

Fall 2019 Candidates' Statements

(Candidates are listed alphabetically by last name under the position they are running for.)

PA Executive Board Co-recording Secretary (2 candidates, choose 1)

Jayesh Patel

My name is Jayesh Patel. I have a passion for volunteering. I see lots of good things going in school with the help of Parent Association and I want to be part of the team.

I am running for “PA Executive Board Co-recording Secretary” position.

I was a board member for other non-profit organization for more than 7 years and volunteer for almost 15 years.

During my tenure in another non-profit organization, in various roles, I was a leading various teams like Hospitality team, Event management team and Youth development team etc....

In the last six months I have been involved with following activities as a volunteer at The Bronx High School of Science.

- During “Bronx High School of Science Auction 2019”, as a volunteer I helped do check-in/check-out process.
- During “Project Accepted” event, as a volunteer helped team to serve breakfast/lunch to alumni.
- During two “High Schools Fairs”, as a parent volunteer answered questions from middle school parents.
- During “Fall Open House”, as a parent volunteer greeted parents at Bronx Science and answered questions from parents.

Also I fluently speak Hindi and Gujarati languages, can be helpful as a translator too.

My interests to serve Bronx Science PA as a board member is also encouraged by many of you.

I request you to vote for me.

Best Regards,

Jayesh Patel

Donghui Zang

My name is Donghui Zang and I am running for the co-Secretary on the PA. My son Derek Zang is a freshman at Bronx Science High School, and his brother Jeremy is a junior in Stuyvesant.

I got my Ph.D. In Materials Science from Rice University, MSc from Carnegie Mellon, and BSc from Shanghai Jiao Tong University. I have been previously working in Citigroup’s Fixed Income Strategy and Analysis Department as a quant and then later on in JPMorgan.

I have lived in New York City for 17 years. My both children attended the New York City public schools from K to 11.

I am the assistant coach of Russell Sage math team, which had won nationwide math-con competition 3rd place in the 2019 Chicago competition. I had been also hosting the school math team's weekly meeting in my house since 2018.

I was a college teacher in Shanghai for 2 years, and had taught 4 computer and numerical programming related courses to the college students and won the university's "Excellent Teaching Award".

I had occasionally served on the advisory board of a few after-school programs, and tutored many kids from 2nd grader to 12th graders, of various performance level and subjects.

I know how the school runs, and what the students thinks. I love New York City, and I love the New York City public schools. I have ideas and passions to work with students, parents, school teachers and staffs to even enrich the kids experiences in and out of school.

Please vote for me, thank you!

PA Executive Board Member at Large (3 candidates, choose 1)

Kenneth Ho

My name is Kenneth Ho.

I am a father of two boys. My older one is currently attending Bronx Science as a freshman and my younger one is attending a middle school in Brooklyn. Together with my wife, we reside in Brooklyn.

Professionally, I am a licensed CPA. I have an undergraduate degree in accounting and an MBA in finance. I am currently working for a Fortune 500 company in midtown Manhattan, responsible for financial reporting.

By joining the executive board of the PA, I hope to get a deeper understanding and connection from students, parents and school administrators here at Bronx Science for the benefit of our students. I would be honored to offer my skills to the executive board for finance related issues. More importantly, I hope I can gain valuable experiences through the PA to better serve the Bronx Science community in the years to come.

Leonard Silverman

I am honored to submit my candidacy for the position of PA Executive Board Member at Large. Having previously served as a parent leader I am confident that my combination of experience and enthusiasm would be a great asset to the board.

My prior experience includes having served in various PTA positions including, one-term as vice-president of public relations and two terms as the co-president of the PTA at The Lower Lab School/PS77. While at PS 77, I was honored to receive the CSA Parent Leadership Award. I subsequently served as a six-grade representative and then two-term co-president of the PTA at East Side Middle School/MS114. While at MS 114, I also served on the school's SLT. I am currently serving my second term as co-president of the District 2 President's Council and

my second term as the District 2 Representative on the Chancellor's Parent Advisory Council. I am also a member of the District 2 Community Education Council where I chair the Community Engagement Committee.

As a passionate advocate for parents and students, I have been a guest speaker at various schools and community boards where I have presented on a variety of education related topics. This past year I have been a leader in the fight to preserve the SHSAT while also advocating for the need to develop community-based collaborative solutions to increase diversity at New York's Specialized High Schools.

In my “other life” I’ve been a practicing attorney for the past 28 years. In addition to my ninth-grader at Bronx High School of Science, I have two other children who attend New York City Public Schools. I would be grateful for your support!

Melissa Stein

My name is Melissa Stein and I am a lifelong resident of NYC and a graduate of Bronx Science (class of '86). I am a general internist and work for Montefiore Hospital at a clinic in the South Bronx. As a part of my work I teach first medical students at Einstein and have witnessed the strengths and struggles of high achieving students in the decade following high school. I live in Northern Manhattan with my wife and our two sons, aged 16 and 14. Both graduated from our local K-8 public school (PS/IS 187) where our family was actively involved in the school community. Our older son is a sophomore at Frank McCourt High School and our younger began at Bronx Science this year. I hope to continue my involvement with my sons’ schools as a member of the Bronx Science PA. I am a team player and happy to help with fundraising and whatever other needs the PA has. My personal strengths and interests lie in helping to create a school culture that prioritizes mental health and personal resilience along with academic achievement. Bronx Science has played an important role in my life and I look forward to the opportunity to give back to the school.

Freshman Parent Representative for School Leadership Team (2 candidates, choose 1)

Danielle Donovan

I am seeking the position of freshman representative to the SLT. I have a long standing interest in the nexus of education, policy, and institutional sustainability. I believe that the best educational outcome for the student results when school, home, and parent organizations collaborate. I am thrilled to join the Bronx Science community and realize that it is a privilege to be here. I want to help advocate and even strengthen what we offer to our students and families.

Over the years, I served on my son's school's PA Executive, Community Service, and Auction Planning Committees. Currently I serve on the Project Continuum Committee at my Alma Mater, Barnard College. This committee reconnects and engages alumnae with the College through creative and intellectual channels. I have also worked with Barnard and Columbia University in fundraising for their Annual Fund and Major Gifts efforts, respectively. This broad background has given me the skills to be an effective volunteer in an educational setting and the experience needed to support the goals of the school leadership team. I am grateful for the opportunity to have worked with Barnard and Columbia, institutions close to my heart, and I would be honored to use what I have learned by working at Bronx Science as a representative to the SLT.

I speak Korean and Japanese. I hold a MA from Columbia's School of International and Public Affairs with a focus on Economic Policy, and I am retired from a career in international finance.

Ayelet Yoles

Hello! My name is Ayelet Yoles and I am a practicing General Dentist in a Community Health Center in the Bronx.

In addition to being the mother of a current 9th grader, I am also the proud parent of two recent graduates. While they were students here, I was impressed by the opportunity that every Bronx Science student has to create a unique educational experience, through both the extra-curricular clubs and selected courses. I have seen the school develop and refine needed services and new curricula from one year to the next. While I marveled at how quickly these improvements were implemented, I now understand that it's due in part to the efforts of the School Leadership Team and the goals of the Comprehensive Educational Plan. The opportunity our students have to make a Bronx Science education their own is what makes it relevant for their whole life. I know this is true, not only as a parent of students with diverse interests, but also as a Bronx Science graduate. I would be honored to represent you in this very important process for our students, as a 9th grade Parent Representative on the School Leadership Team.

Thank you!