MSC PA meeting

11 Oct 2023

8:00pm

**Call to Order**

**Officers’ Reports**

* Elections
  + Current MSC PA Executive Board
    - Co-Presidents: Amanda Del Bene & Wendy Cohen
    - Co-Vice Presidents: Jessica Weiss & Gui Stampur
    - Co-Secretaries: Elodie Cross, 1 open position
    - Co-Treasurers: 2 open positions
  + Co-Secretary: voted Abby Bucuvalas into open position
  + Co-Treasurers: voted Laura XX & Amy Robinson into open positions
* FOMSC budget vote
  + Proposed budget of $223,000, with largest spends as Greenhouse (maintenance & provider), supplies & improvements, supplemental arts, Spanish, & field trips; approx. 30% increase from 2022-23
    - Three Greenhouse providers (Sun Works, Nature Based, IDig2Learn) being considered for cost effectiveness and efficiency, with goal of kids in Greenhouse by early November
    - Spanish is a new program, offered through El Taller Latino, that takes a progressive, hands-on, art and experiential learning-based approach; the proposed budget covers a minimum of 20 weeks of once weekly programming for Grades 1-5
    - Arts programming includes Symphony Space, New Victory Theater, Harmonize Kids, Carnegie Hall, Ballet Tales, possibly the Metropolitan Opera, and possible the Met
  + Anticipate increased push for targeted family giving based on cost per student, with acknowledgement that some families are able to give more than others, as well as lots of fundraising events
  + Budget questions
    - Greenhouse prepared for kindergarten tours in addition to student use? Yes, things have been maintained in terms of function, and all providers have confirmed they can get things up and running quickly
    - Supplies include what’s in the supply closet? Yes, as well as cabinetry improvements installed over the summer and approx. $1000/month going forward
    - Is the supply budget reflective of last year? Hard to say because last year started this effort with a fully stocked closet, whereas this year started with very limited supplies; a full inventory will help to reduce costs going forward because not everything needs to be replaced every year 🡪 inventory project is in the works; similarly, some long-term improvements/repairs will not be annual costs
    - Estimated ask? $450/student
    - How to improve family giving / increase the proportion of the families who are contributing? Telling families what is being spent per student, backpack stuffer, direct outreach to families perhaps through Class Parents, Greenhouse likely to be a big incentive, marketing push to launch on Giving Tuesday
  + Budget vote – proposed budget is approved, 95% pass rate
    - Allows for immediate movement on plans such as Greenhouse and Spanish
* Upcoming events
  + Fri 13 Oct – bake sale and gently used costumes sale
    - Thanks to volunteers!
  + Fri 13 Oct – Salvation Army coming to collect lost and found as donation
  + Thurs 12 Oct and Fri 13 Oct – class picture day, Class Parents will share link to access pictures once they’re available
    - School receives 10% of school picture purchases, so please purchase!
  + Fri 27 Oct – Fall Festival 5-7pm followed by movie for elementary grades and dance for middle school grades 7-9pm
    - Tickets available on Konstella
  + Mon 30 Oct – launch experiences auction
  + Thurs 16 Nov – Turkey Trot fun run
* Volunteer needs
  + Fall festival, various roles
  + Fulfilling experiences auction items
  + Middle school tours, ideally but not necessarily middle school parents
  + Liaison for families new to New York through Open Arms Program
    - Thurs 19 Oct meeting with District 3 superintendent
  + Ongoing opportunities – lost and found, fish tank, handbook (someone approached Amanda who was interested, please reach out!), more parents nights, lead for IDC, etc.
  + Sign up for all volunteer opportunities through Konstella
* Secretary’s Report
  + Welcoming feedback on Konstella user experience
  + Konstella interest groups – feedback that there is an overwhelming amount of information / number of posts; interest groups may allow people to reduce their feed to only include information that’s of interest to them
    - Anyone can also create their own interest group
  + Newsletter vote – are families interested in a newsletter in addition to Konstella posts?
    - 50% say Konstella is sufficient; 44% would like a newsletter
    - PA will follow up with a proposal during the November meeting

**Principal’s Report**

* Very appreciative of parent and family involvement and to PA
* Shoutout to 5th grade families who joined the exclusive middle school tour
  + Welcome feedback about the tour, both positives and opportunities for improvement that can inform future tours
* Middle school and high school admissions
  + Applications due in December, so please make sure you attend tours, reach out with questions, etc.
  + Marciarie is very knowledgeable about District 3 middle schools and is happy to provide objective feedback on any of the schools; please reach out
  + Excited about Spanish programming, Greenhouse programming
* Always available by email or for an in-person meeting

**Committee Reports**

* Class Parent Report
  + Hopeful that all families are receiving lots of communication and information from their Class Parents
  + Still looking for Class Parents for Grades 6-8, and perhaps for a couple of elementary grade classrooms as well
  + Possible to organize grade-wide events, e.g., Halloween trick-or-treating events; any parent with an idea is welcome to reach out to their Class Parents to organize

**Public Comment – Kids in the Game**

* Options for enrichment only or full program plus enrichment: <https://www.kidsinthegame.com/school-programs/ps-333m-msc/>
* Email and phone: [PS333M@kidsinthegame.com](mailto:PS333M@kidsinthegame.com), 212 634 7262 EXT 303
* Questions
  + Volleyball? Team sports enrichment includes two week focus on different sports, and this could include volleyball; in general, programming is themed, e.g., current theme is healthy habits; volleyball is a possibility but likely for spring and assuming gym space and adequate interest
    - Marciarie added that they may partner with the other middle schools in the building for shared team sports, as they did last year
* Encouragement to reach out with any questions or concerns, both for current and prospective families

**Announcements**

* Fall Fest on Fri 27 Oct from 5-9pm
  + Activities include a costume parade, crafts, cupcake decorating, face painting, haunted house, lots of food, snacks, and candy, followed by an evening movie and dance in the Greenhouse
  + Having more volunteers reduces the burden on individuals, giving parents more time to spend with their kids at the event
  + Asking for a $10 donation per child, but this is a suggestion and not a requirement; this is not a fundraising activity but rather a break-even event
* Books from Summer Rising program available for free to families, at the costume sale and the Fall Fest, before donation to upcoming book drive
* Plan to do direct wish lists for new families, to be coordinated through ENL teachers, to ensure specific needs can be met
* Next FOMSC meeting will begin at around 8:45am after drop off on 8 Wed Nov on Zoom and in auditorium
  + Future meetings will alternate between morning and evening

**Adjournment**

* Meeting adjourned at 9:XXpm