



**PARENTS' ASSOCIATION OF
THE BRONX HIGH SCHOOL OF SCIENCE
General Meeting
January 13, 2015**

1. Call to Order: Co-President Patrick Gibbons commenced tonight's meeting at 7:10 PM. He welcomed everyone.

2. Approval of the December, 2014 Minutes: Parents were in consensus regarding the minutes. The minutes were approved and adopted.

3. President's Report:

a. Annual appeal: Mr. Gibbons reported on how contribution characteristics should be displayed on the PA page. Currently the thermometer indicates a dollar total. It was suggested that the thermometer should indicate the percent of families contributing to the fund, regardless of the amount of the contribution. He noted that approximately 25% of the families contribute to the annual appeal. The goal is 100 %.

There will be additional follow-up to families who did not participate in the Phone-A-Thon and contribute funds. Letters will be sent to families who have not donated funds.

b. SHSAT Status: Mr. Gibbons reported on the City Council Education Committee hearing and "Day of Action" at City Hall on December 11, 2014. The parents focused on Resolution 442 in which the City Council would request the NYS Legislature to change the admission requirements at Bronx Science, Stuyvesant, and Brooklyn Tech High Schools.- No resolution has been issued to the overall City Council as this item is still under consideration by the Committee. He noted that if a resolution is passed by the City Council, the NYS Legislature would consider the resolution.

4. Treasurer's Report: Ms. Marcia Mason reported that the PA has raised \$156,610 to date. She noted that expenses were moving slowly. This is due to the school "billing"

the Department of Education for items before reaching out to the PA to cover any outstanding items. DOE funding is “Use it or lose it,” so all funds must be obligated in the fiscal year or returned to DOE.

5. Upcoming Events:

a. ASLT meeting: Mr. Gibbons reminded parents about the upcoming SLT meeting on January 20, 2015 at 3:45 PM. Everyone is welcome to attend.

b. Breakfast with the Principal: Mr. Gibbons announced that this would be on January 22nd beginning at 8:30 AM. All interested parents are welcome to attend. Please call the office to RSVP.

6. Adolescents Today – Stress and Mental Health:

Shun Fang Chang, head of the BxHSS Guidance Department
Henry Kandler, M.D., Associate Professor; Child & Adolescent Psychiatry,
Albert Einstein College of Medicine.

Ms. Chang welcomed the parents. She provided an overview of the services provided by the BxHSS Guidance Department. She introduced Dr. Kandler.

Dr. Kandler provided a brief history of the Child & Adolescent Psychiatry Department at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. He discussed the development of the program and the issues most commonly addressed.

Dr. Kandler, encouraging a “round table” type interactive discussion, invited four parents up to the dais to assist in the discussion of issues to be raised during the presentation. Dr. Kandler and the parents on the dais and in the audience engaged in an interactive Q & A session discussing the following issues:

- Stress of School,
- Stress of Adolescence, and
- Stress of Cognitive, Covert and Moral Development.

Dr. Kandler discussed the current issue of teenage independence and growth and its effects on family relationships. He presented some personal perspectives and invited discussion and parents’ experiences with their teens. He reassured parents that their teens would eventually see the benefits of re-establishing a sound relationship with their adult family members.

Parents on the dais and in the audience raised the following issues:

- Teenage Communications,
- Mono-syllabic conversation and answers to parental questions,
- Course Loads and Schoolwork,
- Computers and Electronics,
- Drug and Alcohol Use, and
- Teenage Sleep Needs.

The entire presentation was primarily an extensive interactive Q & A session.

7. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 PM.