

**Parents' Association of the Bronx High School of Science**  
**Parent Association Meeting**  
**October 19, 2021**  
**Via Zoom**

Co-Presidents – Jerome Kramer & Cliff Stanton  
Parents in attendance: 207

Call to order – Jerome Kramer commenced the meeting at 7:02 pm  
Minutes from September 22 meeting approved

**Principal Report – Rachel Hoyle**

- The school hosted new parent orientation for 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grades where parents had the opportunity to meet guidance counsellors
- Clubs and sports are underway - Speech and Debate, Robotics, Science Olympiad, Model UN. Tryouts are underway. The club fair was very well. Great to see students after school
- The school hosted a College Night for juniors and seniors with guest speaker Karen Richards, Head of Admissions from Princeton
- Report cards are coming out on Thursday. They're Just a snapshot of where students are in the moment.
- NHS tutoring/SGL (teachers available 3 times a week) are up and running. Teachers can always be reached in or out of class.
- DOE vaccine mandate went into effect. All teachers, counsellors and support staff have been vaccinated.
- Teachers were recently able to avail of 2 professional learning opportunities. The first was a best practices session. It was a debrief on lessons to put into place around derogatory slurs (n word) and looked at how teachers could structure their lessons appropriately. The second was for special education teachers and looked at how IEP students manage homework, if there is unnecessary repetition and considering how we can better support these students?
- The DOE mandated academic screeners for 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade students for reading and math. We don't know what it will tell us but hope that based on the results, an informed decision can be made to exempt the Bronx Science students from having to take additional exams later in the year.
- Spanish Heritage Month concluded during which included music celebrations and a project involving the migration of monarch butterflies
- The Speech & Debate team hosted Big Bronx last weekend. While it was virtual, it was still a big success.
- A gathering for 9<sup>th</sup> graders recently took place after school in the yard and she was happy to report a high student turnout.
- Next week, early voting will be using 1 of the gyms. PSAT being taken by juniors and SAT by some seniors. Juniors will be on alternate schedule on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

- Virtual Parent Teacher conferences to take place in November. The conferences are not just for raising concerns. Teachers are eager to share what they've learned about your students.

Cliff Stanton – acknowledged the success of Freshman Fringle

Cliff Stanton and Jerome Kramer – thanked all parents who have already made contribution to annual appeal

### **Treasurer's Report – Ken Ho**

- For period July 1, 2021 to October 15, 2021, Revenues - \$110,581 (donations accounting for 95% of this income).
- Expenses - Student Center \$30,000; Elec. Sub. (Naviance, software) \$21,825; Teams (Sport) \$8,246; Tech. (School website) \$3,952; Hospitality (school opening events) \$1,594; Other (College Office) \$1,123; PA related (teacher appreciation breakfast, weekly eBlast, mailing) \$5,794.
- Total expenses - \$72,534. Net - \$38,047. Cash Balance - \$568,000

### **SLT Meeting Report - Junnie Mark-Kabashi**

At their most recent meeting, the SLT addressed the part of the CEP relating to Personal Attention and Support of students in the school. This was measured by a survey and received a very high participation rate

- 59% of students responded positively to having the necessary support in school
- 64% of students responded positively that teachers help them catch up
- 66% of students responded favorably that teachers explain concepts in another way if needed
- 53% responded favorably that teachers help them if they're upset

There were limitations with the questions and it's something the SLT will work on to try and improve so as to improve the reliability of the data. Considering more open ended questions.

Jerome Kramer acknowledge and thanked the invested and dedicated parents and faculty that make up the SLT.

### **Elections – Alison Gardy (Nominating Committee)**

Opened the Election process for the evening acknowledging the wealth of candidates running for both the Executive Board and SLT position. She thanked the PA, her fellow Nominating Committee members (Joli Golden and Amanda Li) and also Christine Kattan for posting the candidates' bios

## **Open Positions**

### **Executive Board Member-At-Large (3)**

### **SLT Representative (1)**

The deadline for submitting applications was 10/8, the candidates bios were posted on the PA website on 10/9.

Nominees for both elections were presented on screen. There were 12 nominees for the EB Incoming Member-At-Large position and 3 nominees for the contested SLT position (2 year term). All nominees had 90 seconds each to present his/her statement.

For the EB Member-At-Large election, the 12 nominees had to be split between 2 polls with 6 candidates in each and parents could vote for a maximum of 3 candidates between the 2 polls. After the statements, the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> polls were launched and parents voted.

### **Elected into EB Incoming Member-At-Large position (unofficial) (3 members)**

- Yuanyuan Ma
- Dr. Novelle Maxwell-Sinclair
- Yan Yu

### **Elected into SLT Representative position (1 member)**

- Deborah Alexander

Jerome gave a reminder that the next election is in May and encouraged all to consider a role in the school PA. Nominating Process concluded

### **Making The Most of Bronx Science – Andrew Nassar (Assistant Principal)**

Andrew Nassar introduced the final part of the evening with a panel of 6 students (seniors and juniors) who shared their experiences and offered advice for students

- learn to balance school work and extra-curricular clubs and sport both in and out of school
- try out different clubs and sports in your freshman year. Most clubs are lower commitment than teams
- don't be afraid to quit if it's not working for you
- being in a club or on a team helps with becoming more responsible, to multi-task and with time management. It also helps with learning to work with other students and foster friendships
- parent support and input is valuable but ultimately students should pursue their own interests and passions
- sleep is really important, being organized and getting homework done when and where possible (commuting)
- Focus on what needs to be done and making to-do lists. Keep a planner/white board

- Find a day when you have the most free time and instead of slacking off, work and get all your homework done
- Spend time with your family
- Don't feel guilty (imposter syndrome)
- Don't stretch yourself too thin
- Remember quality over quantity
- Your experiences are valuable for you and only you. Do things for yourself

Jerome Kramer thanked and complimented the panel of students for their time and inspiration. Cliff Stanton also thanked the students for their wisdom and inspiring advice. Jerome shared plans for an in-person PA meeting to be held in the school in December. More details to follow.

Next meeting is on November 16 and a Safety Town Hall will take place on November 17. Meeting adjourned by Cliff Stanton at 9:07 pm with 125 parents in attendance