

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

**December 15, 2015**

**1) Call to Order:** Co-President Ellen Dubin commenced tonight's meeting at 7:02 pm.

**2) Welcome and Introductions:** Co-President Ellen Dubin welcomed the parents and thanked them for coming.

**3) Approval of November 18, 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) Principal's Welcome and Report:** Dr. Jean Donahue welcomed parents and mentioned that last week there were performances of an Agatha Christie play as well as the winter concert. She reported on Nobel Physics Prize winner (1979) Sheldon Glashow's (class of '50) visit last week, with a talk to 800 students in the auditorium and many others watching remotely in classrooms. At the Senior Research Poster Sessions and Dinner on December 17, 111 students will be honored for their projects.

The school community was informed today that a student was mugged on Paul Avenue while walking from the subway and gave up \$20 and his iPhone. He is OK, but students are reminded to travel in groups whenever possible and to not leave school during the day. Another good strategy is to take the city buses to/from the subway. Dr. Donahue reminded parents that the DOE now mandates alarms on doors; this means there are now alarms on the cafeteria doors after 4:00 pm and students leaving school after 4:00 must exit through the main lobby. Dr. Donahue wished everyone happy holidays and reminded that school policy is that any term papers due before break should have already been assigned, and any papers/projects due in January should not be due immediately after break. Homework over break shouldn't be excessive.

Parent question: Is there a break when there is no homework? Answer: No, there's no school policy on this; it's up to individual teachers.

Parent question: What is the new cell phone policy and how is it working? Answer: Students are allowed to use cell phones in cafeteria, hallways, and outside on school property; not in class. So far this seems to be working. It's a trial. A big concern is bandwidth, which is weak in the school and this can negatively impact learning in the classroom. For a school with about 3,000 students we have bandwidth equivalent to 5 households! Students have been asked not to stream video on their phones, as this takes a lot of bandwidth. We are working with the DOE in an effort to increase our bandwidth.

Parent question: Why was the cell phone policy changed? Answer: Students wanted it and we don't like to say no unless there's a safety concern.

Parent question: Are contraceptives available to students? If the pill is available to girls, are they provided counseling? Answer: NYC Dept. of Public Health nurses are available; this is not a Bronx Science service. Parents who don't want their child to have access to this service need to download and sign the form.

Parent comment: Thank you for Open School Week.

**5) Amendments to PA by-laws:** Co-president Ellen Dubin explained that it's mandated that the PA review our by-laws every few years, and this was done, voted on and passed in the spring. However, the Executive Board now recommends a few additional amendments. Executive Board member Amy Davidson gave an overview of the amendments (a summary, not the actual verbiage) and said that the by-laws will be posted on the PA website with the amendments redlined; at the January meeting we will vote

on the changes. Most relate to clarifications of titles, nomenclature, and consistency issues. Amy highlighted that the amendments propose that officers can vote for themselves in elections; impose term limits of two years for officers in a single position; nominations for officers be closed 11 days before elections in June (however nominations can happen at the June meeting for a position for which no one has been nominated); everyone voting at a meeting must sign in. Any questions, email Amy Davidson.

**6) Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Heidi Moustakos reported on the current balances, fundraising progress to date, budgeted income and expenses. There were no questions or concerns from parents.

**7) School Leadership Team Report:** SLT member Kevork Khrimian reported:

- All sports teams will have a parent liaison to coordinate communication on transportation, schedules, and administrative updates. Girls JV basketball and Boys Gymnastics still need a parent liaison. (NOTE: corrected team parent needs are Boys Indoor Track, Girls JV Basketball and Girls Table Tennis).
- The school is continuing the C30 process of hiring an AP of biology. The C30 is scheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 22. The current acting AP of biology is one of the candidates for the position. Co-president Betsy Newberry said that an explanation of the C30 process is available on the DOE website.
- Parents can contact the SLT parent representatives at [SLTParent@bxsciencepa.org](mailto:SLTParent@bxsciencepa.org).

**8) Upcoming events:** December 22: Breakfast with the Principal; December 24-January 3: holiday break.

**9) Guest Speaker: Psychotherapist Sean Grover** spoke on helping our teens navigate the volatile years of adolescence. His notes are available on PA website.

The meeting ended at 9:00 pm.