



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

January 14, 2020

6:15 PM – 7:45 PM, Room 315

- Minutes from the December meeting were reviewed and approved by all in attendance.
- Introduction of Interim Assistant Principal Manriquez-Weiner. Interim AP Manriquez-Weiner gave a description of her background, including being a previous teacher at CSS. For the last couple of years, she was at the Board of Education Office of Equity and Access. One of her responsibilities will be leading the Science and Engineering part of the CSS curriculum. It was noted that CSS will be going through the process to find a permanent Assistant Principal and that Ms. Manriquez-Weiner is one of the candidates applying for that permanent role.
- Philip Yanos, CSS Parent and PTA recording secretary, gave a presentation on Mental Disorders in Adolescence and Impact of Stigma. He provided a summary of the relevant factors that are considered in the diagnoses of social anxiety, depression and substance abuse. Philip also discussed psychosis. Recently there was classroom presentation to high school students of Ending the Silence about mental illness presented by National Alliance of Mental Illness. Philip included a list of resources that parents and students can utilize including speaking with school guidance counselors, talking with staff from ABC (in school once a week), and seeking professional help.
- Fundraising – Nancy provided information on the Spring Fling, the school's largest fundraiser, which will be held on June 6 at Fort Washington Collegiate Church at 181st St. and Fort Washington Ave. (same location as last year). She provided donation forms to parents since one part of the event includes a silent auction of donated items. In addition, there will be a SignUpGenius for parents to volunteer for decorations, set up, and clean up. New this year will be inviting parents of incoming 6th graders to attend the Spring Fling. There was also an update on the bake sales, including that the January one was light in terms of raising money due to timing issues (right after winter break). The next bake sale will be held on Feb. 14. There was also discussion of parent involvement in different activities.
- PTA Treasurer's report: Treasurer Danny Cooper stated that PTA has over \$60,000 in the bank. He provided an update on the Holiday Trees and Wreathes sale that resulted in a net profit of \$2911.79. Danny noted that Membership contributions continue to do well. He stated that December expenditures included over \$4,000 for the Athletic Department grant, over \$1,700 for the CSS Musical, more than \$1,500 for food for school events, and \$525 for piano tuning.