

**PARENTS' ASSOCIATION OF  
THE BRONX HIGH SCHOOL OF SCIENCE  
General Meeting  
March 13, 2013**

**1. Call to Order:** Co-President Cary Sheren commenced tonight's meeting at 7:20 PM. Mr. Larry Sit announced that Chinese translation services are available.

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

**3. Treasurer's Report:** Martha Stratis: Treasurer Martha Stratis distributed FY 2013 report. Ms. Stratis reported on the current income and expenses.

**4. Co-Presidents' Report:** Cary Sheren and Adam Stern

Ms. Sheren reminded parents that Parent/Teacher conferences would be held Thursday evening March 14 from 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm, and Friday afternoon March 15 from 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm. She also noted that time with individual teachers is short and parents should be prepared by checking their child's grades in advance and having questions ready. Parents who cannot attend the conferences can e-mail their child's teachers with any questions.

Ms. Sheren asked parents to consider volunteering for the Accepted Students' Open House on Thursday, March 21, 2013 from 5:00 to 7:30 pm. She also noted that volunteers are needed to solicit donations and help organize the annual auction on Friday, June 7, 2013 from 6:30 to 10:30 pm. The auction will help commemorate Bronx Science's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary and will be held in a new venue, Landmark on the Park, at 76<sup>th</sup> Street and Central Park West. Buses will be available to transport parents from Queens locations.

**5. Special Program: Parent to Parent**

Mr. Stern introduced a special program for the evening – a panel discussion with parents of recent graduates of Bronx Science who shared their insights on the high school experience with current parents. The parents were:

Hannah Li, whose son is a sophomore at Boston University.

Ann Reingold, whose son is a freshman at the University of Michigan.

John Munk, whose daughter is a freshman at Harvard University.

Jodi Goldberg, whose son is a freshman in the hotel administration program at Cornell University.

The following recommendations were distilled from the question-and-answer session:

- Get involved and get to know your child's guidance counselor and teachers. The more people you know, the more comfortable you will be about your child's high school experience.
- Get involved in the Parents' Association. The PA plays an important role in your child's education and its funding of activities enriches your child's high school experience significantly.

- Take advantage of Bronx Science’s special courses and tracks, such as the research programs (Intel), but note that such a program requires a tremendous commitment by students and is not necessarily a ticket to college.
- Take the SAT II exams in the year of taking the course while the subject matter is fresh.
- Understand the requirements of the colleges you are interested in, especially if your child is interested in a special program, and make sure your child fulfills them. Don’t take unnecessary exams, if possible, to keep costs and stress levels down.
- Understand the Bronx Science course selection process and plan ahead. Look ahead at potential senior-level courses and determine the prerequisites so your child will be ready.
- During the college selection process, trust your child’s choices and give them space to select what interests them.
- Examine college scholarship possibilities carefully. Often the additional work to complete the application is not worth the award. And, remember that any scholarships your child receives are deducted from their overall financial aid package—they are not “free money.”
- Make sure your child visits their guidance counselor often to develop the relationship, and make sure they start collecting raves from teachers in their sophomore and junior years.
- Support your kids, and consider special situations such as IEPs and 504 accommodations as positive opportunities for your child to learn how to advocate for himself and enhance his ability to succeed.

## **6. Special Program: Questions and Answers with Principal Reidy**

Ms. Reidy addressed the audience and asked them to feel free to ask any questions of her. The following key points were distilled from the Q & A session:

- Impact of missed homework: Each department has its own policy on grading and penalties for missing an assignment. On JupiterGrades, the impact of individual grades is larger at the beginning of the semester, but as the semester progresses the impact of individual grades lessens.
- Perspective on track team hazing incident: Principal Reidy believes her role is to empower students to become independent while also putting structures into place to protect them. Thus, items such as the bullying hotline are intended to enable students to safely advocate for themselves without fear of reprisal. By the same token, parents have an important role in helping their children understand the issues raised by the hazing incident.
- The following school policy changes have been enacted since the hazing incident came to light:
  - Each coach must now be with their team in the locker room.
  - Principal Reidy will be meeting with each spring team coach to reinforce appropriate standards of behavior.
  - Principal Reidy will bring in an expert to explain to students the differences between the school’s rules and the law and the ramifications of violations of each.
- HIV Curriculum: Because it is a DOE requirement that this be taught each year to every student, the English department has been tasked with providing HIV education.

## **7. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:06 pm.