

**PARENT'S ASSOCIATION OF
BRONX HIGH SCHOOL OF SCIENCE
General Meeting Minutes – DRAFT**

October 26, 2015

1) Call to Order: Co-President Ellen Dubin commenced tonight's meeting at 7:15 p.m.

2) Welcome and Introductions: Co-President Ellen Dubin welcomes full audience of the parent body and announces the two major agenda items of the night: Fall elections for three important School Leadership Team and Parents' Association Executive Board positions, as well as, guest speaker Kal Chany, of Campus Consultants, who will present "Paying for College without Going Broke."

3) Approval of September 17, 2015 General Meeting Minutes: Parents were in consensus regarding the minutes. The minutes were approved and adopted.

4) Treasurer's Report: Current balance sheets were projected across the large overhead screen. Ellen Dubin asked for comments, but parents did not ask any questions.

5) Safety Committee Report: The committee, which includes Dr. Donahue, parent representative Ivette Perez, members of the Bronx Science security team and local law enforcement met last Thursday where they discussed two major incidents. First, a BHSS student was hit by an MTA Bus after school while crossing the street. Second, in a routine sweep of Harris Field before school, two some BHSS students were arrested for possessing what appeared to be camping knives and one student was issued a summons for possession of marijuana.

6) Principal's Welcome and Report: Dr. Jean Donahue welcomes parents. As the first marking period comes to an end, Dr. Donahue encouraged Senior students and their parents to get their college early decision application into Naviance and Common App. She also encouraged parents to visit Pupilpath before Parent Teacher Conference next week.

Dr. Jean Donahue graciously asked for any questions from the audience. But, there were none. "This has never happened before!" she said with a strong laughter from the parents. Then she encouraged them – again – to ask questions and responded to the following issues:

A) School Safety: Students must cross at the street light/ corner at Paul Avenue and West 205th Street or at the Goulden Avenue and West 205th Street crosswalk. Students are not allowed to cross the street in front of the school. The student was hit after he crossed the street adjacent to two double parked minivans which blinded his view of the oncoming MTA bus. Parents are not allowed to double park on – West 205th Street – in front in school because double parking contributed to the bus colliding with the student. Instead, they should park on Goulden Avenue (on the west side of the school). The student was seriously injured and is still recovering. Parents should encourage their children not to jay walk. Speed bumps are not an option here, but the administration is working on getting increased signage to illustrate dangers to pedestrians.

Secondly, students should not hang out on Harris Field unless they are with an athletic coach or playing a game, etc.. The local police did undercover sweeps of the field netting two police actions against two BHSS students (one arrest for camping knives possession and one summons for marijuana possession).

No one wants to see students arrested, said Donahue adding that students should not congregate on the field, but on the school courtyard. The school does not have the staff to constantly patrol the area and the field is not school property. Stay on school property and out of trouble.

B) Responding to a question about the posting of grades by teachers. They are encouraged to post grades every two weeks. If there is an issue with a particular teacher, please let her know and she will address it. First period grades do not appear on the transcript.

C) Responding to a question about the posting of homework by teachers after 10 pm. Dr. Donahue said it's not a common practice and should not be done. Reminder – homework is also posted on class room boards as well as on handouts – which students my neglect to tell their parents.

D) Responding to a question about the calculation of GPA on Naviance – Dr. Donahue – directed parents to their child’s guidance counselor.

E) Responding to a question about the posting of homework on Pupilpath during vacation – Dr. Donahue replied that it’s not a common practice and should be posted before vacation.

F) Responding to a question about the class size – Dr Donahue replied that “I am not aware of class size of 43, it’s 34.”

G) Halloween: Students should not wear costumes on the train/ public transportation , but may wear in school on Friday.

7) Upcoming events: Co-President Ellen Dubin announced:

A) Parent Teacher conferences will be held: Thursday, Nov. 5th from 6 pm to 8:30 pm and Friday, Nov. 6th from 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm. On Thursday, November 5th, the Parents' Association will host the Fall Staff Appreciation Dinner to provide our teachers and administration with some time to relax, eat and get ready for Parent Teacher Conferences that start at 6 pm. Volunteers have signed up to set up and serve, but we need help cleaning up as well. If you can pitch in from 5 pm to 7 pm – please sign up on the PA website.

B) Bronx Science PA Phone-a-thon is scheduled for Monday night November 23rd and Tuesday night November 24th, please come and help. If you donate before November 15, you will not get a call from the PA. Everyone please donate!!! The phone-a-thon volunteers will get dinner, scripts, call sheets. Vallo is kindly providing free bus service from Queens and from Manhattan. Volunteers will arrive at 6:00 pm, calls will be made from 6:30-9:30, and we'll clean up starting at 9:30 to be completely done and out of the building by 10 pm. Also, we are always in need of volunteers who speak languages other than English. Mandarin and/or Cantonese are hugely needed, but many other languages are needed as well (Korean, Spanish, Urdu, Japanese and many others). If you know people with these language skills, please encourage them to volunteer. Thrilled to have you!

C) The next PA Executive Board meeting will be November 18 at 6 pm, just before the 7 pm General PA meeting. *New Topic* – NYU Child Study Center presentation on Digital Age Students.

8) Kal Chany, of Campus Consultants, presented "Paying for College without Going Broke" while SLT and PA Nominations are collected and counted. Kal Chany’s notes are available on PA website.

The election winners are:

SLT (from 10th-12th Grade) - Barbara Reiser

(Other candidates: Phil Burnett, Chris Franklin and Patrick Gibbons)

SLT (from 9th Grade) - Kevork Khrimian

(Other candidates: Julie Field, Lydia Pierides and Jhoanna Wade).

PA Member at Large (from 9th Grade): Beth Cirone

(Other candidates: Tammy Prizant, Ricci Garcia, Nazmul Quayyum, and Hailey Kim Yu).

***Last minuted withdrawal of candidates: Julie Field and Tammy Prizant.**

Meeting ended at 9 pm