

Parents' Association of The Bronx High School of Science
PA Meeting, January 19, 2022
Via Zoom

Co-President Cliff Stanton commenced the meeting at 7:01pm with 97 attendees over Zoom; 153 were in attendance at the high point of the meeting.

Minutes from the December 15, 2021 in-person meeting were approved. *Motion was made by PA Co-VP Christine Kattan and seconded by Member-at-Large Ellen Goldberg. Minutes were approved through an online zoom poll.*

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT: Rachel Hoyle, Principal

1. COVID Surge

Rachel discussed changes she has made to the school's policies in response to the surge in cases.

- Temporary suspension of late-work penalties
- Mid-years canceled; mid-year week to be a week of light(er) instruction and catch up work
- Career symposium rescheduled for sometime in June during Regents
- On professional day, January 31, departments will meet to discuss ways for students to improve grades (other than the mid-year test score); official decision to be made with Assistant Principals, students, and teachers
- Looking for ways to assess cumulative learning, particularly in skills-based classes

2. COVID Surge: Good News!

- Significant drop in cases; 14 today and 20 the day prior
- Over 90% attendance both days
- Promising sign

3. Some Non-COVID News

- Robotics teams—FEmaidens and SciBorgs have kicked off a full build season
- SAT and PSAT registration
 - Over 500 Juniors have registered to take the SAT on March 23
 - Over 600 Sophomores have registered to take the PSAT; date tbd
 - Tests given in gym with three feet social distancing and ventilation

4. Course Selection Process

- Attend next Coffee with the Principal and the next PA Meeting on February 16 to learn more
- Similar process to past years
- In lieu of an “Elective Day,” there will be a weeklong opportunity to learn about courses from upper class persons in the cafeteria.

5. Clarification of Attendance Policy as portrayed in media

- Debunked Gothamist article
- Instructions were sent to school in regards to teacher’s use of Google classroom
- Attendance is handled centrally; students are marked absent if absent and coded accordingly if COVID-related absence
- Full transparency: School will let parents know if there is any change to the attendance policy; we would get information directly from school not media

Thank you from Cliff and Jerome to Rachel and the administration. Cindy Golan, parent coordinator, joins the meeting.

TREASURER’S REPORT: Ken Ho, Treasurer

Healthy report; liquidity to cover this school year and into next. Thanks to parents for their generosity in giving.

- Interim financial report as required by the DOE (report done twice a year; January and June)
- Income, including annual appeal: \$280,973.32
 - Ahead by 30K
 - Raffle: \$5016
 - School Merch Sale: \$6393
 - Amazon Smile: \$1,304.74
- Expenditures of \$136,085.74 include furnishings, teams, school merch
- Total income: \$823,647.38
- In the bank: \$687,561.64

SLT REPORT: Deborah Alexander

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

The SLT meeting was two weeks ago, so much of what was discussed is no longer relevant.

- Kids out; active cases; testing kids
- Parents asked if there was a change in instruction with so many kids out, was it slower?
 - At teacher discretion; changes per class; some classes were full

- Teachers concerned about the mental health of students who drop a lunch period.
 - Data suggests the GPA of these kids who don't take a lunch is the same as kids who do take a lunch.
 - Talk of a survey to see if not taking a lunch is stressing kids out
 - Look for more to come on this topic
- Student members of the SLT give insight into what is going on at school.
- Teachers are doing a phenomenal job helping students who are absent from school as well as those who are there.

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.

SAFETY PITCH: Cliff Stanton, PA Co-President

1. Students who take public transportation: Please walk in groups to and from the train—safety in numbers!
2. If your child is not feeling well, please, please keep them home from school.

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.

- Gala committee is working on the in-person event on 5/12; to join reach out to Tracy at auctionchair@bxsciencepa.org
- Winter Raffle for a MacBook Pro (already sold out!)
- Looking for Gala sponsors
 - 5 levels: <https://one.bidpal.net/bxscigala22/search/Sponsorships>
 - Businesses , etc.
 - Family sponsorships come with ticket to event!
- Auction items needed!
 - Anything and everything
 - Tickets to shows, events, gift cards, travel, hotels, unique experiences, etc.
 - Online donation from: <https://one.bidpal.net/bxscigala22/donate-item>
 - Printable form: <https://one.bidpal.net/bxscigala22/custom/custom5>
 - Email auctiondonations@bxsciencepa.org with questions

BRONX SCIENCE WEBSITE REDESIGN: Update from Christine Kattan

- EN (vendor) has submitted a homepage mockup; sneak peek of said mockup
- Next week it will be shared with focus groups, teachers/students and parents
- Objective: Easier path to navigate to content
- Formatted more logically; depth and breadth of content to remain
- Goal: End of school year finish

- Call for two parent volunteers for focus group; fulfilled by end of meeting
Cliff and Jerome ask people to stay until the end for an Ask.

Final SPECIAL GUEST: Adam Ingersoll, Compass Education

Adam Ingersoll gave a slide presentation covering the college admissions process with a focus on testing requirements, acknowledging that there is so much more that he could cover. He took many parent questions at the end of the Zoom via chat.

You can view the entire PA meeting, including his slide presentation, here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DvH-SzRn_qc

He recommends this guide:

<https://www.compassprep.com/compass-guide/>

The Ask at the End: Call for Finance Audit Volunteers!

REMINDER: Next PA Meeting will be on Wednesday, February 16, 2022 @7:00pm.

This meeting will feature a course selection presentation featuring Assistant Principals Allison Davis, Ph D., and Andrew Nasser; and a parent panel of recently graduated BxSci students answering your questions around the theme **What I Wish I Knew Before My Kid Went to College**. DO NOT MISS!

Monthly Closing Quote from Cliff: A Chinese Proverb for the Year of the Dragon

“Dragons teach us that if we want to climb high, we have to do it against the wind.”

Meeting adjourned at 8:39pm with 102 in attendance.