



Columbia Secondary School for Math, Science & Engineering Parent Teacher Association

December 10, 2019

6:15 PM-7:45 PM, CSS Auditorium

- Minutes from the November meeting were reviewed and approved by all in attendance.
- PTA treasurer's report: Treasurer Danny Cooper stated that the PTA has over \$60,000 in the bank. He noted recent expenditures in grants to the school for the musical, the mathematics department, and the athletics department.
- Update on tree sale/fundraising- Nydia Prishker described a successful tree sale fundraiser and recent bake sales and requested volunteers for the upcoming December bake sale and spirit wear sale. Preliminary numbers on sales from the tree sale were not yet known, but it was more successful than last year's tree sale.
- Principal Nightengale gave an update on the 6th floor cafeteria construction and stated that it is on schedule to open in September 2020. She then spoke about a recent article published in *Chalkbeat* regarding diversity in admissions at CSS. She gave some background on the reason why the article was initially written. She discussed the topic of screening and its effects on diversity at schools in NYC and CSS in particular, and expressed a commitment to discuss the issue in the SLT, inviting parents to attend upcoming SLT meetings. She stated that the school will be examining data to understand the potential effect of modifying screens before taking any action to alter its admissions approach. Principal Nightengale described the charge of the Community Benefits Agreement and the school's approach of distributing seats equally between the 3 districts it is charged with serving. Parents asked questions on the topic and Principal Nightengale answered indicating that CSS is committed to continuing to reflect the characteristics of the community that it serves. Principal Nightengale indicated that Marisol Weiner would be serving as interim Assistant Principal with the departure AP Meredith Hill.
- Students provided a musical tribute to AP Hill.
- SLT Rep Karen Foncette-Moore gave an update from the SLT and encouraged parents to contact her about students with IEPs.

Your PTA: ptaexecboard@columbiasecondary.org

Co-Presidents: Karen Foncette-Moore, Alyson Browner
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Treasurer: Danny Cooper PTATreasurer@columbiasecondary.org

Fundraising Chair: Nydia Prishker, Tri Melati
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PTA Rep to the SLT: Karen Foncette-Moore

Recording Secretary: Philip Yanos

Volunteer Coordinator: Nancy Marchetta

Vice President: Alexandra Toubia