MSC PA meeting

15 Feb 2024

8:00pm

**Call to Order**

* Meeting minutes from Jan approved

**Officers’ Reports**

* President’s Report
* Change in meeting times/location – due to tech and scheduling challenges for the current PA board, we’d like to consider fully online meetings for March and April. **Poll results: virtual meetings in the evenings**
* Update about teacher participation and movement from PA to PTA – shift from Parents Association (PA) to a Parent Teacher Association (PTA). PA goal is to represent the full community. Teachers would like more participation and collaboration with PA activities around supplies, partnerships, field trips, etc. With the shift, due to the Chancellor’s Regulations, teachers would be able to participate and vote in meetings but not join the executive board. Kris will take a vote at next UFT meeting to assign teacher liaisons for K-2, 3-5, and 6-8. Voting specifically to amend the bylaws to become a PTA. **Poll results: yes, shift to PTA**
  + Note that we can readily shift back to a PA if the PTA doesn’t work well for us. We will amend the bylaws and post them on the website and to Konstella
* Upcoming events/key dates (see next section for information on which events and activities need volunteer support!)
  + February
    - Read-a-Thon is ongoing, participation and fundraising are looking great, please continue to ask for donations and support your children
    - Tomorrow 2/16 – school spirit day, MSC swag available for purchase in the morning
    - 2/19-2/23 is Feb break
    - 2/28 – Black Story Hour with Nina Crews
  + March
    - 3/1 middle school dance
    - 3/13 next meeting, will be the first PTA meeting
    - 3/18-4/8 spring auction and raffle, look for link and instructions on how to donate; donations to date include gym memberships, restaurant gift cards
    - 3/20 next IDC meeting
    - 3/29-4/1 school closed
  + Future
    - 8th grade Chipotle fundraiser
    - 4/18 Fun Run
    - Teacher Appreciation Week
    - MS Musical
    - Spring Fair
    - Arts Festival/Talent Show
* Volunteer opportunities, find additional details on Konstella or email the addresses noted below
  + Afterschool Committee, email [afterschool@msc.org](mailto:afterschool@msc.org)
  + Yearbook Committee
    - This is the first time there will be an MSC-wide Yearbook, rather than only 8th grade
    - All parents should download the Entourage App
    - Yearbooks will be sold towards the end of the year and proceeds will support the 8th grade graduation fund
  + Greenhouse support, join the Green Team, email [green@friendsofmsc.org](mailto:green@friendsofmsc.org)
    - Josh needs someone to begin shadowing him to ensure consistency in Greenhouse care and maintenance
  + Open Arms support
  + Fun Run
  + Spring Fair
  + MS dance
  + Teacher appreciation
  + Talent show host
* Treasurer’s Report
* Broadway Loves MSC raised USD 10,523.70
* Proposed budget adjustments – reduce Family Giving by 30K. Reduce Greenhouse budget by 25K. Note that Greenhouse programming was not cut, but PA funding of the programming was able to be reduced due to Green Team (Josh) and grants efforts. Increase IDC budget by 9K. Some additional adjustments based on both actuals and projections to maintain a balanced budget. **Poll results: budget adjustments approved**
  + See questions below in questions section

**Principal’s Report**

* Thank yous:
  + Thanks to the Broadway Loves MSC Committee – great and special night
  + Cena con la Directora success, sponsored by the IDC – 25 new New Yorker families joined, which was around 50-70 people
  + Big thanks to parent support for newcomer families, the Greenhouse, Read-a-Thon, 8th grade graduation, friends and family day, etc.
    - Recent USD 5000 grant to support the Greenhouse
  + Special thanks to the parents supporting the Parent Coordinator search and hiring process
    - Malaka’s last day is 16 Feb 2024
  + Thanks for all efforts during the remote learning day
* Announcements:
  + Frost Valley coming up for 6th graders in the second week of March
  + Summer Rising will be at the building again; DOE says they will open Summer Rising process during the first week of March
  + Open Arms events:
    - Mar 14: Cabrini Immigrant Services evening event
    - Feb 28: Nina Crews story and art hour for Black History Month
  + Musical IQ: K and middle school learning how to play the Djembe drums; one day workshop for other grades on Feb 28
  + **NYC Schools Survey – please respond!** Very important to have high completion. Looking for positive feedback as well as constructive criticism, notes on gaps, etc.
  + Read-a-Thon is going well, please continue to participate
  + Mar 1: Middle school dance, celebrating basketball team, looking for chaperones
  + Mar 5 and 7: Volleyball tryouts
  + Addams family musical has a full cast and will perform in May
  + Spring training for teachers for new reading curricula:
    - Wit & Wisdom for K-5
    - Expeditionary Learning for 6-8
  + Greenhouse has a dedicated teacher for a mini-course, using the Sun Works curriculum; all children will have the chance to engage on a rotating basis

**New Business**

**Announcements/Reminders**

**Questions**

* Cross-country running program? It will start up again; this year, it will be specific to MSC middle school students. If there is interest but not enough enrollment, we’ll open it up to the 5th grade students as well. Details forthcoming
* Full-time Greenhouse teacher for next year? Yes, that is the goal. It was the goal for this year but didn’t work out with budgeting. It’s top of mind and being prioritized for next year. Details to be shared as they’re worked out
* Will there still be classroom libraries and choice reading with the new Wit & Wisdom curriculum? Yes. There will be a lot of overlap/consistency with current activities and approaches. Additional information about what this will look like will be provided as teachers receive the curriculum and participate in training. Stay tuned
* Update on the new Spanish class? It’s going wonderfully. From the school’s perspective, the educator focuses on music and movement, games, etc., and the kids really enjoy it. Would love to have some student and family feedback
* Funding for full-time Greenhouse instructor for next year would be PA or DOE budget? DOE, in theory, which would allow PA budget to take on something else. DOE would cover the instructor, but the PA would still be responsible for Greenhouse care and maintenance
* Clarification on graduating class fundraising impact on PA budget? PA budget will reflect actuals from fundraising so the 8th grade graduation budget may increase, but the PA contribution will not change. The idea is to promote transparency and accountability by allowing dollars raised to flow through the PA
* Concern about inequity across years for different 8th grade classes’ graduations? This is an important discussion for next year, to include Marciarie and Dr. Jones. Budget for next year is set at the June meeting, so this discussion is important to have prior to that meeting
* Update about the Big Yard after school, re: middle schoolers supervision and after school? After school providers decided that outside public could not access the Yard after school to try to clarify which middle schoolers were dismissed versus which were part of after school. This was misinterpreted to include MSC families, but this has been corrected. MSC families should be able to remain in the Yard after school going forward, assuming their children are supervised

**Adjournment**

* Next meeting on Wed 13 Mar, 8:00pm on Zoom