

Parents' Association of the Bronx High School of Science
Parent Association Meeting
May 18, 2022
Via Zoom

Co-Presidents – Jerome Kramer & Cliff Stanton

Jerome Kramer called meeting called to order at 7:02 pm. The first order of business was to approved the April minutes. Jayesh motioned to approve, Novelle seconded them and they were approved with the online poll of the parents on the call. .

Cliff welcomed everyone.

June 2 - reminded everyone about the outing to Yankee Stadium. Everyone is welcome – parents, students and teachers.

June 5 - upcoming social in Riverside Park. Everyone is encouraged to come. Volunteers needed for a few dates.

June 8 – Accepted students Open House. It's a fun evening with enthusiastic students. Need help greeting families, selling merchandise and talking about transportation options. Also looking for back-up volunteers

June 12 - Alumni Day. 1000 past pupils expected. It's supposed to be an amazing day and a big merchandising opportunity for PA

School website, Christine Kattan

The new site is hot off the press and Christine and Dorie Lederfajn Paparo are in the final stages of reviewing, editing the contents and layout and present to school committee. June 8 is the target launch date to coincide with Accepted Students Open House. The site is looking great. Terrific job in conjunction with Education Networks and school administration.

Treasurer's Report, Ken Ho

- Total revenue is \$371K, 80% are donations from us, 20% from auction, raffles, miscellaneous. Final amount raised from the auction to be confirmed
- YTD expenses are \$212k. We're increasing internet speed to 2 gigs. Paid up to the end of 2022. Kids will have enough bandwidth entering the building.
- Other expenses were for entry fees for sports fixtures, uniforms, student center, furniture, Naviance, software subscription for newspaper, djs for senior prom, NHS, student planner and May 27 carnival
- May 11 cash balance was \$690k

Principal Report, Rachel Hoyle

Delivered State of the School Address. The school is in a strong position and it has been a very positive year.

- Focus for 21-22 was Return to In-Person Instruction. Wolverines video. Happy to be back, having students interacting and teachers integrated technology platform successfully.
- Focus on Guidance

- Expanded Big Sib program. Added 10th grade student advisory. Best practice sessions. Welcomed new social worker
- Student Support – school spirit events, welcome back parties were well attended
- Instructional Leadership Team. Focused on personal attention and support, fostering a welcoming environment and soliciting feedback
- Building identity and criticality into our curriculum
- Supporting our students with ieps
- Teachers have put in a lot of work getting to knowing our students
- Equity audit. Encouraging advocacy.
- Addressed executive function issues
- Increased communication between teachers and parents
- Cafeteria Renovation – beautiful, positive and becoming a more fun space for students to choose – we’d like students to choose the cafeteria over the hallways
- Renovating Room 231. Will be a research room.
- Beginning work in Room 131. Thanks to the support from the PA. It will be a new lecture space, college style, with increased audio visual capabilities, more beautiful and functional. Funding came from a donation from alumni and parent support
- The construction of Maine Institute is progressing well. It will be a high level research lab. It’s ahead of schedule and hope to be able to access it by Spring 2023.
- Revisited highlights of student accolades from the year including those of Regeneron students, the National Merit Scholarship finalists and winners, student achievements in Speech & Debate, Ranked #1 in the country by NY Magazine, Model UN and STEM student achievements, hackathon, Robotics Team being back in person, Science Olympiad achievements, winners for national Latin exam, in-person winter concert, in-person Sing spring musical, athletics success with girls volleyball and boys swimming winning city championships
- College process – the recent college fair was a great success. More resources were available than previous year. Piloting a program for school letters going forward to give more consistency for students. Plan for event for juniors to be able to ask seniors about college process
- Listed some of the colleges where seniors will go – Harvard, Brown, Carnegie Mellon, Cooper Union, Fordham, Michigan, Penn, Princeton, Yale, Columbia
- Acknowledged Parent Association Support and also extended her gratitude to the Alumni Foundation
- Summer Institutes - Design, Programming Academy will be in person. However, the Art, Music, Drama and Health summer school will be remote
- Acknowledged and commended Cindy Golan for her tireless efforts

SLT Report, Jerome Kramer

Jerome gave the SLT report explaining the SLT as a cohort of parents, teachers, students and union leader who come together and discuss school issues with special attention to the CEP (Comprehensive Education Plan). In the most recent meeting, the team discussed the college application process, school furniture, security checkpoints and rethinking IEP goals.

Gala Fundraiser, Cliff Stanton

Cliff acknowledged success of the gala which was held the previous week. An incredible night with great parents, food, drink and money raised for the school. Tracy Ballas and committee did an incredible job. Planning and work for the auction starts in September and they take on everything including raffles and sponsorship. \$162K was raised. Almost \$30k was earmarked for the renovation of Room 131. The room will be an incredible asset. Alumni is taking the lead. Families can still contribute. Acknowledged Loni Quinn's energy and dedication, auctioneer for the evening.

EB and SLT Election, Alison Gardy

Alison introduced by Cliff as the Nominations Committee Chair. She announced that the slate for the EB being uncontested, that bios had been posted for at least 3 weeks and she introduced each of the nominees for the EB positions to speak for 30 seconds. Motion was made to approve the slate of candidates. The vote was conducted online and was uncontested. Alison thanked the elected parents for stepping up to serve the school. She then led the nomination and election process for **Member-At-Large open position for a 1 year term**. Paul Sinclair self-nominated, introduced himself and was elected unanimously into the position.

2022-23 Executive Board – Elect

Co-President – Christine Kattan

Co-President – Jayesh Patel

Co-President – Elizabeth Polkovitz

Co-Vice President/Fundraising – Yan Yu

Co-Vice President – Jennifer Allen-Cheng

Treasurer – Kai Lu

Asst. Treasurer – Ram Halder

Asst. Treasurer – Li Ping Xu

Corresponding Secretary – Dongli Huang

Co-Recording Secretary – Katia Kubicek

Co-Recording Secretary – Sheila Drumm

Co-Recording Secretary – Dorie Lederfajn Paparo

Members-at-Large (5) –

Ellen Goldberg

Abhilasha Mahan

Novelle Maxwell-Sinclair

Paul Sinclair

Mimi Yee

Lastly, Alison led the nomination and election process for the **SLT Parent Representative position for a 2 year term**. Brian Schwartz nominated himself, introduced himself and was unanimously elected.

Recap by Cliff and Jerome on their term as PA Presidents

Acknowledged challenges of the pandemic and how the PA worked through the time.

Mentioned Dr. Donohue's retirement, Rachel Hoyle's appointment as interim principal and subsequently as Principal, the year of remote school and overall, the strength and resilience shown by students, teachers, parents and the PA. Despite the restrictions, the PA facilitated virtual freshman welcome initiatives, wellness walks, comedy night, book clubs and a virtual gala. They commended the newly elected board and expressed confidence in the PA as being in terrific shape and their belief that friendship and support will be key to the continued success and growth of the school community.

Meeting adjourned at 8:28.