

**PARENTS' ASSOCIATION OF
THE BRONX HIGH SCHOOL OF SCIENCE
General Meeting Minutes
October 18, 2016**

1) Call to Order: Co-President Ellen Dubin commenced the meeting at 7:07 pm. Approximately 93 parents were in attendance.

2) Approval of September 19, 2016 Meeting Minutes: The minutes were unanimously approved.

3) Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Heidi Moustakos reported that current income is approximately \$49,000, almost all of it coming from the Annual Appeal. Expenses have totaled \$56,000. Co-President Ellen Dubin asked if there were any questions about the budget. No one had questions.

4) Important Upcoming Dates:

October 19 – PSAT Day for 9th, 10th and 11th graders

October 20 – Fall Open House for 8th graders, volunteers needed

October 24 – PA Mailing, 3:00-5:30pm, volunteers needed

October 28 – Breakfast with the Principal (Topic: Extracurriculars)

November 8 – No School (Election Day)

November 9 & 10 – Parent-Teacher Conferences

November 14-16 – Open School Week, more information to come from Parent Coordinator Cindy Golan

November 17 – Resource Fair and PA Meeting (Topic: College Application Process)

November 21 & 22 – PA Phonathon in evening, volunteers needed

5) SLT and PA Elections: Suzanne Plossl, the sole candidate for the freshman parent spot on the SLT, was elected. Each of the three candidates for the freshman parent spot on the PA Executive Board then spoke briefly. Parents cast their ballots, which were collected and counted by PA Board members. Later in the meeting, Co-President Ellen Dubin announced that Charissa Fernandez had been elected to the PA Board. (The two other candidates were Jing Gao and Lara Stein.) In her brief speech prior to the vote, Charissa Fernandez said she is a mother of three boys, the eldest being a freshman at Bronx Science. She is an executive director at Teach for America and has been working in public education for almost 20 years.

5) Principal's Report by Dr. Jean Donahue: Dr. Donahue's report covered the following topics:

- *After-school incidents on Harris Field.* With regard to recent reports about a few students fighting on Harris Field, Dr. Donahue said the administration is working very closely with the NYPD and the DOE on the ongoing investigation. She said that the DOE has been very supportive. She offered to meet privately with parents and students who have further questions or concerns.
- *Big Bronx tournament.* Bronx Science hosted a very successful Speech and Debate tournament on Friday, October 14, attended by more than 3,000 people from all over the world.
- *International visitors.* On October 19, during the school day, a group of educators from Holland visited Bronx Science to observe classes, speak to members of the faculty and administration, and learn effective teaching methods.
- *Open House for 8th graders.* Parent volunteers are needed for the open house on October 20. Typically, between 1,400 and 1,600 families sign up to come to the open house. This year, more than 2,100 families have signed up, and Dr. Donahue expects about 5,000 people to attend.
- *New crosswalk.* The crosswalk lines in front of the school will be painted soon.

6) Guest Speaker: Sean Grover (www.seangrover.com) is a psychotherapist with more than 25 years of experience working with children and adults. He maintains one of the largest group therapy practices in the United States. During his presentation on “Developing Healthy Habits in Teens,” he discussed 5 things every teen needs (see <http://psychcentral.com/lib/5-things-every-teen-needs/>) and answered parents’ questions on a range of topics including procrastination, anxiety, gaming, and punishment. Parents interested in learning more can visit his website for videos, podcasts, and articles. After his presentation, he raffled off two copies of his book, “When Kids Call the Shots: How to Seize Control from Your Darling Bully—and Enjoy Parenting Again.”

12) Adjournment: Co-president Ellen Dubin adjourned the meeting at around 8:45 pm.