



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

June 9, 2020
6:00-7:15 PM via Zoom

- Approximately 50 PTA families and faculty members attended this meeting conducted via Zoom, using a secure account provided by PTA member Nydia Prishker.
- Minutes from the March and May meetings were approved and no concerns were raised.
- Follow up to Parent Q&A from May meeting
 - a summary of some of the follow-up to the Q&A was discussed, including questions about synchronous meetings with teachers, high school graduation and the 8th grade stepping up ceremony.
 - Principal Nightengale discussed “models” being considered for the return of school in the fall, that would include “alternating day” and “alternating week” models, as well as other models. These decisions will be made by the DOE and a number of factors are being considered. It is unlikely that a full school model will be used in the fall. Students will continue to use Google classroom as a support tool and students will be using their doe emails to login.
 - Principal Nightengale also discussed issues of social justice and equity that are being discussed at CSS, noting that CSS is the 13th most diverse school in the state and is in a unique position to consider these issues.
 - Principal Nightengale noted that music teacher Professor Harrigan is retiring and ways to honor her will be announced soon.
 - It was noted that all students attending summer school as well as other students in need of devices will be given the opportunity to pick up DOE devices for their use.
- Co-president Laura Pfortmiller noted that PTA EB Elections will need to be held in the fall as they cannot be held remotely. However, she noted that current PTA members will stay on until then and elections can be held in the fall. She listed the positions required and put up a call for nominations for open positions, noting that 3 EB members will be moving on due to their children graduating.
- Nydia Prishker noted that “Kudoboard” (kudoboard.com) will be used to honor graduating seniors. Faculty and family members can write/post messages for our graduating seniors.
- Treasure Danny Cooper noted that the PTA has a balance of approximately \$61,000. Although fundraising has been lower as a result of the Spring Fling and Bake Sales not occurring, there have also been fewer expenditures. Recent expenditures have been for teacher min-grants to various departments. It was stated that it might be possible to move the Spring Fling to a “Fall Fling.”
- Jen Pasbjerg spoke about the “Parents helping parents” initiative, and noted that \$10,000 were raised and 30 families were directly assisted, with almost all funds completely dispersed.
- Graduates Salute- a very moving video tribute to outgoing PTA EB members was shared.