

Parents' Association of the Bronx High School of Science
General Meeting Minutes - DRAFT
March 23, 2016

1. **Call to Order:** Co-President Betsy Newberry called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. 55 parents attended the meeting according to the sign-in sheets
2. **Approve February 26 EB Meeting Minutes:** It was moved by a parent to approve the minutes and seconded by another parent. The minutes were unanimously approved and adopted.
3. **Principal's Report:**
 - a. Dr. Donahue welcomed parents and thanked those who helped with the recent Open House that was held for newly admitted students.
 - b. She encouraged all parents to complete the School Survey that was sent home in students' backpacks. Only 15% of Bronx Science parents had completed the survey so far. The feedback from the surveys is very helpful and is used by the School Leadership Team to set goals. The deadline is April 1.
 - c. Dr. Donahue also reminded parents of the Parent-Teacher conferences that will be held next week and looked forward to seeing many parents at the school.
4. **Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Heidi Moustakos reported on the current balances, fundraising progress to date, budgeted income and expenses. Total income of \$192K has now surpassed the annual budgeted appeal goal of \$185K. First installment was made on the computer expense (\$37K), PA also bought a new poster printer, and has processed several other miscellaneous expense items from the school including support for sports teams, after-school clubs and Bio Lab needs.
5. **SLT Report:** Co-President Betsy Newberry gave the following update on recent SLT meeting activities:
 - a. C-30 process for the AP for Guidance/Pupil Personnel Services will be conducted next week. Mr. Nasser is currently Acting Interim AP for Guidance.
 - b. There is a proposal under consideration to change the grading policy from issuing official grades at the end of each semester to issuing annual grades only. This is prompted by a DOE change that takes away the ability of the school to adjust grades after the completion of a semester. Students who receive a "NC" or failing grade for one semester of a course, even if they ultimately pass the course, would be required to retake that semester if semester grades are maintained. This places a burden on both the student and the school since the school would be forced to run a class again if there were students who failed a semester. Approximately 100 Bronx Science students are affected by this each year. If Bronx Science moves to an annual grading policy, students would have an opportunity to make up work and achieve a passing grade by the completion of the school year. There is active debate on the SLT Committee, with the student representatives preferring the "fresh start" that the 2nd semester brings to improve grades. One option being considered is to move to annual grades for official transcripts but to continue to

- report semester grades in PupilPath so students and parents can still see the progress being made from first to second semester.
- c. Ms. Newberry reiterated the importance of completing the School Survey and noted that only ~33% of parents completed the survey last year. In addition to completing the paper form that was sent home with the students, parents can call a hotline # to get your code and complete the survey online.
 - d. Families are encouraged to contact the SLT with goals that are important to them to be included in the school's Comprehensive Education Plan (CEP). Please email your input to: SLTParent@BxSciencePA.org
6. **Auction Update:** Liz Bruyder-Frydman, chair of the Auction Committee, gave the following update:
- a. The 2016 Annual Spring Auction and Dinner will be held on May 20 from 6-10 p.m. at Landmark on the Park, 160 Central Park West @ 76th Street in Manhattan.
 - b. Lonnie Quinn has agreed to return as auctioneer even though his child has graduated.
 - c. Many exciting donations have been received (African safari, diamond ring, tickets to ComicCon and to Florence and the Machine concert, etc.) however many more are still needed. Think Big! Restaurants (dinner for 2 / brunch for 2) are among the biggest selling items. Parents are encouraged to contact their favorite dining spots or local merchants to ask for a donation to support the school. Donation forms and other information can be found on the PA website at www.bxsciencepa.org under "Auction 2016".
 - d. Invitations will be sent out via Paperless Post in mid-April and tickets can be purchased online.
7. **Nominating Committee Report:** Heather Gible, chair of Nominating Committee, announced that nominations for all PA Board positions and vacant SLT positions are now open. A description of each position as well as a list of the Nominating Committee members and contact information was distributed at the meeting. Parents can self-nominate. Questions should be directed to any of the committee members. Heather spoke about the many benefits of serving on the PA, including the opportunity to get involved in supporting the school and developing a network of parents whose children are going through similar challenges and milestones (e.g. getting a driver's license and applying to college).
8. **Upcoming Events:**
- March 25** – School Closed (Good Friday)
 - March 31/April 1** – Parent-Teacher Conferences Parents are advised to look at PupilPath ahead of time to prepare for discussions with your student's teachers; Friday afternoon tends to be less crowded than Thursday evening. Volunteers needed to help sell merchandise on Thursday pm or Friday
 - April 5 at 6 pm** – Spring Sports Parent Meeting Parents of children participating in spring sports are encouraged to attend this meeting
 - April 19 at 3:45 pm** – SLT Meeting
 - April 19 at 7 pm** – PA Meeting
 - April 25-29** – School Closed for Spring Break

9. **Special Programs:** The following speakers were introduced by Simone Kaplan

F. Michler Bishop, Ph.D, gave a presentation on Substance Use, Misuse and Abuse. Dr. Bishop is the Director of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services at the Albert Ellis Institute (AEI), an author and the parent of two current seniors at Bronx Science

Eleanor McGlinchey, Ph.D, spoke on the topic of Sleep for Teens, How to help your teen get the sleep they need. Dr. McGlinchey is a research scientist in the Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at the New York State Psychiatric Institute/Columbia University Medical Center.

Both speakers took questions from parents on these very relevant topics and a lively discussion ensued.

Presentation materials will be posted on the PA website at www.bxsciencepa.org under “Meetings & Minutes”.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.