

Parents' Association of The Bronx High School of Science
PA Meeting, April 28, 2022
IN PERSON

Co-President Cliff Stanton commenced the meeting at 7:06pm after refreshments in the gym.

Minutes from the March Zoom meeting were approved. Unanimous in room; online Zoom poll for parents at home.

Welcome and Two Announcements: Upcoming Events

Thursday, June 2:

- Yankees Night Out! Yankees vs. Angels. Reboot of past years, historically fun night, will take over a chunk of section 234. Even for Mets fans. [Queens families, your heart is now in the Bronx]
- Tickets went on sale Sunday, May 1 at the discounted price of \$40. Only 100 seats available. Parents, kids, staff invited.
- Buy tickets here:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/take-me-out-to-the-ballgame-tickets-328971942937>

Sunday, June 5:

- Drinks at Ellington on the Park, 105th & Riverside
- Afternoon gathering, 4:00 to 6:00pm
- Casual, food and libations
- Bring yourself

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT: Rachel Hoyle, Principal

Amazing to welcome parents to the PA meeting in person again.

Teachers and students back from post a much-needed spring break and energized for the next slog of exams followed by end-of-year celebrations

College

- In-person College Night held last night (4/27) for sophomores and juniors
- Great response; students learned about colleges they didn't know.
- Feedback from college reps in attendance: They love our kids.

NHS

- At the NHS induction ceremony a senior research student presented to inductees, parents, alumni, and faculty.
- Good to hear from the researcher and to see the culmination of hard work and

perseverance, which is always a factor, and especially notable during these times.

Annual Hackathon: Atom Hacks

- Held on Saturday, March 26
- 12-hour Day
- All levels with some instruction
- Experience for students with a passion for tech that's not tied to classroom instruction
- Great participation, students happy to be back in person

EID, school off

Start APs for the next 2 to 3 weeks; students are in full study/procrastination mode.

Then we move onto end of year events: Prom, Graduation, Carnival.

Parent Q&A:

Q: Do students still come to school on days they don't have to take exams?

A: Yes, school is still happening as usual every day for students who don't have exams.

Q: What are the criteria for NHS induction?

A: Not best person to answer; Paul DeSilva, advisor, is happy to field questions:

desilva@bxscience.edu

PRESENTATION BY INSTRUCTIONAL LEADERSHIP TEAM (Colin Morrell, Todd Davis, Kim Brooks) The team shared slides on their work this school year, a comprehensive vision for engaged students and professional development offered. Work included surveying teachers to see how they align to school goals and student needs, as well as a student screener. Empathy plays a big role in the work done by this team; students are more engaged when they see themselves in materials.

MAIN EVENT: Teacher Panel Moderated by Andrew Nasser

Jen Pedraza, Math; Kim Brooks, English; Todd Davis, Social Studies; Colin Morrell, AP of Physical Science; Dan Licardo, English; Christine Arcidiacono, Latin and French; and possibly Elese Lau, Biology

[Rachel Hoyle: It is not a PA Meeting without Mr. Nasser moderating a panel]

Mr. Nasser recommends a TED Talk: *Every Kid Needs a Champion* given by Rita Pierson:

https://www.ted.com/talks/rita_pierson_every_kid_needs_a_champion?language=en

“Every child deserves a champion, an adult who will never give up on them, who understands the power of connection, and insists that they become the best they can possibly be.”

The panel begins with introductions that include how many years each has been teaching at BXSci as well as what brought each to pursue teaching. Mr. Nasser then leads teachers through a series of questions that parents have submitted ahead of time. Questions include: *What is your favorite part of teaching? What do the first few days in your classroom look like from your perspective? Can teachers explain the gap from remote to in person? and What does ideal parent involvement look like?* Watch the full panel Q&A here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9ofNUU4Apul>

Mr. Licardo recommends two books:

Stolen Focus: Why You Can't Pay Attention—and How to Think Deeply Again by Johann Hari

Why We Sleep: Unlocking the Power of Sleep and Dreams by Matthew Walker, PhD

TREASURER'S REPORT

Given by Cliff in Ken Ho's absence

- Report as of 4/28
- Revenues up \$12.02K since March; Gala and Raffle driven
- Expenses up \$22,737 since March
 - 10K Grad expenses
 - 4K NHS dinner
 - 4K Tech
 - 2K Athletics

Overall we are in an enviable place, netting \$168,478K this school year to date.

- Cash balance as of 4/23 is \$698,432 over last year's \$529,954 on 7/21

THANK YOU from the PA to parent Rhonda Sidual for leading the hospitality team and setting up tonight's pre-meeting food and drinks as well as food and drinks on College Night.

SLT REPORT: MICHELLE BYRON

April 6 was the last SLT meeting.

CEP, basic goal recommended by DOE; five areas of focus:

1. 100% graduation rate
2. College career and civic readiness; 100% acceptance rate

3. Student retention and satisfaction
4. Equity and student voice; 100% of Discovery students passing 9th grade
5. Quality IEP for students; 1.5 percent of student population, 45 kids; goal to be within 4% of school GPA of 92

AUCTION: TRACY BALLAS

TICKETS ARE SOLD OUT!

- Good news and bad news; 300 people coming.
- Other ways to support: Online auction open for a week with 250 items.
- Fund-a-Need Paddle Raise night of and online for two weeks after the 4/12 event.
- Raising money to renovate Lecture Hall room 131. New, state of the art tech and AV and professional furniture. [Future on-site PA meetings will have better tech for hybrid meetings!]
- Goal is to raise \$25,000
- Hall to be named after Mr. Meister, founding principal of Bronx Science once complete.
- One alum kickstarted the fund for this project.

BYLAWS CHANGED: JOLI GOLDEN

- Every three years it is mandated that bylaws are updated.
- All changes posted to the About Us section of PA website.
- Thank you to Ellen Goldberg who worked with Jodi on an onerous update project.
- Changes have already passed the Executive Board.
- Show of hands and online poll; changes approved in this general meeting.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: JOLI GOLDEN

- Allison Gardy, head of the nominating committee, could not be here.
- Deadline for nominations was 4/22 at 11:59pm.
- Uncontested slate
- One open SLT position
- Election will be held during Zoom meeting on May 18
- Floor nominations will open up for SLT position
- Candidate bios available on PA site one week prior to election
- Questions? Email nominations@bxsciencepa.org
- Term is July 1, 2022 through July 30, 2023

Cliff: Thank you and a farewell to senior parent Joli Golden for all of the work she has done behind the scenes, including raising the funds for capital improvements. She is a super star who will be missed! [applause]

Final plug for the Yankee Night Out on June 2 and the June 5 get together at Ellington.

Thank you to Cindy Golan. [applause]

Thank you to Jayesh Patel. [applause]

From the audience: Thank you Cliff and Jerome! [applause]

Monthly Closing Quote from Cliff:

*“One child,
One teacher,
One book,
One pen can change the world.”*
—Malala Yousafzai

Meeting adjourned.