MSC PA meeting

10 Jan 2024

8:30am

**Call to Order**

* Meeting minutes from Dec approved

**Officers’ Reports**

* President’s Report
* Key upcoming dates
  + Jan 12 – Lost and Found pick up scheduled, please check the bins for your child’s belongings before then
  + Jan 15 – MLK Day, school closed
  + Jan 17 – IDC meeting
  + Jan 22 – Broadway Loves MSC
  + Jan 25 – Cena con la Directora de la Escuela
  + Feb 9 – Read-a-thon kick off
  + Feb 14 – Bake sale, Friends and Special Relatives Day
  + Feb 15 – PA meeting
  + Feb 19-23 – Feb break, school closed
  + Feb 29 – Parents Night Out
* Broadway Loves MSC
  + Historically, this is MSC’s biggest school event fundraiser
  + Includes a 1-1.5 hour performance by Broadway and Broadway-adjacent artists, plus a couple of student performances
  + Tickets are available on FOMSC website and through Konstella, they are more expensive than many event tickets because of fundraising goals, but there is a pay what you can options
  + Volunteers needed – Sunday prep and Monday set up/execution, sign up through Konstella
  + Looking for 5th graders to host the event – let Amanda ([copres@friendsofmsc.org](mailto:copres@friendsofmsc.org)) know if your child is interested
* Read-a-thon
  + Kick off with a magic show on Feb 9
  + Runs through Mar 1
  + Volunteers needed – reach out to Wendy ([copres@friendsofmsc.org](mailto:copres@friendsofmsc.org)) if interested
* Friends and Special Relatives Day
  + Not usually a parent, children usually invite an extended family member or special family friend
  + Auditorium presentation to learn about school plus classroom visit
* Cena con la Directora de la Escuela
  + IDC and Open Arms Committee are supporting the event
  + Exclusively for new New Yorkers – families welcome
  + Held in the MSC cafeteria on Jan 25, from 5:30-7:30pm
  + Plan to welcome families and discuss various school processes and requirements, e.g., vaccines, permission slips, etc.; will also lay out clothing/boot donations for families to access
  + Volunteer needed – to provide Arabic language support!
  + Contact Diana ([diana.bartlett@outlook.com](mailto:diana.bartlett@outlook.com)) with any questions
* New family needs are regularly updated through Konstella
  + Clothing donation bin in lobby behind security
  + Urgent priority is winter boots for kids, please label sizes
* Middle school musical
  + Auditions planed for Feb 7-8
* Kids Rock change – event will be merged with Community Arts later in the spring, for a combined event
* Volunteer needed – Parents Night Out scheduled for Feb 29, looking for committee lead
* KING after school
  + Plan to extend with them given overwhelmingly positive feedback
  + Parent did reach out with some concerns, which are being addressed through additional monitoring on the 4th floor
  + Upcoming discussion around expectations for extension
    - Addressing any existing challenges/concerns
    - Any additional requests, e.g., homework help
    - Please be in touch with anything you’d like to be included in this discussion
* Treasurer’s Report
* We are running as expected
* Some new funds were raised through the book sale and winter showcase bake/swag sale
* Family Giving is ongoing
  + Good progress, doing better this year than last – thank you!
  + Corporate matching is contributing significantly, so keep checking with your employers
  + We accept donations throughout year, but the push wraps up in the next couple of weeks
  + Reach out to Charlie ([familygiving@friendsofmsc.org](mailto:familygiving@friendsofmsc.org)) with questions
* If we do not reach our Family Giving target, we may need to adjust budget to reduce costs
  + Proposed budget changes would be presented for approval at Feb PA meeting
* Climate Action Day
  + Feb 7 is second DOE Climate Action Day for the school year
  + Focus topic is waste, event lead up will aim to help kids understand how best to sort trash/waste
  + MSC has the goal of getting back to being a zero waste school
  + More details to come, contact Josh ([green@friendsofmsc.org](mailto:green@friendsofmsc.org)) to support/with questions
* Greenhouse Update
  + A small committee has been meeting with Sun Works about getting them back into Greenhous to support programming in a financially feasible way
  + Discussing and likely landing on a 5 week program with an intentional curriculum – farming foundations intensive, culminating in a harvest day
    - This is one third of the full curriculum, which also includes units on Amplify Science (currently achieved through classroom instruction) and a bridge unit that connects lessons to larger topics and concerns, e.g., climate

**Principal’s Report**

* Thank you to community and involved parents
  + Special shoutouts to those supporting the Greenhouse/Green Team, book fair, Winter Showcase, 8th grade graduation, kindergarten tours, and Open Arms
  + MSC staff is so appreciative of holiday gestures, including the staff party and gifts
* Working on Greenhouse plan for K-8, in addition to the above details:
  + Kindergarten will have field trip-style exposure and learning
  + 7-8 grade plan is being solidified
* ENL updates
  + One teacher decided to resign from the role near the beginning of the year
  + Marciarie has been involved in hiring process for replacement
    - On Jan 2, Jessica began in the ENL role, where she is working primarily with grades 5-8, and collaborating closely with ENL for K-4 and classroom teachers
* Looking forward to the upcoming dinner for new New Yorkers
* Classroom updates
  + Thanks to tech support grant:
    - New Promethean boards set up in most classrooms, a few more to go
    - Extra chargers available
    - Computer/software updates allow devices to continue to run effectively
* Remote learning prep
  + Closures due to severe weather are predicted for the year
  + Families with children in grades 3-8 need to have a device to support remote learning
  + Families with children in grades K-2 need to make sure they are set up on Google Classroom
  + Goal is to avoid losing an instruction day due to weather-related closures
* Two middle school basketball teams (Varsity and JV) are up and running
  + Fantastic community enthusiasm
  + Varsity is performing really well! JV finding their footing

**Questions**

* Are we a Title I school?
  + No, or assumed no – 60% of school population needs to fall within income limits
  + However, we don’t have good documentation and need to do a better job of collection school meal applications to confirm this is accurate
  + Even without Title I status, this documentation can open high school application opportunities for 7-8 grade students because some schools have slots for kids who qualify for free/reduced lunch
  + Relatedly, family giving is so important because our school budget can’t cover more than what is already happening
* DOE surveys coming out soon, probably next month
  + Please consider sharing MSC praise to help drive applications
* Is there a new lunch process requiring cash?
  + No, lunches are free
  + May be that children are selling snacks, which isn’t allowed during lunch hours; Marciarie will follow up

**Adjournment**

* Next meeting on Thurs 15 Feb, 8:00pm on Zoom