

**PARENTS ASSOCIATION OF
BRONX HIGH SCHOOL OF SCIENCE
General Meeting Minutes – DRAFT**

November 18, 2015

1) Call to Order: Co-President Elizabeth Newberry commenced tonight's meeting at 7:04 p.m.

2) Welcome and Introductions: Co-President Elizabeth Newberry welcomed the parents and thanked them for coming.

3) Approval of October 26, 2015 General Meeting Minutes: Parents were in consensus regarding the minutes. The minutes were approved and adopted. Co-President Ellen Dubin reminded everyone that the meeting minutes are posted on the PA website and there's a link in the Sunday eblasts.

4) Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Heidi Moustakos, reported on the current balances, fundraising progress to date, budgeted income and expenses, mentioning such expenses as Project Accepted and the Teacher Appreciation dinner. Co-President Elizabeth Newberry mentioned that many expenses come later in the year. There were no questions or concerns from parents.

5) Principal's Welcome and Report: Dr. Jean Donahue welcomed parents, reminded everyone we're halfway through the first semester, and mentioned there's one more day of Open School Week. Debate Team did well in last weekend's tournament. Girls Swim team did well, though didn't make it to finals. Girls Volleyball team played Brooklyn Tech today. Library is now open 7:30AM three mornings a week (M-W-F).

A parent asked where students can hang out after school; Dr. Donahue replied they can be in hallways and encouraged them to be in the lobby after 5pm where there is supervision.

A parent asked when college fairs start for sophomores. Dr. Donahue replied that sophomores will be invited to the Spring college fair (traditionally an event for juniors) again this year as they were last year.

6) School Leadership Team Report: Co-President Elizabeth Newberry reported that the School Leadership Team (SLT) is charged with formulating a comprehensive education plan for the school. 94% of the money Bronx Science gets from the DOE goes to teacher salaries—that is our priority: excellent teachers. Other 6% is OTP: "other than personnel"—textbooks, paper, things that run the school. There is a CEP (Comprehensive Education Plan) that has measurable goals; for example one goal is to increase use of Pupil Path by parents of freshmen from 50% to 60%; Elizabeth Newberry reminded parents to log into Pupil Path as themselves, not their children, so that will be measured.

The school is conducting a C30 hiring process for a permanent administrator to fill the position of Asst. Principal of Biology. One candidate is Allison Wheeler, who is the current acting interim AP of Biology; the new AP will be selected December 9.

Parents can contact their SLT parent representatives at SLTParent@bxsciencepa.org.

7) Open School Week: Barbara Reiser mentioned that Open School Week was not well attended: About 30 parents signed up for Monday and about half that number attended. Member at large Beth Cirone suggested that the requirement that parents arrive at school with their kids may be a deterrent: Many kids are embarrassed to be seen with their parents. Is it possible for parents to arrive at a different time of day, to enter school by a different entrance, to have Open School Week be just one day so that a greater concentration of parents are present? Barbara Reiser encouraged parents to send their ideas to the SLT parent email address.

8) Guest Speaker: Dr. Douglas Brodman, a postdoctoral fellow at NYU Child Study Center where he specializes in developing behavior management strategies and parent-child interaction therapy. He spoke on **“Parenting in the Digital Age: Talking with Your Teenager About Internet Safety.”** His notes are available on PA website.

The meeting ended at 9:00 pm.