

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

Minutes, General Meeting  
2 March 2011

PA co-president Anne Reingold and Debbie Coutavas called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm.

**Attendance & Minutes:**

Minutes were approved as presented.  
The attendance list is on file in the PA office.

**Co-Presidents Report:**

PA thanked the volunteers for the Open House event on Feb. 16 for newly accepted students. Volunteers are still needed for the staff appreciation dinner on March 17. The proposed candidates for Nominating Committee: Richard Barr-Chair, and Antra Rosa and Tom Maeglin. Ann inquired if there are any other suggestions or nominations from the floor. Since there were no additional nominations, the above were approved unanimously. Volunteers are needed for the open PA positions for next year. The following positions were announced: Co-President, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Recording Secretary, Assistant Recording Secretary, Communication Secretary, and nominations will be taken at the next meeting.

On March 29, 2011, the screening of the documentary movie "A Race to Nowhere" will take place in Bronx Science. PA is still looking for a moderator to facilitate discussion after the screening. At the next meeting, Dr. Kandler will make a presentation on students and stress.

The department wish lists from the Auction are still open and parents are encouraged to continue to donate.

**Transportation Committee:**

The Chair of the Transportation Committee, Ellen Elliot is a parent of a senior and will leave Bronx Science this year. PA is looking for volunteers to fill this position. Parents are encouraged to let the company know if there are any problems and request proper service since they are the customers. One major problem is that children are getting cuts for lateness and they have to serve detention.

**External Affairs Committee:**

Richard Barr, the Chair of the committee will leave Bronx Science this year as well and requested volunteers to replace his position. He reported on PCBs issue that after consultation with reliable experts it appears that the caulking around windows and doors contains no PCBs. Furthermore, we have been informed that almost all of the fluorescent light fixtures were replaced several years ago with newer models containing no PCBs.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Hannah Li circulated the Treasurer's Report for July 2010 to March 1, 2011. She is still working on auction outcome but it was an overall success, better than expected. Parents are encouraged to e-mail the PA with any questions they may have.

**Principal's Report:**

At this meeting the Principal's report was combined with our first Town Hall style meeting where parents asked questions, voiced their concerns, complains and compliments. Valery Reidy, the Principal answered many questions on many topics. The principal described in detail the Scholar Athlete Program that started this year in the school to acknowledge the athletes and help capitalize on this in the college application process. Guidance Counselors will coordinate with Coaches to understand and aid children in this process.

The school is planning for tough times and hopes to obtain 2 million dollars in Title 1 funds. The lunch forms turned in helped to reach 44% of student population entitled to free lunches. It is not yet known what will be the cut-off limit this year for entitlement.

Another impact to the school due to budget cuts is losing 11 teachers or 8% of the teaching staff (last year we lost 5%). This will translate in losing the entire music department because these are teachers new to the system and based on UFT rules, last in-first out. Ms. Reidy explained the selection process for teachers that starts this time of the year. The Principals from Bronx Science and Stuyvesant HS wrote to Chancellor Black about the difficulty of selecting the right teachers for these high achievement schools, different from regular schools. The Chancellor is trying to outlaw the seniority rules and fire the “unsatisfactory teachers” first. PA requested parents to try to help.

More technology training will be offered to teachers for a more extensive use of SNAP GRADES and NAVIANCE. The cost of the training is covered by the Endowment Committee. Overall parents love SNAP GRADES.

**Adjournment and Next Meeting:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:00PM. The next meeting is April 6.

- Lavinia Galatis,  
Assistant Recording Secretary