

**PARENTS' ASSOCIATION OF
THE BRONX HIGH SCHOOL OF SCIENCE
General PA Meeting Minutes**

September 24, 2019

1) Call to Order

Co-President Rebecca Barreras commenced the meeting at 7:12pm. Approximately 200 parents were in attendance.

2) Approval of the June meeting minutes

The June meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

3) Dr. Donahue

Welcome to the 2019-2020 school year, and a special welcome to parents and guardians of our incoming students! We continue to add to and improve our academic programs. In line with our focus on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics), we have added advanced electives in Neuroscience, Molecular and Cellular Biology, and Game Theory.

We had a lot going on the past two weeks, club fair, fall sports teams tryouts, etc. all going well. Thank you PA and alumni for your hospitality in the Project Accepted event, it went successfully. Cafeteria will have 2 year renovation. They are still working on it, going to put in new lights and ceiling, new comfortable seats, will be able to fit all students, and also will have charging station etc...Hopefully the cafeteria will be a comfortable place where the students will want to hang out. Will be finished during the next summer. The DOE has updated the school calendar, December 23 will now count as part of Winter Recess.

DOE required us to offer SAT to all juniors, we offer PSAT to freshman and sophomores in the same day. However, impossible to do this and run classes at same time, so school would like to have a non-attendance day on March 4, 2020. Needs PA to approve this request. Will not have regular class schedules on that day. If students choose not to take PSAT or SAT, they will not be counted absent.

The March 4th non-attendance day request was approved PA vote at the general meeting. (188 parents voting yes, 0 voting no, and 1 abstention)

4) Treasurer's Report

Thank you Lisa Donohoe who gave her last treasurer's report. Budget and spending for 2019 - 2020 was presented. \$56,000 in expenses have been paid this year, most was spent on student planners, student clubs, merchandise, Naviance payment.

5) Budget Amendment Vote:

Update on the numbers from June, did not include most of spring benefit money. Now we are adding money to replace some classroom air conditioners, language support services translation, and student miscellaneous. Increase in \$80,000 dollars to purchase biology lab computers. Increase in \$10,000 dollars for emergency financial assistance, alumni foundation will also help with this, school will evaluate needs. For the translation service, the PA will hire DOE approved vendor translators, they also provide 2 translators, and technicians to install and maintain equipment. **All budget amendments were unanimously approved.**

6) Expedited Election for Treasurer

Doris Ortis Torrez was unanimously voted in as the new PA treasurer. She was the only candidate for the position.

7) Cliff Stanton Safety Committee update

Encourage the students during the day should stay on campus, as the school cannot protect them if they go out. Harris field condition is not very good; additional railings should be installed on outdoor stairwell leading to courtyard.

7) SLT Meeting Summary, given by Jonathan Freedman.

This year the CEP format and requirements have changed, but structure remains the same. Now mandated to have goals in certain areas, previously were given freedom to make own goals. This school year required to have 3 goals: **a**, College Career and Civic Readiness, goal is to continue 100% college acceptance rate. **b**, 100% graduation rate goal. **c**, Supportive Environment: physical and mental wellness, and equity in student voice.

8) PA business adjourned at 7: 40 pm for guidance breakout sessions for each grade: What Your Child Can Expect This Year.

The next PA meeting will be on October 23, 2019.