

**Parents' Association of the Bronx High School of Science
General Meeting Nov 18, 2019**

1) Call to Order:

Co-President Lisa Brody commenced the meeting at 7:05 pm.

2) Approval of Minutes, from Oct 23, 2019. Unanimous.

3) SLT Meeting Summary, given by Jonathan Freedman

There were 2 main topics discussed in SLT meeting:

- Reviewed Galaxy budget from DOE. The budget for this school year is 18.5 million dollars. 97% of this money goes to teacher and staff salaries (93% is for full time teachers, other 4% is for staff, substitute and part-time teachers). This number does not include 2 important funding sources for the school: Alumni Foundation and Parents' Association.
- One of 4 CEP goals for this year focuses on the response to student surveys the DOE conducts every year. Students feel that teachers are not supportive enough, in some cases less than 50% gave positive responses. School is seriously concerned about this. Before Christmas break, the school will conduct an internal, mini-survey to students, and hopefully the number responding positively will increase.

4) Safety Committee Update, given by Cliff Stanton

- Last Thursday, Coffee with Principal meeting was the annual Safety Committee Town Hall Meeting. It went very well.
- For now, we must make this urgent appeal to all parents who drive their children to school and to any driving age students who drive themselves to school: please obey all traffic laws of the City of New York and New York State. Drivers have been observed speeding up and making illegal U-turns to avoid getting stuck at the traffic light, and at the Vallo bus STOP signs.

5) Treasurer's Report: Doris Ortiz Torres

- Our budget is about \$515,000 and our actual income from July is about \$86,000, and we still have a long way to go. The money for the school has recently been used to provide Linear Algebra and Biology textbooks, student planners, and teachers' appreciation dinner; and support for the music department and for clubs.

Votes for the budget amendments:

- Vote for one time expense of \$10,000 to repair planetarium: 53 votes yes, 1 vote no, 0 abstain. (Parents' ideas for alternate funding sources and requests that the planetarium be open at some point to parents will be shared with the school administration.)
- Vote for yearly increase of \$12,500 to pay for Albert online learning: 54 votes yes, 0 vote no, 1 vote abstain.

6) Principal's update given by Andrew Nasser, AP of Guidance

- The Bronx High School of Science was named a 2020 Top STEM High School by *Newsweek* magazine, and was ranked #4 nationally.
- Sports are going incredible well: the Bronx Science Boys Cross Country Team won the PSAL City Championship, and the girls' volleyball team is in the city final against Brooklyn Tech at Queens College this week.
- Bronx Science Model UN Team swept the competition at the 23rd Annual Brown University Simulation of the United Nations.
- The Bronx Science Speech and Debate Team swept the Scarsdale Invitational.
- Musical Bye-Bye Birdie will be Dec 4 to Dec 6, and Dec 11 and 12 is the Winter Concert.
- Our recent graduates are returning on Nov 27, when we will welcome them back for homecoming activities. Our questions for them are: how's the food, how's your roommate, and how did Bronx Science do in preparing you for college?

7) Starting from this PA general meeting, our school will provide free Wi-Fi for the parents but the password will change every meeting.

8) The PA Co-president encourages all parents to donate money to the PA association in order to better the school for the students. Donations are tax deductible.

General PA Meeting Topic: Panel on communication strategies; sleep issues, mental health challenges, and Internet usage.

Three mental health experts discussed and shared their professional advice with parents. Our AP of Guidance, Mr. Andrew Nasser, moderated the discussion. Experts also answered questions from parents, and parents felt that they benefited from the discussion.

8:50 pm Meeting Adjourned

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