

Parents' Association of The Bronx High School of Science
PA Meeting, September 22, 2021
Via Zoom

*Co-President Jerome Kramer commenced the meeting at 7:02pm.
207 attendees over Zoom.*

PA Co-President Cliff Stanton gave introductory notes:

Welcome freshman parents! Welcome, senior parents, to the last first meeting of the school year!

- Hope to be back in the auditorium later this school year.
- The PA is in touch with the school community, administration, faculty and staff; students have persevered well beyond their years; parents are keeping it together.
- There are ad hoc community circles of support and inspiration that have happened during the past year, such as wellness walks. We are in this together. We may not all speak the language but it takes a village.
- VOLUNTEER! There are plenty of ways to get involved at school. It is gratifying to volunteer; something for everyone.
- Anecdote from the Manne Center Ceremony and groundbreaking that happened over the summer:

When asked why he made such a generous donation to the Bronx Science community, Mr. Manne answered, "This place made me who I am today."

Thank you from Cliff and Jerome to everyone who has pitched in over the last year: It has been fun, rewarding, and fulfilling.

Minutes from the June 15, 2021 meeting were approved. *Motion was made by Christine Kattan and seconded by Danielle Donovan. Minutes were approved through an online zoom poll.*

EB Introductions, in attendance:

- Danielle Donovan - Co-VP; Annual Fund
- Christine Kattan - Co-VP; Webmaster w/Dorie Paparo
- Dorie Paparo - Co-recording Secretary, new
- Ellen Goldberg - Member-at-Large, new
- Jayesh Patel - Corresponding Secretary and tech magician
- Joli Golden - Co-recording Secretary, 4th year
- Li Ping Xu - Member-at-Large, 2nd year
- Weilin Li-Marabello - Assistant Treasurer, 2nd year
- Sheila Drumm - Co-recording Secretary, new
- Irena Chklovskii - Member-at-Large, new
- Ken Ho - Treasurer, 2nd year; 3rd year on EB

SPECIAL GUEST: Principal Rachel Hoyle

1. Excitement!

Rachel expressed how thrilled teachers and administrators are to be back in the building, connecting to the work with a majority of students.

- Teachers are helping kids engage with one another
- Relationship building is a priority

2. Cafeteria Renovation Update

- New floor, ceiling and cheerful green paint on the wall
- New furniture is coming
- Final phase, next year, will provide more space onto courtyard

3. Summer Update

- Manne Center: Groundbreaking over summer
 - Center for Science Research for students in the Bronx
 - Partnerships with neighboring schools
 - Construction has started; to be completed early '22
 - Minimal construction noise during the instructional day
 - Responsive and flexible construction team; responded to noise complaints by agreeing to do loud work when students are not on site
- 1,200 students were involved in summer programs, primarily remote
 - Some finished classes from spring
 - Some took regular art/music/drama/health classes
 - Research Institute and Programming Academy welcomed students remotely

4. Four Ways School Is Working on Classroom Instruction

1. Continuing to improve personal attention and support
2. Formative assessments of where students are
3. Culturally responsive teaching and learning reflected in curriculum
4. Better understanding of the needs of IEP students

5. COVID-related Update

- There have been 2,800 vaccination cards upload by students to date
- Teachers and support staff: Only 2 or 3 people who have not shown proof of vaccination, and they intend to do so by the deadline of 9/27.
- Testing weekly of 10 percent of unvaccinated people in building
- There were 65 people tested as of this meeting and so far none positive

- After 9/27 deadline there is new quarantine guidelines for the unvaccinated; no quarantine needed for exposed unvaccinated individuals who are masked and have been at least three feet away

6. Alumni Foundation Courtyard Furniture to Check Out

- Big hit, students enjoying
- Alleviated lunchroom crowds
- Inclement weather, students invited to use auditorium

7. PSAT and Other Accolades

- 50 (!) National Merit Semifinalists
- 31 College Board National Hispanic Recognition Program Scholars
- 19 College Board National African American Recognition Program Scholars
- 1 College Board National Indigenous Recognition Program Scholar
- PSAT: 600 Juniors signed up to take test end of October
- SAT: 200 Seniors signed up to take test at end of October

MORE Special Guests: Phoebe Cooper, AP Organization; Cindy Golan, Parent Coordinator

Phoebe Cooper: Makes the bell ring on time

- Club Fair next week
- Speech and Debate is back to normal meetings
- Model UN, Science Olympiad, PSAL Sports all running
- Happiest students are those who are most involved
- Encourage kids to go to clubs, friends are made during activities
- Big Sib program is expanded this year for 9th and 10th graders
- Come say “hi” in my office or cooper@bxscience.edu

Cindy Golan: Parent coordinator extraordinaire aka Legend

- There to help, do not hesitate to come to her for help, email is best golanc@bxscience.edu
- Knows school from perspective of parent and administrator
 - Been with school since 1995 when her first son attended; two sons graduated BxSci
 - Parent coordinator since 2003

Treasurer’s Report: Ken Ho, Treasurer

Budget was proposed and received unanimous EB Approval prior to this meeting.

Projected Revenues and Expenses of \$387,500 for 2022.

- Reflects a 15% increase over prior year, with 94% of budget going toward student expenses; increase focused on on-site activities, including student center, teams, student hospitality, theater and arts, tech upgrade.
- Expenses also include an additional \$30K toward student center furnishings, at the behest of alumni foundation, taken from PA reserve fund; budget balanced using reserve fund.
- Internet expenses decreased to 23K as school went from 3G back to 1G; 16K decrease in Internet budget from last year to this: 39K to 23K.
- Bank balance of \$531K as of 8/31/2021; same as amount on 6/10/21; for reference amount was \$369K at 6/30/2020.

Vote from general membership. Budget approved over internet poll with 237 in attendance.

PA Fundraising: Direct Appeal for Annual Fund, Danielle Donovan, Co-VP

We have a goal of \$250K to raise this school year.

- Suggested donation is \$750 per student
- Three ways to donate:
 - Check or money order
 - Test 243725 with the keyword BXSCI
 - Visit the new platform, an Annual Fund Website
<https://donate.onecause.com/pa-bxsci>
 - You can make corporate gifts
 - Your gifts can be recognized on a donor wall or you can choose to remain anonymous
- Take a look around the new website and peruse photo galleries and senior roll call; more content to be added regularly so check back

Nominating Committee: Alison Gardy, Chair

Election of Joli Golden and Amanda LI to Nominating Committee.

Electronic vote taken. YES 129. NO 0. ABSTAIN 1.

- Seeking three incoming freshman parents for Member-at-Large positions on the EB.
 - Nominations close October 8 @ midnight
 - Term: October 19 Start through June 2022
 - Can nominate self or others
 - Send bio of ~200 words to nominations@bxsciencepa.org, including a bit about your background, why you are running, and what you would bring to the EB
 - There will also be floor nominations on night of the next PA Meeting on October 19
- There will be another election in May 2022 open to parents of all grades

Gala Update: Tracy Ballas, Chair

The Gala is the most important fundraising event for the school each year. Last year, our online event raised \$92K.

- Kickoff meeting for this year's Gala Committee is 9/28 @7pm
- Look for invites to future meetings on social media
- The Committee plans the event, an online auction, and several raffles throughout the year
- First raffle in October for an iPhone 13 Pro!
- All parents interested in getting involved can email Tracy at tballas05@gmail.com

Bus Update: Jerome Kramer, PA Co-President

- Three companies are currently offering service to Bronx Science families: Citibus, TAMICE, S&J.
- After a rocky patch, things are running more smoothly.
- All three companies are in touch with the school and the bus committee as needed.

Safety Pitch: Cliff Stanton, PA Co-President

During drop off, parents please, please be careful and do the right thing for the safety of everyone in the community.

- Use STOP signs
- No U-turns on street outside of school
- No double parking outside of school
- Students: Use the crosswalk!

SLT Report: Ayelet Yoles

SLT is a DOE-required group for the development of a CEP (Comprehensive Education Plan) for the school year.

- It is a specific guide and includes goals for the year within a framework.
- The framework contains benchmarks as performance indicators throughout the year.
- This year, there are five goals:
 - All 9th grade Discovery students get to 10th grade
 - 100 percent graduation rate
 - 100 percent college acceptance rate
 - Increase IEP needs to be within 2 percent of rest of students
 - Increase positive end-of-year survey results

Monthly SLT meetings are currently held on Zoom and they are open to all parents. See school website and social media for dates throughout the year.

Final SPECIAL GUEST: Andrew Nasser, AP Guidance

Theme: Rebooting High School or How Bronx Gets Its Groove Back

After a challenging 18 months, we are Back in the Bronx Sci Groove [*to the tune of Back in the NY Groove by Ace Frehley*].

- Presentation of tips by grade for navigating HS again
- Recommendation of website <https://childmind.org/guides/>
- Support systems are in place: Teachers, APs, Principal Hoyle, SGI, Guidance Counselors, Social Workers, NHS tutors, Big Sibs
- Basics: Life-long friends can be found in clubs
- Work-life balance
- Students are relaxing in outdoor HAMMOCKS, library, in hallways, and by lockers
- Follow social media accounts to feel connected
- The power of hello
- 1,400 incoming students this year, 9th and 10th grade combined
- The importance of snacks snacks snacks

REMINDER: Next PA Meeting will be on Tuesday, October 19 @7:00pm.

AP Andrew Nasser returns with the theme “How to Get the Most Out of Bronx Science,” and he will be joined by a student panel. DO NOT MISS!

Monthly Closing Quote from Cliff

“The journey of a thousand miles begins with one step.” —Lao Tzu

Meeting adjourned at 8:47pm with 191 in attendance.