MSC PTA meeting

13 March 2024

8:00pm

**Call to Order**

* First PTA meeting!
* Meeting minutes from Feb approved

**President’s Report**

* Changes in bylaws: PA to PTA, additions to Article III around eligibility and voting privileges for teachers
* Elections for next year’s PTA for all board positions and most SLT grade bands are scheduled for the May 8 PTA meeting
	+ Within these positions, we’ll need someone to step up for President’s Council, which is the D3 Council that meets approx. monthly
	+ More details to come in April meeting
	+ We will need an Election Chair to run voting part of the meeting and to help answer questions that come in prior to the vote; this person should not be planning to run for any of the positions. Email copres@friendsofmsc.org if interested
* Spring Auction and Raffle
	+ Raffle for teacher and principal experiences
	+ Online auction will include restaurant gift cards, entertainment, etc., and goes live Mon 18 Mar
	+ Donations accepted via ps333schoolauction@gmail.com
* Climate Action Day
	+ Apr 17, focus on green space and wellness
		- TBD if Fun Run will take place on the same day
	+ Looking for parent volunteers to support scavenger hunts, Greenhouse tastings, etc.
	+ Email green@friendsofmsc.org with questions, indicate interest through a Google form, or join a planning meeting on Tues, Mar 19 at 8:50am
	+ Chancellor and Mayor have been invited to attend; MSC on shortlist for them to attend
* Upcoming 8th grade graduation week fundraisers
	+ Mar 15 – bake sale
	+ 50/50 raffle, pulled at Spring Fair
	+ Krispy Kreme fundraiser 4/15-5/17
	+ Chipotle fundraiser 4/1
	+ Popcorn fundraiser, date tbd
* 2024 graduation and rising up ceremonies
	+ Kindergarten – Fri, Jun 21 morning
	+ 5th grade – Fri, Jun 21 afternoon
	+ 8th grade – Thurs, Jun 20
* Call for Volunteers
	+ Cena & Taller, 3/14 – Spanish speakers
	+ Teacher appreciation week in mid-April – Co-chair, sign up on Konstella
	+ After school committee, email afterschool@friendsofmsc.org
		- Participation can be flexible; the goal is as much representation and perspective as possible to support decision making
	+ Spring Fair, recess parent volunteers, talent show/arts festival, K rising up ceremony Parent Coordinator – sign up on Konstella

**Treasurer’s Report**

* Monthly reports on website
* PTA funds field trips, including Central Park Zoo, African Burial Ground National Monument, Frost Valley, Symphony Space
* Read-A-Thon proceeds exceeded budget and earned $20,555 for the PTA
* Vote to move money from the existing Tech Reserve Fund to cover printing and copying needs for upcoming standardized test prep
	+ Short-term – anyone can directly help with printing and copying needs, the support is welcome and appreciated (e.g., connection to print shop, ability at work, etc.)
	+ Long-term – need to purchase or lease higher quality, higher capacity machines
	+ Vote results: approved

**Principal’s Report**

* Welcome to Kati, as the 3-5 teacher liaison for the PTA
* Big thanks to parents and families for the wide variety of support they bring to MSC
* Needs a graduation committee lead for K, Marciarie has already met with the 5th and 8th grade leads
	+ Note that 501 needs a co-chair for the 5th grade committee
* DOE no longer allows exemptions for immunizations; never want to exclude families from school; Marciarie is trying to coordinate a mobile vaccination van to help ensure families have access to required immunizations; recognition that limited appointments create a huge challenge for families
	+ 75 children are affected
* Attendance concerns – learning is being disrupted, repeated, and/or revised because students are arriving late
	+ The morning meeting and advisory are very important for social emotional learning, and this is being compromised by late arrivals and early departures
	+ Early departures are a particular burden on the office during a very busy time of day
	+ Acknowledgement that there have been many emails about inaccurate attendance concerns; the school will provide some guidance so families have more information about when attendance is taken, being marked late versus absent, etc. **You only have till June 30 of each school year to correct attendance mistakes** so please stay on top of any corrections that need to be made
* Summer Rising deadline is Mar 25, and then children will be placed by priority; Summer Rising is happening on site again, via three different programs
	+ Providers are YMCA and Beacon
* Please complete School Surveys; deadline is April
	+ Students, teachers, and families can take the survey; MSC genuinely appreciates the feedback on the year
* Stay turned for opportunity to volunteer for recess coverage; please pay close attention to the guidelines if
* International Baccalaureate – training beginning now; Marciarie will host a Zoom chat on Wed, Mar 20 at 7pm to share more about what it means to be an IB school and where we are in the process
* Middle school updates
	+ Soccer league starting with Asphalt Green, Saturday games
	+ Soccer afterschool through RtS (Roads to Success), RtS just supported volleyball tryouts, running club through 5th grade teachers
	+ Film club elective for middle school
	+ 6th grade just back from Frost Valley, trips planned for 7th-8th grades
	+ High school results came back last week; many families got their first choice, and every family got a match; list looks wonderful
* Yondr pouches coming soon for middle school; the pouches will hold cell phones during the day; parents should familiarize themselves with consequences for not placing phone in pouch
* Still in interviewing process for Parent Coordinator, will share updates once they’re available; very eager to fill the position

**Yearbook Committee Report**

* Committee has been meeting for a couple weeks; looking for representation from 1st, 4th, 5th, and 6th grades
	+ A K parent has volunteered to help for 5th grade, but we still need a 5th grade parent
* Will share sample yearbooks at Fri bake sale
* Privacy concerns around children’s photos in the yearbook; company does not use AI or facial recognition software at all, no scanning of images, tagging is done manually, images are treated with highest level security, yearbook editor is the only one who can grant website access; privacy and security is very seriously prioritized

**Questions & Comments**

* Request that parents speak with their children about text etiquette, using respectful language, communicating at reasonable hours, etc.; stemming from 6th grade experience
* Why can’t DOE cover printing and copying needs? Started year at a $600K deficit, and MSC relies on parents and the PTA to offer a lot of the experiences that we offer; copiers and printers come at a significant cost, i.e., it’s not an easy expense that the school can cover; existing tech grant is for tech that goes into student hands but printers and copiers do not qualify; passed deadline for necessary approvals for purchasing printers or copiers within this school year; we have put in an application for a technology grant
* If we find a stop gap solution for printers and copiers for this year, is there a way to use school funds for next year? Or is the hope that the immediate solution also becomes the long-term solution? No tech solution is forever; we don’t have the budget information for next year yet, many DOE grants are very specific in terms of how they can be used
* Reminder that any school’s budget is publicly available, so ours can be viewed through MSC’s DOE page
* Any family thoughts on how teachers and the school community can support on-time arrivals?
	+ Some kids seem to be entering through the front rather than the yard, so they aren’t entering with their class
	+ Kids are under the impression that some first period specials teachers don’t take attendance so that may be affecting motivation to arrive on time
* Parent volunteers need to make a conscious effort to introduce one another when they see an unfamiliar face because new families or less consistent volunteers might not know everyone in the community
* Kids’ feedback that some elements of the Spanish program are repetitive and juvenile, i.e., more appropriate for younger grades; Marciarie will meet with the teacher to discuss this feedback to troubleshoot, and she is hopeful that he will be able to adjust to better service children in grades 3-5
	+ Towards the end of the year, we’ll collect feedback to see whether we want to bring the program back for next school year

**Adjournment**

* Next meeting on Tues 9 Apr, 8:00pm on Zoom