**PARENTS’ ASSOCIATION OF   
THE BRONX HIGH SCHOOL OF SCIENCE**

**General Meeting**

**May 7, 2013**

**1. Call to Order:** Co-President Cary Sheren commenced tonight’s meeting at 7:13 PM. Mr. Larry Sit announced that Chinese translation services are available.

**2. Approval of the April, 2013 Minutes:** Parents were in consensus regarding the minutes. The minutes were approved and adopted.

**3. Treasurer’s Report:** Treasurer Martha Stratis distributed the FY 2013 report. Ms. Stratis noted that the budget shows a deficit for the auction because expenses were incurred that will be recouped in June. She also noted increases in expenses from last month because of the college fair and departmental requests and book purchases.

**4. Auction Status Report:** Auction Co-chair Tracey Shelton reported on the auction status. The invitations were mailed on May 6, 2013. The auction will be held at 6:30 pm on June 7, 2013 at Landmark on the Park, 160 Central Park West at 76th Street, New York, NY. The theme is the 75th Anniversary of BHSS. Ms. Shelton encouraged parents to check the auction page on the PA website and donate, volunteer, etc.

Cliff Stanton is in charge of the raffle. Tickets are $20 for 6, or $4 each. The grand prize is $750, 1st prize is 4 Yankee tickets, and 2nd prize is 4 AMC movie tickets.

It was reported that the Debate Dinner was moved to May 31st to avoid conflict with the auction.

It was suggested that tickets be sold to new freshman parents at the Open House on 6/6.

**5. New Business:**

**State of the School Report:** Principal Reidy presented the highlights of the recent (April 20) 75th Anniversary Gala, an evening of “exciting and notable people.” Approximately 600 alumni and other stakeholders provided a sense of history at the event held at the Waldorf Astoria, which raised more than $1 million. The event was a joint production of the Bronx High School of Science, the Bronx Science Alumni Association, and the Bronx High School of Science Endowment Fund.

Among the notable alumni, Laurence R. Young, Professor of Aeronautics and Astronautics at MIT, will speak at this year’s upcoming graduation. Fashion designer Adrianna Papell donated 20 dresses that will be given to girls in need who are attending the prom.

New ratings once again show that BHSS is an A-rated, well-developed school. It has been ranked 37th in the United States, 4th in New York State, and 2nd in New York City.

**SLT Goals:** Ms. Reidy highlighted the goals for BHSS that were set by the School Leadership Team:

* Increase mean scores in 3 of 7 required Regents Exams. All students should be getting an 85% and should strive for 90%. The physics and chemistry Regents are the most challenging because of the math skills needed.
* Increase the accuracy of data entered in Naviance related to the college process. Students should record the schools to which they were accepted. More complete data will help the guidance department in speaking to college admissions officers.
* Increase the percentage of students who take at least one math or science AP course.
* Increase proficiency in expository writing and the emphasis on clear and scholarly writing.
* As part of the new Common Core curriculum, encourage students to read more original sources.

**6. Special Program: TestTakers Presentation**

Jenna Freed from TestTakers, an SAT prep course provider that works closely with BHSS, advised parents on the SAT Test process. The SAT is a basic knowledge test that tests students on what they learned through 9th grade. But it is different because it is a test of reasoning ability, and test prep can help students develop strategies for taking the test. Test prep should take place when students have the time to devote to it. Students should take the SAT twice; there is usually nothing to be gained by taking it over and over.

The SAT and ACT are very much aligned. The ACT includes a science section that focuses on interpreting graphs. Students should choose one track and stick with it. Colleges will convert scores so they are comparing apples with apples.

**7. Special Program: Story to College**

Carol Barash from Story to College, a college essay prep course, said her group teaches students to tell stories about themselves so they can write essays about whom they are and what they are becoming. College admissions officers say they look at the essays to “build the soul of the class—to build the community.” What do they look for? A unique perspective brought by the student, strong writing that moves with the energy of the narrative, and an authentic voice. Good essays are stories that trigger memories and emotions and make a connection with the reader.

Carol cautioned parents to avoid “helping” their kids by polishing their college essays. Instead, she encouraged parents to get their kids to write. A good standard is 500 words per day.

**7. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.