* **6:00pm PTA meeting update (15-20 minutes)**
  + Welcome - Imebet
    - Minutes from November’s meeting approved.
  + Treasurer’s Report - Sarah Broach
  + - We are currently slightly over last year's budget at this time; we are taking in approximately $107,400 and we've spent about $40,000, with more expenditures to come. So we are trending in the right direction.

Announcements:

* + - ICE Benefit Concert

Roy put together a great group of musicians for the ICE benefit. The proceeds will help the ICE songwriting students go to the Hamburg Music Festival and also may contribute to the the Mexico and Nepal trips. The concert is January 25th -- $40 in advance, $50 at the door. Kids are allowed.

Michael Lehr will develop a new ICE community facebook page which will link to the benefit.

* + - Senior Cap & Gowns

Thank you to the amazing volunteers -- the cap and gown event went really well. The seniors were thrilled with the event. They have two weeks to place their orders -- ICE will get 50% of that. Photos will be shipped to the school.

* + - Spring Fling –Michael Lehr

We're looking for people to donate objects for the auction -- we need people to make phone calls, get coupons from local restaurants, etc. We'll set up a meeting soon for calls and will have some wine and cheese, etc. Contact Michael Lehr if interested at Manhat10ite@gmail.com

The date of the **Spring Fling is Friday, May 8th**.

**Topic:** Dialogue between Parents – These are parent to parent questions. No members of the ICE administration were in attendance.

Question 1:

Can anyone recommend books about sexuality appropriate for boys and girls from 5 to 8th grade boys other than Our Bodies/Ourselves.

"It's Perfectly Normal: Changing Bodies, Growing Up, Sex, and Sexual Health" was recommended.

Question 2:

How can we get support from ICE to raise our girls consciously with healthy self-esteem?

A drama troupe called STAR was recommended, which does performances addressing issues of social media and social issues...PTA will investigate and consider the cost and possible ways of funding this group.

A question was posed about how to make gym a better experience for girls who feel dominated by the boys. This question will be sent to the administration.

Some advisories get the girls together during lunch; also there is a girls' leadership club after school.

Question 3:

What's the difference between ACT and SAT? Does ICE provide SAT prep?

ACT versus SAT: SAT has more tricks; with ACT what you see is what you get. ACT has a science section; SAT has a vocabulary section. With the ACT you have to answer questions faster, but it's more straightforward. Many schools are SAT/ACT optional schools.

ICE does have an SAT prep class during school hours. It costs about $600 and can be covered by the PTA if a family can't afford it.

Question 4:

Is there someone who can talk about "college now" classes? Which area colleges offer hands-on learning?

"College Now" is variable. It's available to 11th and 12th graders. ICE's partner currently is Baruch. They usually offer a limited number of courses (not particularly hands-on). Check with the "College Now" coordinator...ICE is also connected with the NYU system.

Question 5:

How can we get kids to stay off their devices at school and at home? Homework via the Internet can also be an issue.

It depends on the parenting. Smart-phones in school can be useful for some...some kids benefit from using the Internet to do research.

Question 6:

A later start time for school has been shown to be of great benefit to high school students. How many parents would support a somewhat later start time (perhaps half an hour later)?

Approximately 90% of those present in support of this idea.

A group is being organized to support later start times.

Question 7:

Is there a way to integrate conversations about social justice, race, and current events at ICE?

There was a consensus among the parents present at the meeting that ICE could be more responsive and proactive in terms of educating the kids about current events and social justice and gender issues; most felt that ICE students on the whole should be more aware of what's going on in the city and the world.

The majority of parents attending the meeting agreed enthusiastically that a structure is already in place to deal with these issues: advisory. Some teachers are already discussing current events and social issues in advisory, but others are not doing so as much.

Parents agreed that this matter should be brought to Pete to discuss initiating some sort of occasional advisory conversations (however informal) into the curriculum to ensure

that the students are engaging in some way with the major social justice issues and events of the moment.

Town meeting is another possibility for some education in these matters; a parent volunteer suggested showing short social justice documentaries he's made during town meeting, perhaps once a month.

It was also suggested that since ICE is a co-located school, the schools in the building might interact together in some way.

A parent committee or listserv will be started to work on these ideas and to help bring these issues more fully into life at ICE.

Questions not addressed at the PTA Meeting:

1. Is there is a point in HS Humanities where spelling, punctuation and essay structure are truly focused on? The curriculum feels rich and my kid’s content is good, they are learning a lot, but they lack key core writing skills and I am wondering if the fundamentals are simply expected to happen over time on their own? What is the ICE approach?

There isn’t a portion of the class when grammar and writing skills is the main focus. These tools are addressed when students receive feedback on their written work. Students will inherently learn through feedback. If students need additional help supports will be put in place for the individual. Parents should discuss with the teacher on what steps need to be taken to correct the issue.

1. What is the protocol of discipline at ICE? What happens when a kid falls behind?

What steps are taken?

There is guidance through life lessons given to all students to assist them in making their own decisions. When the correct decision is made kids are praised and when a bad decision is made kids are shown ways to correct the behavior to achieve an outcome that is beneficial for the kids.

Very few blanket decision are made by the school it is usually handled an individual basis.

1. What is ICE’s position on the new cell phone usage policy proposed by the Chancellor?

Cell phone usage is not allowed in the classroom unless the teacher gives the class/student permission. Occasionally a teacher will allow students to use their phones in class to do research.

Any questions not addressed will be tabled for future discussions – stay tuned.