



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

September 10, 2019
6:15-7:45 PM, Auditorium

- PTA co-president Karen Foncette-Moore introduced the PTA executive board and other co-presidents.
- Principal Miriam Nightengale provided a general introduction to the role of the PTA and the Friends of CSS in furthering the mission of the school. She also discussed the importance of parent involvement and volunteering. Principal Nightengale discussed the new cafeteria that will be opening in Fall of 2020 that was partly the result of parent advocacy. She discussed some upcoming staffing changes, including a replacement Middle School Guidance Counselor while the current counselor is on maternity leave, and AP Hill's plan to leave to become principal for a new District 5 middle school.
- Principal Nightengale introduced the CSS leadership team, including AP Lenice Nelson, Professor Colette Young, AP Meredith Hill and Dean Arthur Puritz.
 - AP Nelson discussed her role at CSS and encouraged parents to reach out with questions.
 - AP Hill discussed the time-table for her upcoming transition. She discussed her role in developing student schedules and overseeing other programs (e.g., electives and Columbia University courses).
 - Dean Puritz talked about school values and expectations and gave parents a reminder of the dress code. He also mentioned recent concerns about vaping in school which he would like parents to be aware of.
 - Joel Rodriguez introduced himself as the technology expert for CSS and offered to answer questions regarding email and pupilpath.
 - Professor Colette Young provided a presentation on executive functioning skills. She discussed the importance of using planners to facilitate organization, and gave an overview of skills for the use of planners.
 - Professor Young also gave an overview of athletic programs at CSS (soccer, cross-country, volleyball, basketball and rugby). She discussed forms that need to be completed for high school sports as well as academic criteria that need to be met in order for students to be eligible for team sports.
- PTA EB member Nancy Marchetta spoke about the importance of volunteering for PTA activities (bake sales and spirit wear sales) and introduced her new role as "parent volunteer coordinator" as a liaison to help match parents with volunteer activities of interest.
- Co-president Karen Foncette-Moore also spoke about the lost-and-found and encouraged parents to label student items and asked for assistance with the lost-and-found. She discussed a new initiative to recruit 6th grade parents to serve as class parent representatives, with a call for parents to volunteer.
- SONYC Director Nicole Bryant spoke about the CSS Middle School after-school programs available at CSS. She discussed the ways in which SONYC works with all middle school students (including those not enrolled in after-school) through collaboration with the school. She also discussed some after-school activities such as virtual reality, swimming and chess.

- PTA Treasurer Danny Cooper gave an overview of the PTA's treasurer's report and 2019-2020 proposed budget. He stated that the PTA is starting off with a healthy budget of roughly \$57,000. He discussed some major expenditures of the PTA such the contract with Edlio for the development of the school website. He encouraged PTA members to donate membership dues. He made a call for a volunteer to serve as an assistant treasurer who could transition into the role in future years. He noted some proposed changes to the budget (including the purchase of a translation system) and asked for a vote to approve the proposed budget. The budget was approved by a majority of the members present with none opposed.
- Co-President Karen Foncette-Moore spoke about the role of the SLT. She discussed some upcoming initiatives being explored by the SLT, including an IEP support group and a travel-abroad program.