school on Friday, June 26<sup>th</sup>.

11:55am – SLT, Heather

- All parents should know how caring and seriously our administration and teachers have been taking the curriculum and education of our students.
- Meeting twice a month and mostly to serve and support everyone as we go through this pandemic. Talked a lot about different scenarios and the limited control that everyone has. Discussions on to create an environment where our kids can be the best students they can be in this environment. Supporting our teachers as well.

Questions –

- How many incoming 6<sup>th</sup> graders? Answer: 250
- When will class assignments and majors be assigned? You'll find out what your class assignments are during the first week of school. This will also depend on the budget.

12:00 – Stella shares the Graduation t-shirt with families. It's great!

12:00 – Donna is asked to talk about her traveling library. Morton requires reading over the summer. DOE talking about the challenges of this summer's reading is book access. Thanks to families who donated some books, Donna is building a traveling library. There's an upwards of 350 books in Donna's car. She'll drive to your home and pass the books out from car window. If you like historical fiction not so much there. Look at the list and no limit on how much you can ask for – wants them out by July 17<sup>th</sup>. She'll also take books that kids want to read from anyone.

12:03 – How to be involved in the reopening of the school.

- Teachers have a planning committee.
- Jacqui will work with the EB.
- If you see anything that comes over the news – send realistic ideas or solutions or raise another question.
- Parents and students, please fill out the DOE survey. It's reopening for next year. They will be read.

12:05 – School Store

- Thanks to everyone who bought a mask and T-shirt. We're considering doing something over the summer before school starts.
- Looking to set up an online store for our regular merchandise as well.
- \$1000 raised. For the T-shirts drop, no upfront cost for us. Next year we'll do a few more of those drops.

12:05 – Any new business?

- Cathy Curtin had an idea for a theatre zoom fundraiser or get the music department involved. A Zoom link to watch our kids sing – everyone pays \$5.00 and you get the link. A way to galvanize the community and raise money. It's doable and fun.
- [returntoschool@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:returntoschool@schools.nyc.gov)

- Books for summer. The school does not assign specific books. Students are asked to read any 5 books they want to read, then take a photo of those titles and bring in on the first day of school. If you want specific recommendations there are lists available geared toward your child's grade. Brightly (<https://www.readbrightly.com>), is a helpful resource. Letter with more information will be coming out.

12:15 – Meeting adjourned. Have a wonderful summer and stay safe!

**2019-20 PTA Executive Board**  
**[pta@75morton.org](mailto:pta@75morton.org)**

Co-Presidents ([pta@75morton.org](mailto:pta@75morton.org)): Stella Chang | Alexandra van Schie

Co-1<sup>st</sup> Vice Presidents: Kim Shay | Kim Youngberg

Co-2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Presidents: Mark DeLaBarre | Irma Gomez-Dib

Co-Treasurers ([ptaTreasurer@75morton.org](mailto:ptaTreasurer@75morton.org)): Corinne Moreno-Geis | Christie Peale

Co-Secretaries ([ptaSecretary@75morton.org](mailto:ptaSecretary@75morton.org)): Carmen Lamar Daehler | Meredith Hays

Members at Large: Beverly Buscemi | Maya Brewster Dorian | Millet Israeli | Jacqueline Luxenberg