

Notes for 1/14/2021

Bronx High School of Science

Parent Association Meeting Minutes

Co-President Cliff Stanton commenced the meeting at 7 pm. 182 attendees over Zoom.

Minutes from the December 9, 2020 meeting were approved. Motion was made by Christine Kattan and seconded by Ken Ho. Minutes approval was done through an online zoom poll.

PA Presidents Cliff Stanton and Jerome Kramer mentioned the upcoming launch of the Bronx Science Book Club and that the first meeting will be a discussion of Ellington Boulevard. PA Raffle tickets will go on sale on January 10th and there will be a second Comedy Night on March 4th.

Principal Rachel Hoyle: Results for the Regeneron Science Competition – Bronx Science has 14 Regeneron scholars (semi-finalists) which is the most of any High School in the country. Synchronous instruction was increased by up to 25 minutes per week per class. Most classes that meet daily were extended by 5 minutes per day. For office hours, teachers are now providing open office hours at least one day per week for students. In addition, synchronous PE has been added to student schedules. Regents week is now 3 days of synchronous instruction plus a Career Symposium lead by alumnae and a community day lead by the student organization. Student attendance is mandatory during regents week.

Treasurer's Report: Ken Ho, Treasurer, showed a slide with revenues and expenses. January \$274K total revenues included a \$62K increase in donations and \$8K in matching funds. President Cliff Stanton mentioned that there would be a deeper dive into PA finances related to budget and expenses at a future PA meeting. PA Presidents will review the expense budget with the school administration.

Fundraising: **Danielle Donovan** reported that the highlight of December's fundraising was the inaugural Byron matching grant that was featured from December 1st to 15th. The campaign's goal was to raise participation by attracting new donors. There was an increase of roughly 40% in the number of donors during the matching campaign as compared to the same time last year.

SLT Report: Kathy Qi shared that students took a survey during PE class. Students reported a about stress levels and other concerns and provided feedback about how teachers could help relieve some of their stress. Camera participation during synchronous learning was discussed at SLT and it was noted that turning on cameras is not mandatory per the DOE. SLT will publish meeting minutes and Cindy Golan will make the link available to the public.

Vallo Bus Company: PA President Jerome Kramer noted that the Vallo Bus Company has decided to stop providing private busing to Bronx Science students. A potential parent initiated lawsuit related to requests for returned funding from last spring may be one reason that Vallo is closing. The relationship with Vallo was one between parents and the bus company and is not a matter for either the PA or the school administration. Eleanor Coufos stated that the alumni association would be happy to help in this matter. There may be a way to put out an RFP so that multiple bus companies could bid on this business. The general feeling is that there will be a way to have private bus service resume for fall 2021.

Presentation by Eleanor Coufos from the Bronx Science Alumni Association: Eleanor gave an overview of the Alumni Association as a separate 501C3 which independently fundraises. The Alumni Association draws upon Bronx Science alumni and their connections to engage with the students and the school. The fund raises between \$1 – 2 million per year and gives the school over \$1 million per year. The goal is for the Alumni Association to help the school solve problems, reduce the burden of bureaucracy etc. The Alumni Association spent over \$300K since March to help with remote learning needs by purchasing laptops, providing wifi etc.

Eleanor shared a description of the upcoming Career Symposium which will be sponsored by the Alumni Association and feature various Bronx Science alums. It will provide workshops on a variety of career topics from arts to law and Eleanor encourages parents to make sure that their children attend. The keynote for the symposium will be given by Nobel Prize winner Robert Lefkowitz.

In addition, Eleanor reported on summer opportunities that have been offered in the past. It is unclear what will exist for students for this summer due to the pandemic and what the city may permit to move forward in person. Brunner Awards will happen this year. Students may apply for support for individual projects and over 30 kids received some funding last year. Other past summer opportunities sponsored by the Alumni Association include the Bronx Science Design Institute, Programming Academy, Climate Leadership Institute and BxSciU. These programs are offered at no cost to Bronx Science students. Communication updates about BS summer opportunities from the Alumni Association will be forthcoming.

Meeting adjourned at 8:13 pm