

Notes for 11/16/2021

Bronx High School of Science

Parent Association Meeting Minutes

Co-President Cliff Stanton commenced the meeting at **7 pm**. 120 attendees over Zoom.

Minutes from the October 19, 2021 meeting were approved. Motion was made by Christine Kattan and seconded by Ellen Goldberg. Minutes were approved through an online zoom poll.

Principal Hoyle Update: Principal Rachel Hoyle gave an update about activities in the building including recent events held for freshmen, sophomore and senior classes. Paying for college night had 600 attendees. The debate team was featured in NY Magazine and Channel 5 news. The social emotional screener is 1/3 of the way through at the school. (Note: 250 families opted out of the social emotional screener). Principal Hoyle has received positive feedback regarding parent teacher conferences and welcomes additional parent feedback. The school received a visit from the Deputy Superintendent and she is happy with the positive atmosphere at the school and in the classrooms. The school will hold the PSAT for the sophomores and the SAT for the juniors in the spring. The staff are continuing to work toward CEP goals including attending professional development to encourage maximizing student voice and engagement in the classroom.

Treasurer's Report: Ken Ho gave the treasurers report. Fundraising increased \$33K since the last report and total fundraising revenue this year to date was reported at \$144K. Expenses increased \$13K over the last month. Total cash balance is at \$588,460.

SLT Report: Michelle Byron reported that the Discovery program was discussed at the last SLT meeting. The 11th grade Discovery Program students have started a mentorship program for the 9th grade Discovery Program students. Adding social emotional learning into the curriculum was discussed. Making sure student voices are heard and acknowledging identity are goals for the classroom. Trying to find out the best ways to contact our school community were discussed – online, in various languages etc. Promoting a creative, collaborative school culture was discussed.

President's Report: President Cliff Stanton mentioned that the next PA meeting will be held in person on December 15th at the school. It will be a celebratory meeting and merchandise will be sold. The first hour will be a reception and merchandise sale and the second hour will be the official meeting with a presentation by Bronx Science Alumni Foundation staffer Eleanor Coufos. The PA will attempt to coordinate transportation through bus companies to allow for parents to easily attend the meeting.

Auction: Auction Chair Tracy Ballas reported about the upcoming gala which is set for Thursday, May 12th at 6 pm at Rodeph Sholom. The theme is *Bronx Science and New York ... Stronger Together*. Tracy appealed to parents to donate a range of auction items. Jerome Kramer drew winner Hwei Chin for the auction raffle.

Family Healing Ambassador: Alison Gardy was introduced as the first Family Healing Ambassador for Bronx High School of Science. Alison posed an icebreaker question about music for parents which was answered in the chat. She has participated in training sessions with other Family Healing Ambassadors across the city to prepare for her new volunteer role. Training sessions related to responding to trauma, how to help children cope with the pandemic and more. Alison reported about connecting with other Family Healing Ambassadors who had suffered trauma during the pandemic. The Family Community and Wellness Collective has encouraged Family Healing Ambassadors to meet the community where they

are and to coordinate with staff at the school including Mr. Nasser. Alison spoke about the Child Mind Institute as an important resource for issues related to mental health care and scientific research. This Sunday there will be a parents wellness walk in Riverside Park with Alison.

Teenage Angstland Panel: AP Andrew Nasser hosted a panel of experts including Family Healing Ambassador Alison Gardy plus Dr. Heather Goodman, Assistant Professor of Clinical Psychiatry, Weill Cornell Medicine and Assistant Attending in Clinical Psychiatry, New York Presbyterian Hospital; and Dr. Dara Huang, Double Board Certified Physician Specializing in Internal Medicine and Kidney and Hypertension, Bronx Science '95. The panelists shared background about themselves and then answered questions related to self-care, anxiety, coping during the pandemic, modeling behavior for our children and being our best selves.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm