

Parents' Association of The Bronx High School of Science
General Meeting Minutes -- DRAFT
May 16, 2017

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Co-President Ellen Dubin at 7:07 P.M. There were roughly 40 parents / caregivers in attendance who signed in on the sign-in sheets.

Sponsor Introductions: PA sponsors Kweller Prep (Frances Kweller) and Regents Review (Michael Birnbaum, Michelle Zacherman) introduced their services to the parent body. Sponsors' funding helps provide food and other support for the PA budget.

Approve April 2017 Meeting Minutes: The minutes from the April General Meeting were approved by a show of hands with no dissenters

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Heidi Moustakos reported year to date income of \$292,000 and expenses of \$262,000. Preliminary results from the auction suggest income of at least \$66,000, which exceeds our budgeted income for the auction.

Nominating Committee: The current candidate slate (uncontested) was presented (see below) and nominations were opened up to the floor.

PA Executive Board

Co-Presidents:	Elizabeth Langwith, Monica Toriello
First Vice President:	Amy Davidson
Second Vice President:	Charissa Fernandez
Treasurer:	Lisa Donohoe
Assistant Treasurer:	Carey Barclay
Co-Recording Secretaries:	Rachel Hall Danes (new), Madeleine Dobie (new), Pam Godwin
Correspondence Secretary:	Cathy Israelevitz
Members at Large:	Ricci Garcia, Weimin Huang, Jen Lee, Elizabeth Newberry, Paula Smeu
SLT Parent Representatives:	Irene Chang, Aela Morgan

No new nominations were received and nominations for next year's Parent's Association executive board were closed. Elections will be held at next month's PA meeting.

The proposed Executive Board will consist of 9 parents of seniors next year. As a result, a motion was approved by the Executive Board to expand the number of freshmen members-at-large from the incoming class to three from the current one. These new parent representatives would be nominated in September with elections held in October. This motion will be voted on by the General PA at the next PA meeting. In addition, there will be two SLT members elected from the freshmen parent body next year.

Budget: The co-presidents presented next year's proposed PA budget, highlighting the following key changes versus this year's budget:

Income:

- Increase in Spring Benefit to reflect this year's results (+\$10K)
- Increase in Annual Appeal to reflect this year's results (\$+\$20K)
- Additional transfer from surplus to ensure balanced budget (\$13K).
- There is currently a surplus balance of roughly \$368,000 due to successful fundraising and under-spending over the past several years. Some of this surplus was allocated to technology spending that was subsequently funded by the DOE.

Expenses:

- Reduction in Parent Outreach budget by \$5K (more in line with actual)
- Budget provided to College Office renamed "Guidance & College Office" to reflect that funds will be used to support both areas (level of funding remains unchanged)
- New Facilities budget line that was added in April will be increased (+\$4,700) to support facilities expenses that are not covered by the DOE, e.g. locker repairs, water fountains, bathroom items, water for the teachers' lounge
- Student Expenses were increased by \$23.5K primarily to cover expenses that had previously been funded by the now-defunct Alumni Association including diplomas (+\$6K), Theater & Arts (+\$7K).
- Also part of Student Expenses, a line to support School Spirit Events was added in the amount of \$7K, partially funded by a reduction in the Student Miscellaneous line of \$3K. This will be used to fund events such as lunch-time dances and the Spring Carnival
- There is no additional funding budgeted for technology beyond what was transferred from our surplus last fiscal year. We continue to spend down that money (roughly \$100,000 remains). Based on discussions with the school's IT Director Daniel Ranells, funds will be used to support needed server upgrades, expanded bandwidth for internet access, and poster printer repairs and ink (previously funded by the Alumni Association)

A parent asked whether the Alumni Association / Alumni Foundation funding change would be a temporary or a permanent situation.

Co-President Newberry responded that this is a transition year, and we will need to wait until the new organization is established and settled before we will understand the ongoing budget implications.

Another parent asked about the lack of cell phone signals in the school. Co-President Newberry explained that the signal is a result of the way the building is constructed rather than a technology issue. Expanded bandwidth is not expected to resolve this issue.

The proposed budget will be voted on during next month's PA meeting. It was also noted that the PA can vote to modify the budget next year as needed.

Parent volunteers are needed for the following upcoming events:

Saturday, May 20th: The DOE is organizing a High School Fair specifically for Specialized High Schools. Parent and student volunteers are needed for the fair that will be held at DeWitt Clinton High School (next door to Bronx Science) from 11:00am-3:00pm

Sunday, May 21st, Bronx Week Parade: This weeklong event celebrating the borough of the Bronx culminates in a parade on Mosholu Parkway on Sunday, May 21. Parade marchers give a 90-second presentation or cheer to Borough President Ruben Diaz. For the past few years Bronx Science has marched in the parade and this year will be no exception. Parent and student volunteers are welcome, and will be provided with Bronx Science t-shirts, other school "swag" and donuts. The group will gather at 11:30 am and the march will end by 2:30.

Other Important Upcoming Dates

May 24 – Breakfast with the Principal (last one of the school year)

May 29 – School Closed (Memorial Day)

May 30 – SLT Meeting, 3:45-5:30pm

General Meeting Topic: Dr. Donahue's State of the School Address

Dr. Donahue (Principal), Ellen Fisher (College Office) and Andrew Nasser (AP - Guidance) shared highlights of the school year and gave a brief preview of next year, and responded to questions from the audience.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 by Co-President Ellen Dubin.