

Notes for 4/14/2021

Bronx High School of Science

Parent Association Meeting Minutes

Co-President Cliff Stanton commenced the meeting at 7 pm. 126 attendees over Zoom.

Minutes from the March 15, 2021 meeting were approved. Motion was made by Christine Kattan and seconded by Kaitlin Pai. Minutes were approved through an online zoom poll.

PA Presidents Cliff Stanton and Jerome Kramer – New Business: A new PA survey will soon be sent to parents that asks about the impact of the pandemic on our Bronx Science families and possible ways to commemorate this time. The Co-Presidents discussed the need for parent advocacy in terms of Reso A assistance to complete the Bronx Science cafeteria renovations. Parents will be asked to contact city council members in support of an ask for \$975K in additional funds.

Principal Rachel Hoyle: Students are finishing up selecting courses in Talos and programming for next year will assume that students will be back in the building. Summer school will run this summer and may be some combination of in person/remote/hybrid, but offerings have yet to be decided upon. 400 juniors took the SAT on April 13th. The superintendent was positively inclined after her recent visit to the school. The school is confirming plans for a June 24th in person graduation at Arthur Ashe Stadium. Health requirements related to vaccination / showing of recent PCR test are to be determined.

Treasurer's Report: Ken Ho, Treasurer, showed a slide with revenues and expenses. March revenues: comedy night brought in \$5K and general donations increased by \$4K.

SLT Report: Junnie Mark-Kobashi reported on today's SLT meeting. Student survey data was reviewed and discussed. Results are being considered for incorporation into CPT goals. Activities liked the most by students were the career symposium and clash of colors events. Positives of remote learning per students included less commute and more sleep. Orientation activities for the fall were discussed for the incoming sophomore class who have been fully remote for their Bronx Science experience to date.

Nominations: Alison Gardy shared the report regarding nominations for the 2021-2022 PA Board.

Co-President – Jerome Kramer

Co-President – Cliff Stanton

Co-Vice President – Danielle Donovan

Co-Vice President – Christine Kattan

Treasurer – Ken Ho

Asst. Treasurer – Weilin Li-Marabello

Corresponding Secretary – Jayesh Patel

Co-Recording Secretary – Joli Golden

Co-Recording Secretary – Sheila Drumm

Co-Recording Secretary – Dorie Lederfajn Paparo

Member-at-Large – Ram Halder

Member-at-Large – Li Ping Xu

Member-at-Large – Yanling Lei

Member-at-Large – Weili Fang

Member-at-Large – Irena Chklovskii

Transportation: Karen Babich has headed a parent subcommittee related to private bus transportation options for children who attend the school. Parents were reminded that neither the administration nor the PA can contract with any transportation company. Parents must contract individually with vendors. Currently, five companies are interested in this potential business including Vallo, the company that formerly served Bronx H.S. of Science students. The PA will release a fact sheet to allow parents to compare the different bus company options.

Auction Report: Tracy Ballas gave the auction update and promoted the macbook raffle. The online auction will be live as of May 1st and will include hundreds of items. May 15th will be the virtual gala and a mentalist/magician will perform, along with some Bronx Science student organizations. The event is free, but directions will be shared to do live bidding.

Community “Safe Space” Conversation: Assistant Principal Andrew Nasser along with former School Counselor Vivien Ngai, held a forum on **Navigating Family Conversations Centered on Current Events**. The focus was on the reprehensible rise in hate crimes directed at Asians. The conversation included a forum to listen to feedback from parents and a conversation with students in mind. Reflections were shared in Chinese and English. Parents asked whether students should travel in groups/with travel buddies via public transportation to school. Bystander intervention training was suggested by some parents, along with self-defense training and possible use of personal alarm devices. Mr. Nasser mentioned that the school is well covered by security cameras along the exterior of the building. Over 115 parents stayed for the full meeting to participate in the conversation.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm