



**PARENTS' ASSOCIATION OF
THE BRONX HIGH SCHOOL OF SCIENCE
General Meeting
September 16, 2014**

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

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

3. Introduction of Executive Board Members:

Mr. Gibbons introduced the 2014-2015 PA Executive Board members.

Co-president: Shanti Knock

Co-president: Patrick Gibbons

1st VP: Ellen Dubin

2nd VP: Liza Lagunoff

Corresponding Secretary: Heather Gibble

Co-recording Secretary: Glen Price

Co-recording Secretary: Claire Bienen

Treasurer: Marcia Mason

Assistant Treasurer: Elizabeth Newburry

At Large: Barbara Murphy

At Large: LiXu Chen

At Large: Richard Lipkin

At Large: At Large: Natalie Amrose

At Large: to be elected next meeting

4. Dr. Jean Donahue, Principal and Cindy Golan, Parent Coordinator:

Mr. Gibbons introduced Principal Jean Donahue. Dr. Donahue welcomed the parents to the first meeting of the P.A. and thanked everyone for attending the meeting. She reported on the opening of for the 2014-2015 academic year. The first few days of school have gone smoothly. There were no major issues with class schedules.

Dr. Donahue reported on the schedule changes as per the new teacher's contract. Teachers will be meeting on Monday mornings for professional purposes. As a result, Small Group Initiative (SGI) will meet 3x per week, not 4x, on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. SGI is open to all students who feel that they need some assistance.

Dr. Donahue announced that there will be a special "New Freshman Guidance Class" for all new students. The class will meet 1x per week and run for 6 weeks during the fall semester and again during the spring semester. The fall topics will include time management and decision making. The spring topics will include college preparation and career choices.

Mr. Gibbons introduced Parent Coordinator Ms. Cindy Golan. Ms. Golan welcomed the parents. Ms. Golan announced that she sends out weekly Newsletters on Friday containing important information about the upcoming week.

Ms. Golan announced that her role is to assist parents address issues at Bronx Science. She asked parents to email her if they require assistance or information.

5. Treasurer's Report

a. YTD 2014-15: Ms. Marsha Mason reported there have been approximately \$21,000 donations to date since the beginning of the new fiscal year since July 1, 2014. She noted that there were approximately \$8,000 in donations at the end of last year after the last PA meeting.

b. Budget Discussion: Ms. Mason reported that she is still reconciling the budget as a result of the EB and PA budget modifications at the June, 2014 meeting. This modification included an additional \$22,000 spending authorization. She noted that she was also waiting for all donations and invoices for the last fiscal year to be submitted to reconcile the finances. This is standard practice every year and will have the budget completely up to date at the October meeting.

6. How to Donate to the PA: Mr. Gibbons announced that the main source of funding for the PA is the Annual Appeal. He thanked to all who have already donated. It is through these donations that the PA is able to contribute to a variety of school departments and activities, such as Naviance, the College Office, Arista, and athletic teams. No contribution is too small and any amount will help the PA reach a goal this year of \$300,000. Families may donate by sending a check made out to the Bronx Science Parents Association or may do it online at the PA website. He also noted that employer matching funds are always welcome. Families should follow-up with their respective employers for further information.

Mr. Gibbons announced that the Phonathon will be held in November. The school schedule needs to be reviewed. Final dates will be presented at the October meeting.

7. Nominations for Freshman Parent PA & SLT representatives: Mr. Gibbons announced that at the October meeting the PA members will vote for the Freshman Parent PA representative as well as the Freshman representative to the School Leadership Team, or SLT. The SLT meets once a month and is made up of school administrators, faculty, students, and parents. It is a vital piece of the school community, dedicated to making Bx. Science the best it can be. Mr. Gibbons encouraged parents to email Co-President Shanti Knock or himself at president@bxsciencepa.org if someone wants to serve in either of these positions. He noted that parents could come up to the stage to discuss this after the meeting.

8. Pupil Path; Lisa Rocchio: Mr. Gibbons introduced Lisa Rocchio, Asst. Principal of the Foreign Language and Music departments. Ms. Rocchio explained Pupil Path, the BxHSS automated grading system. A Q&A session followed.

9. PA Website; Robert Moore: Mr. Gibbons introduced Robert Moore, the P.A.'s website administrator. Mr. Moore discussed navigating the PA website which is a valuable source of information for all parents. A Q&A session followed.

10. Introduction of Ms. Chang and Breakout Meetings: Freshman and Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors with Guidance counselors Bishop, Nasser & Elia.

Mr. Gibbons introduced introduce the head of the Bx. Science Guidance Department, Ms. Shun Feng Chang. Ms. Chang announced that the room numbers for Freshman and Sophomores are in the auditorium, Juniors in room 131, and Seniors in room 114.

7. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM. Parents dispersed to attend the breakout sessions with the Guidance Counselors.