

**Parent's Association General Meeting
February 24, 2016**

Call to Order: 7 p.m. By Betsy Newberry and Ellen Dubin

Approval of Minutes: - Motion and second by two members of the parent body. Approval indicated by unanimous consent.

Principal's Report: - Bronx High School of Science Assistant Principal Phoebe Cooper delivered the report for Principal Dr. Jean Donahue (who was out sick) with BHSS Information Technology Director Daniel Ranells.

Ms. Phoebe Cooper said that The Israeli Minister of Science, Technology and Space, Ofir Akunis, visited our school with Abraham Foxman, National Director of the Anti-Defamation League Emeritus and Robert Abrams, former Attorney General of New York. "They loved our school" and toured our Holocaust Museum.

Ms. Cooper asked parents to encourage their children to attend the Winter Dance on Friday, as well as the Junior Semi-Formal and Prom events. SING performances will be held in early March. Students are encouraged to attend the freshman/sophomore and junior/senior shows which are all student produced. They are getting out lots of teenage angst, which is "good and healthful", she said.

Ms. Cooper also thanked School Administrators Mr. Nasser and Ms. Wheeler for staying late to host the 2016-2017 BHSS Course Selection presentation later in the evening.

Betsy Newberry and Ellen Dubin presented the PA Executive Board's unanimous decision to approve spending up to \$210,000 from a PA budget surplus of roughly \$450,000, for technology upgrades. Ms. Dubin said that Principal Dr. Donahue and the PA Executive Board believe that the best use of the surplus is to improve the Internet bandwidth and upgrade technology at our school. Dr. Donahue's first spending priority -- with 96 percent of her DOE budget -- is on excellent teachers, with maximum class offerings and the second priority is to improve technology.

BHSS Information Technology Director Daniel Ranells presented his plan to upgrade technology at BHSS, using the PA surplus. Improving BHSS technology is a very important goal. The plan is to update ten of our computer labs, with 329 refurbished computers (with six year warranty). Additionally, we will purchase 500 megabits per second of bandwidth. The current bandwidth, which is 50 megabits per second, is equivalent to the typical bandwidth of four homes, combined. The 500 megabits per second would increase that capacity -

- ten times. Currently, it takes about three minutes to boot-up the computers and two minutes to login. This is the lowest cost plan to upgrade the system.

Ms. Dubin clarified that the PA would pay for a private Internet provider for one year and Mr. Ranells expects the DOE to pay for bandwidth in the following years.

Question: One parent asked, "Who will pay for software licenses? We have all the necessary licenses for the new computers, responded Mr. Ranells.

Question: Is this the first time that the PA has a surplus? It's been building up over the past number of years, explained Ms. Newberry.

Question: If the DOE does not pay for the bandwidth, can we afford it next year? Each PA board is elected annually and it's up to them to bring budget decisions before the parent body for a vote, said Ms. Dubin.

Question: Can the PA create a space in the school for students to use their computers and print? We are putting a multifaceted printer in the library, but we are restricted by a space issue. Our school is at 130 percent of space capacity, said Mr. Ranells.

Question: Which provider will you use? Cablevision is my favorite, said Mr. Ranells (but explained that he is still researching the options).

Vote on Surplus Disbursement: Spending up to \$210,000 for Technology was unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report:

Present by Heidi Moustakous. We have raised \$182,00 so far this year, and to date we have spent \$97,000. The audience was impressed with the roughly \$450,000 surplus, but had no questions.

SLT Report: The SLT meeting included a C30 process to hire a new Assistant Principal of Student Services. The SLT would like to hear if any parents have goals they think the SLT should consider for next school year's CEP (Comprehensive Education Plan). If you have ideas, please contact your SLT representatives at SLTparent@bxscience.org.

Upcoming Events:

March 2 - Queens PSAT Event

March 16 - Accepted Students Open House, Several volunteers needed for help with greeting, merchandise table, etc..

March 19 - Princeton Review free SAT II Practice Tests

March 22 - Breakfast with the Principal
March 31 / April 1 - Parent Teacher Conferences

Nominating Committee Election: Committee taking shape to hold BHSS PA Spring Elections. We have 4 members of the Executive Bard whose children are graduating this year, and they have agreed to serve on the Nominating Committee. Ms. Dubin opened the floor to anyone else who would like to serve on the Nominating Committee, but no one else volunteered.

Spring Auction: BHSS Auction Chairwoman Liz Bruder-Frydman made a presentation about the BHSS Spring Auction which will be held on Friday, May 20, 2016 at Landmark on the Park from 6 to 10 p.m.. Our auction team needs YOU! Ms. Bruder-Frydman asked parents to help co-chair the event, volunteer and solicit donations. "Our auction is the world's best," she said to loud applause. We are looking for three new parents to join the team to help with a smooth transition to new hands since many Auction Committee parents are "graduating" – including Ms. Bruder-Frydman! Please contact our PA at: president@bxsciencepa.org, if you can help out at this fun event!

Special Programs:

9th - 11th Grades: School Administrators Mr. Nasser and Ms. Wheeler presented BHSS Course Selection for 2016-17, including a four-year overview, which was held in the main auditorium.

12 Grade: Alumni parents returned to Bronx Science and shared information about the transition from Bronx Science to college in Room 131, on the first floor.

Attendance: 101 people signed in. Lower than normal turn out for this topic due to heavy rain