

**PARENTS' ASSOCIATION OF
THE BRONX HIGH SCHOOL OF SCIENCE**
Minutes of the General Monthly Meeting
December 5, 2012

1. **Call to Order:** PA Co-President Cary Sheren commenced tonight's meeting at 7:05 PM.

2. **Approval of November 14, 2012 PA Meeting Minutes:** The minutes of the November 14, 2012 monthly meeting were approved.

3. **Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Martha Stratis distributed and referred parents to the budget. The budget is balanced and is currently in good standing through December 5, 2012. Co-President Sheren responded to questions from parents about spending on athletic teams.

4. **Co-President's Report:** Co-president Cary Sheren noted the upcoming Intel Dinner for seniors and encouraged senior parents to attend the poster session before dinner. Ms. Sheren also invited suggestions for topics for upcoming PA meetings.

5. Special Program: Town Hall with Principal Valerie Reidy

Principal Reidy answered questions from parents on current topics of greatest interest and announced the results of corporate fundraising efforts.

Donations: BHSS alumni continue to provide generous support and are kept apprised of school activities through regular Alumni Association activities and a website. Ms. Reidy announced her goal of \$1 million in funding for the 75th Anniversary Gala so that all ticket proceeds can go directly to benefit students. In addition, funding provided by Lauder and other generous corporate supporters will allow the school's Holocaust Museum to open in January.

Cheating Policies: Ms. Reidy believes in empowering students to say "no" to cheating and encourages them to demand honorable behavior of themselves and their peers. New policies include the enforcement of actively vigilant proctoring during exams. Students found with cell phones during an exam – either visible or because it rings – will receive an immediate zero. Second offenses result in suspension for academic dishonesty. She noted that some students still do not understand that copying homework and plagiarism are cheating. A first instance of cheating on homework will result in a zero; a second instance will result in detention. Each incident will be included in the student's dean's file.

Academics: Ms. Reidy encourages efforts to help students view SGI (small group instruction) as non-punitive and a way to accelerate learning. SGI is held for 37.5 minutes at the end of each day, except Friday. She encourages students to "know what you don't know and seek help," either from a teacher, an Arista tutor, or a classmate.

Despite a department-wide effort to coordinate testing schedules, it is possible for students to have more than one test on a given day. Time management is one method for students to keep from being overwhelmed.

Midyears are uniform, comprehensive exams for all classes within a subject. Teachers have input on the test content. Regents exams are graded by other teachers at other schools.

PSAT: Results of the school-wide PSAT tests are due the following week. The feedback given on the exam report is intended to help students prepare for the SAT. The PSAT score in the junior year is a good predictor – generally within 100 points – of the SAT score.

Drug Policy: Students suspected of using or selling marijuana will be turned over to the police.

Cut Policy: The BHSS cut policy was recently revised from a 5-cut to a 1-cut policy, resulting in a student's loss of privileges until each cut is made up with detention. Going outside for lunch is now considered a privilege that can be lost. Cuts for lateness continue to be left to the teacher's discretion. Cuts are recorded within the school records and are not included on official transcripts.

Athletic Teams: Teams are organized under the auspices of the Public School Athletic League (PSAL). Club sports are played for fun.

6. Old Business: There was no old business to discuss.

7. New Business: There was no new business to discuss.

8. Announcements:

Co-President Adam Stern announced that there are New Bronx Science Aprons on sale. There is a limited supply of the aprons which are available at \$20 each.

Co-President Stern announced the next SLT meeting is Wednesday, December 19, 2012 from 4:00 to 6:00 PM.

Co-President Stern announced the next Breakfast with the Principal is Friday, January 20, 2012 from 9:00 to 10:30 am

Co-President Sheren announced the next Parents' Association Meeting is Wednesday, January 9, 2012 at 7:00 PM.

Co-President Stern reminded parents to consider using the companies that sponsor our PA meetings and advertise in our E-Blasts.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM

Christine Rhodes, Co-Recording Secretary