



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

September 22, 2020  
6:15 PM -7:55 pm via Zoom

- Approximately 85 PTA families and faculty members attended this meeting conducted via Zoom, using a secure account provided by PTA member Nydia Prishker.
- Karen welcomed the new parents, acknowledged the losses suffered due to the pandemic and introduced the other EB Members (Alexandra, Danny, Dina, Ken, Nydia and Steve).
- Minutes from the June meeting were approved and no concerns were raised.
- Next, Nydia discussed Elections including that all positions were open and that interested parties should submit a nomination or nominate someone else. The positions would serve from Oct. 14, 2020 to June 30, 2020. Danny mentioned that we must have a President, Treasurer, and Secretary to be a functioning organization.
- Danny provided his Treasurer's Report. There will be approximately \$55,000 in the bank after approximately \$11,000 in checks clear and payment of approximately \$4,000 for the Middle School yearbook. Danny noted that August, Sept. and Oct. are big months for membership contributions and had received approximately \$5,575 in contributions as of Sept. 1.
- Then, Danny presented the proposed budget for the 2020-2021 School Year. Due to Covid-19, many fundraising activities will not occur. The proposed budget includes income of approximately \$23,000 and \$60,000 in expenses ((\$5,000 for 501(c)(3) expenses, \$5,000 for website expense, \$5,000 for CSS Budget Grant and school support of \$25,000 as well as a number of additional items). Therefore, the proposed budget is expected to result in Net Loss of \$36,600 (which can be absorbed because of the current cash reserves). Danny addressed all questions that were asked. Danny noted that the PTA does not set up activities, but rather addresses requests from Teachers/Administration. Danny asked that the membership look over the proposed budget as it would be voted on at the October meeting.
- Mark Kerman presented on behalf of Friends of CSS. He explained the mission of Friends of CSS is to support the academic mission and goals of CSS. Principal Nightengale helped describe what Friends of CSS provides to Columbia Secondary School. Specifically, it helps fund approximately \$900,000 of expenses for afterschool activities and the college office (e.g. 2 full time counselors). Mr. Kerman requested parents to contribute to Friends of CSS which is a 501(c)(3) and is targeting on average a \$500 contribution per family.
- In response to a question, Nydia mentioned that the PTA is trying to figure out if there is a way to sell uniforms safely and will provide an update in the upcoming weeks.
- Principal Nightengale then provided a school update. She mentioned that it has been her most challenging year. The school is not yet fully staffed. She noted that there have been a couple of technology challenges in the first couple of days including Pupil Path going down. On students needing equipment, Roxana Bosch is handling laptop management. Grading for students will be numerical (by 5s for grades between 65-90 and then by 1s for grades above 90). Principal Nightengale provided a summary of a racial incident that occurred in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade. She stated that there was a failure in the disciplinary process and that she is working to address this through a reorganization. Principal Nightengale regretted that this all occurred. She also stated she is trying to hire Nicole Bryant to help. Principal Nightengale acknowledged that such incidents are likely to occur again and that the processes need to be improved. She noted the way the child was disciplined has made the child a target.
- The meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm