

MSC PA meeting

13 Sept 2023

8:30am

### **Call to Order/PA President Introduction**

- Amanda Del Bene is this year's PA Co President
  - Wendy Cohen & Jessica Weiss – Co VPs
  - Elodie Croas – Co Secretary
  - Gui Stampur – Co Treasurer
- There are some vacant PA executive committee positions, which will be filled in the October PA meeting
  - Not a full election process, because that happens in the spring. Current board members can step into other positions by succession. Open spots will be elected at the next meeting 10/11.
- Every parent is part of the PA, regardless of whether you can attend the meetings, serve on committees, etc.
- Encourage everyone to find ways to be involved, involve your friends, etc.
- Join Konstella to get all of the updates

### **Principal's Report**

- Thanks for good PA meeting attendance today, thanks for a good start to the year
  - Gratefulness for the MSC community
- Encouragement to attend PA meetings throughout the year
- Staff shifts and new staff are positive
  - Dedicated IEP/STETs teacher – reduces strain on Special Education teachers to fill needs as they arise
  - 15% of new students are non-English speakers – two dedicated ENL teachers, appeal for a third (up from 5% last year)
  - Middle school Spanish teacher – will see all middle school classes (Grades 6-8) twice per week
  - All new teachers have great experience, including those new to the DOE
- Tomorrow night (Thurs 14 Sept) is virtual curriculum night
  - 6:30-7 – welcome from principal, meet specialists, meet afterschool providers
  - 7-on – join links provided by classroom teachers; follow up with classroom teachers if links have not been provided
  - Request has been made to record curriculum night for those who cannot attend, who have multiple children, etc.
- Afterschool programs
  - Most providers attended welcome event on Fri 8 Sept

- Barnard arts program was not there – highlighting classes available for elementary school, as well as a special 8<sup>th</sup> grade class for building a portfolio
  - Very helpful for 8<sup>th</sup> graders interested in applying to arts-focused schools
- Beacon – free afterschool program for K-5; currently full but they are maintaining a waitlist (already 100 students long because open to entire district)
  - MSC is looking for additional free/affordable afterschool solutions for families who need it
- Big thanks to families for all of the work completed over the summer
- Teachers are happy to be back
- Parent comments and questions
  - Concern about Greenhouse being closed and question around how parents can help to ensure it will reopen?
    - Hard decision to close the greenhouse. No classes currently scheduled, but the intention is not a permanent closure. Looking for a solution to staff the Greenhouse in an affordable way (last year, NY Sun Works staffing cost was USD 40K to the school); right now, MSC does not have a standalone science or Greenhouse teacher from DOE. They are meeting with NY Sun Works to brainstorm feasible and creative solutions to ensure students can access the greenhouse
    - PA is aware and working with administration on proposed solutions and funding
    - Same challenge is currently being addressed around Spanish
    - Invitation to parents to form a greenhouse fundraising committee – a 7<sup>th</sup> grade parent volunteered to lead these efforts; additional expressions of interest to join them. Amanda will follow up
  - How is teacher training happening for new K-2 reading curriculum?
    - DOE training over the summer, and training is also ongoing as the school year kicks off
  - Free Metrocards? Best to ask Dr. Jones (MS); need to qualify based on distance between home and school. Admin is working on distribution
  - Locker assignments (MS)? Best to ask Dr. Jones; kids should have access but simply might not be on top of it because kids often don't use them
- Administrative points of contact for grade-specific questions
  - Kerry for elementary school
  - Dr. Jones for middle school

## Officer's Reports

- President's Report
  - Who is the PA, and what do we do?
    - All parents make up the PA. We are responsible for fundraising, community events and enhancing the experience of our students through direct support and support of our teachers and administrators.

- There is an executive committee, but there are lots of different ways to be involved. Event committees, ongoing committees, class parents, volunteering opportunities.
  - Goals for the year
    - Better communication → Konstella (note: teachers and staff can join Konstella, but they are not required to do so as they have their own communication platforms)
      - All communication from the PA will be done on Konstella – announcements, events, volunteer sign ups. Easy to use. Instant translation.
    - Community-building with events → good growth in community engagement last year, coming out of the COVID drop, and commitment to continued growth (note: Parents Night Out next Tues 19 Sept)
      - All Sept and Oct events are posted to Konstella, along with various volunteer opportunities – Please sign up!
      - Community-building and fundraising events
    - Fully funding arts, green house science, and Spanish programs
      - Funding the Greenhouse is a top priority. We already fund the annual maintenance (about \$25k) and will do everything to ensure our students are back in the greenhouse ASAP.
  - Current volunteer priorities
    - Fish and turtle tank cleaning
    - Parents Night Out
    - New science teacher classroom set up and organization support
    - Basement/PA space organization
- Treasurer’s Report
  - Cost per student budget will be shared along with a family giving campaign. Including low end estimate for greenhouse and Spanish instruction, PA supports each student at a level of \$515 spend per student. More details to come.

## Committee Reports

- Class Parent Coordinators – Van, Yaarit, Lisa
  - Please reach out via Konstella if interested in acting as Class Parent for your child’s classroom!
  - Great way to be involved and to be on top of what’s going on with the school and in the classroom
- IDC – Inclusiveness and Diversity Committee
  - Committee aims to promote inclusivity and diversity within the MSC community
  - First event is on 20 Sept to plan for the year
  - Anticipate an October mixer

- SLT – School Leadership Team
  - Committee leads schoolwide decision making on key topics, including but not limited to diversity and inclusion, curriculum, etc.
  - Includes families from each grade band, teachers from the same, and principal and SLT Chairperson
    - Waiting to elect vacant position
  - Great resource for raising concerns and ideas for your grade band

### **New Business**

- Concerns around the outdoor pick up for kindergarteners on Tuesdays, which was difficult and stressful yesterday
  - Will be a clearly designated place for kindergarten pick up by next Tues 19 Sept
  - Needs to be a clear process in place, and kids need to be well monitored to ensure a smooth process for children and parents

### **Announcements**

- PA elections are next month; please reach out if interested!
  - Meeting is virtual 10/11 at 8pm.

### **Adjournment**

- Meeting adjourned at 9:28am