



75 MORTON | MS 297 NYC

PTA General Meeting
October 18, 2023 at 8:15 am
Location: School Library

Meeting Minutes

- I. Call to Order
- II. Review Sept 2023 Meeting Minutes - [Approved](#)
- III. Presidents' Report - Corinne & Lili
 - A. Fright Night (6th Grade): [10/27. 6pm-8pm. Posters are up. Fliers sent home in backpacks. Permission slips due 1 week before the event. NEED 6th Grade parent volunteers. Google sign up sheet has been created with one hour shifts. Kate suggested emailing 6th Grade advisories.](#)
 - B. Ice Cream Socials by Grade: [Community Building. Plan for one social per grade that includes students, teachers, advisors, parents, siblings. PTA raised the possibility of a weekend date, but only if teachers are ok with that. Daniele suggested one weekend day with three two-hour socials back to back. NEED volunteers. Email PTA to help.](#)
 - C. Committees: [PTA presidents are going through volunteer sheets.](#)
 - a. [8th/7th/6th Grade Committee: 8th Grade Committee is an established committee that organizes a graduation party, class trip and more. Meeting next Monday. 6th & 7th Grade Committees will be new and will help with grade-specific activities like field trips. PTA presidents would like to meet with each grade of teachers to hear their thoughts and see what they need; they will join core subject teachers at their existing meetings and coordinate separately with specialty teachers.](#)
 - b. [Auction: Brought in a lot of money last year. Want to start early this year. Time to start soliciting donations and reaching out to contacts.](#)
 - c. [Yearbook: One parent managed the yearbook last year. Want more volunteers. We use Entourage, a company that provides page templates. Corinne is adding pictures to Google Drive throughout the year.](#)
 - D. [Catalogs: New fundraising idea. Students can sell catalog items including holiday gifts to friends and family and the school keeps 40% of the profits. Items can be ordered online and shipped directly to homes or ordered on paper forms and delivered to school. Corinne has contacted the catalog company and we can start soon, exact timing tbd.](#)
 - a. [New fundraisers must be approved by PTA general membership. A quorum of meeting attendees \(8+\) voted in favor with no one objecting.](#)
 - E. [Translation headsets: PTA has ordered. Should help with future meetings. Lili and Principal Cofie provided Spanish translation for today's meeting.](#)
- IV. Principal's Report - Principal Cofie
 - A. [Coffee with Cofie event: First one on Friday, 10/20. Opportunity to share updates, talk about concerns or questions and provide an open space for families to talk.](#)
 - B. [Skills assessments: Admin have been looking at ELA and Math data from last year and MAP diagnostic from this year to assess our students skill sets. Admin going](#)

over findings with teaching teams and teachers will continue to assess going forward with a focus on intervention plans AND enrichment plans. Beginning of a long process to improve what's happening in the classroom.

- C. Social and Emotional learning: Focusing on how we are supporting staff to support kids particularly in relation to current events. Advisory team has worked together to open a conversation about how students are feeling, navigating emotions and navigating fact v. fiction in news and media. Last week Cofie sent a letter to families addressing war in Israel. DOE instructed all schools to send a letter but our version was edited to add what Morton is doing specifically.
- D. Open Houses/Tours for prospective new students (current 5th Graders): Every Thursday. Last Thursday there were 100 attendees. They are going very well and Cofie is proud of her team. Student Ambassadors are leading tours and providing feedback (most notably, there was "too much talking.") Plan to keep promoting this is a great place to be.
- E. Question: Are we going to receive monthly academic newsletters similar to last year? Answer: Yes. Teachers want to continue to do this. Grade leaders have changed this year: 8th is Ben Lewin, 7th is Melicca, 6th is Kate. Hope will follow up with who's sending what and when. Hope sends updates on Mondays.
- F. Question: How much notice will parents get if their 8th Grader may not graduate? Answer: If a student is in danger of failing any grade (not just 8th), you will get a letter in January and another in April. These letters are mandated by the DOE and are auto generated once grades are entered. But, we as a school can choose to communicate in between. Hope added that participating in graduation is a separate issue. There are clear rules about walking in high school graduation but middle schools have more discretion. Last year Morton sent letters informing families very late in the year that their students couldn't walk in graduation due to discipline issues. In general Cofie wants to work with families and wants kids to participate in graduation although there could be a situation where someone would not walk.

V. Treasurers' Report

- A. New bank accounts: We have a lot of money. \$100K is in a new TD Bank operating account. \$253K is in a higher interest TD Bank account but the money is accessible. We are waiting on new checks; some teacher reimbursements may be delayed.
- B. September: made \$6480; spent \$2766.

VI. Parent Coordinator Report - Hope Flamm

- A. Screened admissions: Change in admissions policy for Morton. Morton will remain a zoned school but in *addition* will have an accelerated learning program which will admit students based on 4th Grade grades in core subjects. Families may apply to both screened and zoned programs. Many details of the accelerated learning program are tbd, including how many seats will be set aside, whether there will be changes affecting current students, whether students can switch between sections and what the curriculum will look like for ELA. Math classes will use the Illustrative Math curriculum designed for standard and accelerated programs respectively.
- B. Coffee with Hope: Next Friday, 10/27. Featuring Floating Hospital. Topic: adolescent mental health.

VII. School Leadership Team Report

- A. Bylaws: SLT is revisiting bylaws which were written in 2017. The school has changed a lot since then.

VIII. Manhattan Youth Afterschool Program

- A. Need to increase enrollment! This is a wonderful, free program offering a wide variety of activities but we are in danger of losing it if enrollment continues to drop. Funding is contingent on a minimum number of students participating. PLEASE sign up and encourage people to take even just one class, that counts as participating in the program.

IX. Old Business

X. New Business

- A. Library updates from Donna: Students can and should hang out in the library after school. Donna has 2-3 parent volunteers and hopes to have a formal library committee that includes members with graphic design skills. Donna has made an official bookmark that's being sold at the school store, applied for a Lambda grant, leads a "cookies no milk" book club and received an official library certification. Tell your kids to come to Donna with any reading or library ideas - she will say yes to any kid-initiated event.

XI. Adjournment

2023-2024 PTA Executive Board
pta@75morton.org

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

1st Vice President: Daniele Strain

Co-2nd Vice Presidents: Karl Apfel & Yodit Walker

Treasurer (ptaTreasurer@75morton.org): Karla Carballo

Co-Secretaries: Ellen Guirovich & amy scott

Members-at-Large: Erika Soto Lamb , Iordan Slovav , Aria Rivera , Andrea Leal