

Parents Association of the Bronx High School of Science

Minutes of the General Meeting

September 12, 2012

PA Co-Presidents Cary Sheren and Adam Stern opened the meeting at 7:15. Parents were welcomed, particularly new freshman parents, and their ongoing involvement, at whatever level, will be greatly appreciated.

The minutes of the June meeting were approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Martha Stratis reviewed the 2012 budget and the 2013 budget. The 2013 budget reflects income from parents and the matching fund that has already been received in advance of 2013 fundraising efforts. Expenses were noted, including those for the Naviance account, student planners (which rose above the budgeted level due to an unanticipated pricing increase), and an unbudgeted expense for the design and production of school logo t-shirts. For these, sales revenues are expected to cover the cost.

**Phonathon:** This year's Phonathon will take place at BHSS on November 19 and November 20 from 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm. Parents can volunteer to come in for one or both evenings. Those who speak languages other than English are especially needed.

**T-shirts:** The newly designed BHSS t-shirts will be sold in the cafeteria at a special discounted price of 2 for \$15 for the month of September. Beginning October 1, the price will be 2 for \$20.

**Principal's Welcome:** Principal Valerie Reidy welcomed the attendees, especially the new freshman parents, and reminded all that the PA exists to serve the students. She noted some of the items paid for by the PA, including the t-shirts, student planners, JupiterGrades, Naviance, athletic teams, and the K-12 phone alert system, which allows all parents to be contacted by phone within 10 minutes in case of an emergency.

**Open Positions:** Adam Stern called for nominees for 2 open positions available to freshman parents.

- *SLT:* This group, including school administration, teachers, parents, and students, works to align the school budget with the agreed-upon budget for the school year and creates the CEP (Comprehensive Education Plan), which focuses the school's budgetary and educational priorities. The SLT meets once monthly from 4:00 – 6:00 pm. Nominees are Veenu Belani, Bob Goetz, and Danielle Stettin.
- *PA Executive Committee:* Committee members oversee PA budget, work with Principal Reidy and the school administration on resolving issues affecting the students, and lead and volunteer for PA initiatives including Phonathon, Auction, Open Houses, and Faculty Appreciation events. Nominees are Sanjoy Augustine, Veenu Belani, Isabelle Glasser, Amit Guha, and Richard Lipkin.

Elections for these positions will take place at the next PA meeting on Tuesday, October 9, 2012.

**Communications Overview:** Parent Coordinator Cindy Golan reviewed the computer accounts available to students and parents. Each student has access to 2 accounts: an e-mail account and an in-school page. Parents and students share access to 2 accounts: JupiterGrades and the Naviance site. Parents only can access their child's ARIS site.

The BHSS website, [www.bxscience.edu](http://www.bxscience.edu), includes daily announcements and news about team tryouts, clubs, student activities, and academic departments. Ms. Golan asked that parents e-mail if they can't find something or find an error on the website.

Guidance counselor Ms. Longano invited freshman parents into a separate session to discuss the college process.

Guidance counselor Mr. Nasser presented information on *JupiterGrades*, the online grade book that lists the constituents of each subject's grade and provides a running tally of the student's grades per subject, and *Naviance*, the site that provides information on colleges and provides students with college planning and assessment tools.

Mr. Nasser also announced a new Zero Tolerance detention policy, starting with freshmen, regarding class cuts. Students with one cut who do not serve detention will have their privileges suspended.

#### **Question & Answer Session:**

Q: Does BHSS have a community service requirement?

A: No, unless the student wishes to apply for Arista, for which there is a requirement. Further information can be found on the school website.

Q: What is the policy on lateness if it was due to the school bus being delayed in traffic?

A: If a child was marked late because of the bus, the parent should send a note with the child the next day. In general, students should have an alternate transportation plan in case they miss the bus.

Q: What is the purpose of the official class?

A: Students are in the same official class until graduation; it meets for 10 minutes each week for general updates, distribution of notices, etc.

The meeting was adjourned by Carey Sheren at 9:00 pm.

Prepared by Christine Rhodes, BHSS Parents Association co-recording secretary.

