



**PARENTS' ASSOCIATION OF  
THE BRONX HIGH SCHOOL OF SCIENCE  
General Meeting  
September 24, 2013**

- 1. Call to Order:** Co-President Adam Stern commenced tonight's meeting at 7:12 PM.
- 2. Approval of the June, 2013 Minutes:** Parents were in consensus regarding the minutes. The minutes were approved and adopted.
- 3. Introductions:** Members of the Executive Board who were in attendance introduced themselves and explained their duties on the Board. Heather Gibble was also introduced as the new Volunteer Chair. To volunteer email Heather at [gibble.heather@gmail.com](mailto:gibble.heather@gmail.com). The Co-Presidents also stated that this year they wish to focus on increasing parent involvement. That includes attendance at PA meetings as well as volunteering at the school and participating in fund-raising activities.
- 4. Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Martha Stratis distributed the FY 2013 report. Ms. Stratis noted that for FY 2014 income to date is \$12,300 and expenses are just under \$18,000 (monies spent on the college office, Naviance, books and other Dept. requests).
- 5. Nominations:** Adam Stern took nominations for the position of Freshman Representative to the PA Executive Board and also Representatives to the SLT. There were a few self-nominees and parents were invited to consider the opportunity and follow up with further nominations. The election will take place at the October PA meeting. Tom Maeglin also explained that there was an open spot for Corresponding Secretary and what that position entails. There were no immediate nominations. He also asked for volunteers for the Bylaws Committee. Per the DOE, the Bylaws need to be reviewed every 3 years. This is the year that the Bylaws for the school must be reviewed.
- 5. Introduction of New Principal and Principal's Report:** Interim Acting Principal Donahue was introduced. She said she was "thrilled" to be in the position and that the year was off to a smooth start. She highlighted some recent student accomplishments: 26 National Merit Semi-finalists, 11 National Achievement Semi-finalists, 20 National Hispanic Recognition Awards. Principal Donahue then explained some recent faculty changes. John Powers is the new head of the English Dept. and there will be a focus on improving student's writing in the future. Allison Wheeler is the new head of the Science Dept. as well as Intel Coordinator. There are also a variety of new courses that have been added including several post-AP classes. There are also some new initiatives in the Guidance Dept. to increase contact with Freshmen and Sophomores and help with the transition to high school.

Bronx Science also now has a new Facebook page and Twitter account. Instructions are on the website as to how to become connected.

The Wellness Center and weight room have been renovated.

There was an explanation of the reasons for the change to Skedula/ Pupil Path. The program will be more streamlined in the future and it combines many systems that had been separate in the past. There has been a bit of a learning curve and the Principal thanked parents for their patience and support.

#### **6. Lisa Rocchio, AP Foreign Language/Music**

First off, Ms. Rocchio noted that Principal Donahue is a BHSS graduate as is Mr. Rocchio herself.

Ms. Rocchio explained the C-30 process which is the formal DOE process to name a new permanent Principal. The SLT will be very involved in the process and will elect who services on the C-30 Committee. Committee is a majority parents and they will interview select candidates for the position. The DOE will have a representative who monitors the process. The SLT members introduced themselves at this point and invited parents to contact them with any questions or concerns. Ms. Golan, Parent Coordinator, was introduced as were other staff in attendance.

Ms. Rocchio led a discussion on Pupil Path/Skedula and its importance as a communication tool for parents. Everyone should have received an email with their registration code for the program. If you did not there is contact information on the BHSS website as to how to proceed and request the registration information.

PupilPath continues to be customized for BHSS. Parents can access information such as the online gradebook, attendance, assignments and transcripts. Parents can see visuals as well such as class standing. Teachers are trying to reach out to parents (particularly Freshman parents) to notify them of missing homework which the issues with PupilPath are resolved. If a student is unable to logon they should email the Help Desk at [helpdesk@bxscience.edu](mailto:helpdesk@bxscience.edu).

There was continued discussion about why the change was made from Jupiter Grades to Skedula and questions were taken. It was explained that Skedula/Pupil Path combines several programs in to one, integrates with the DOE databases, and was willing to customize for BHSS. Jupiter Grades was no longer willing to make changes for BHSS. A request for patience was made. Parents asked for a PupilPath tutorial and that will be considered. Pupil Path does not currently send Alerts to parents but that request has already been made to be added. It is expected that all grades will be entered in to the new system by the end of the marking period. The school is working with teachers to encourage them to get grades entered as well as to post homework in a timely manner. Attendance is being updated by almost all teachers.

#### **7. Special Program: Breakout by Grade**

There were breakout sessions for Freshman, Sophomores, and Juniors/Seniors to have grade specific presentations by the Guidance Dept.

#### **8. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 pm.