

Parents' Association of The Bronx High School of Science
Executive Board Meeting
September 20, 2022, 5:45pm
IN PERSON (and on Zoom)

Call to Order: Co-President Elizabeth Polkovitz commenced the meeting at 5:47pm.

Members in Person: 13

Christine Kattan, Co-President

Jayesh Patel, Co-President

Elizabeth Polkovitz, Co-President

Jennifer Allen-Cheng, Co-Vice President

Yan Yu, Co-Vice President

Kai Lu, Treasurer

Ram Halder, Assistant Treasurer

Li Ping Xu, Assistant Treasurer

Sheila Drumm, Co-Recording Secretary

Dorie Lederfajn Paparo, Co-Recording Secretary (taking minutes)

Dongli Huang, Corresponding Secretary

Ellen Goldberg, Member-At-Large

Novelle Maxwell-Sinclair, Member-At-Large

Members on Zoom: 4

Katia Kubicek, Co-Recording Secretary

Abhilasha Mahan, Member-At-Large

Paul Sinclair, Member-At-Large

Mimi Yee, Member-At-Large

Members absent: 0

Motion to approve minutes from the June 15, 2022 meeting. Motion, Dorie. Seconded, Ram. Approved by all.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Prepared by Kai

- Cash around \$12K as of today, thanks to small donations
- Carry over from last semester
- \$8,000K in gross merchandise sales from new parent orientation!
- Cash reserve as of 8/31/2022 is \$640K
- We are break even with budget and expenses for 2022-23 at **\$442,500**
 - Plan to use money raised last year, work off of last year's funds and start at zero.
 - Plan to fundraise and also spend out of reserve
 - Hope for gala to raise ~\$80K
 - Hope for ~\$5K from school store
 - December and spring schools store pop-ups planned
 - Three raffles to raise \$15K
 - Two comedy nights to raise \$10K (\$5K x 2)
 - Amazon smile earnings anticipated at around \$2,500

- Plan to take \$30K from reserve fund

New goal for Annual Appeal is \$300K, raised from last year's goal of \$275K because of parent generosity

- \$40,500 Overhead for PA and Teacher Appreciation
- Expenditures include: meetings and hospitality, coffee and snacks for freshman and new parent volunteers; \$15K allotted and \$6K already spent
- Teacher appreciation \$1,300 spent and more events to come
- 90 percent of budget goes toward school department requests and facilities
 - Faster and cheaper to handle requests from AP Phoebe Cooper than school going through DOE
 - College and guidance requests
 - S.O. requests (such as Zen Den)
 - Conferences for guidance office so they stay current on college admissions
 - Facilities upgrade grant: Landscaping for Mannes Center (project spearheaded by Cliff Stanton and Jerome Kramer)
 - Student subscriptions, Naviance and Aleks
 - Academic teams (Debate, robotics, UN, SciOly) get \$20K
 - Clubs and activities \$8K
 - Club advisors \$20K (advisors are paid for their time)
 - NHS budget \$10K
 - Regeneron \$1,500
 - School Spirit \$20K: Fresh & Fringe, Carnival, Senior events
 - Senior expenses Graduation, financial ad for prom, cap and gown, and senior fees
- Student Hospitality
 - Pizza for student volunteers
 - Reception for awards
 - Project Accepted
- Planners, \$11K set aside for next year
- Theater, \$10K: Two shows, fall and spring
- Student miscellaneous, \$20K
- Technology
 - Internet \$30K
 - Printers \$3,500
 - Other, bought for school because easier than going through DOE, \$35K

Motion to approve budget. Motion, Ram. Seconded, Sheila. Motion passes.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT by Rachel Hoyle

- Update from the summer:
 - Summer Institute ran in person
 - Summer School was virtual
 - Added this summer, Arts Institute, very successful
- Start of year has been good
 - Learning/re-learning Jupiter for grades
 - Almost all have grades in and 100 percent will by end of this week
 - Teachers reminded to more frequently post grades

- Change in grading policy
 - Small impact on grades, big impact on stress: Final dates for makeup projects will now be end of marking period and not one day in June
- Bronx Science had 42 National Merit semifinalists
- Upcoming Project Accepted for Seniors on Sunday, October 2
- Club Fair Thursday, September 22
- Spirit Week currently
- Lunch with the Principal starts this week

Q&A with Rachel

Q: What are the goals of breakfast with the principal?

A: It's an opportunity for students who are not part of student government to interface with Principal Hoyle so she has more perspectives on student experiences at school.

Q: How many Discovery students were accepted this year at Bronx Science?

A: 20 percent, or 150 students, consistent with other SHSAT schools

Q: There was an email about a Monthly Advisory but it was open only to students with 4th period free. Will there be other opportunities?

A: Yes, Lunch with the principal is one such opportunity open to all.

Q: Transcript question from a senior parent regarding calculation of grades and weighting for college

A: Bronx Science does no weighting of grades/classes. It is up to the individual colleges and an example given is U. Albany will give credit for Linear Algebra (students in this class will receive instructions from their teacher on how to pursue).

Q: DOE has the Situation Room providing COVID numbers. Are there plans for an internal count?

A: Not continuing with an internal count at the moment. At the moment not spending the person power to keep up such a list because it is not playing a part in our planning. Will re-evaluate should numbers rise.

TWO SPECIAL EXPENDITURES & VOTES

1. The PA has the opportunity to purchase ice cream for 3 events at wholesale cost from parent Cliff Stanton, owner of NY Picnic Co.

- The DOE has strict rules around reimbursing any business owned by a parent; the PA EB (and general membership) must approve expenditure.
 - Good Humor and Häagen-Dazs
 - Wholesale cost = cost of ice cream, dry ice, and covering employee delivery
 - \$800 for Freshman event; \$800 for Senior event; \$3,000 for Carnival

Motion to approve expenditure, Dorie. Seconded, Paul. Expenditure approved.

2. Latin Department asked for literature books for their upper level classes to replace sad, sorry worn out books.

- Department expense from a non-DOE vendor; vendor doesn't take checks
- Comparison shopping, online vendor purchase of \$4K
- PA can pay with debit per new chancellor regs on a case by case basis

Motion to approve expenditure, Jennifer, Seconded, Katia. Expenditure approved.

FUNDRAISING: DIRECT APPEAL FROM YAN YU

- Christine, Yan, and Danielle met over the summer
- Fundraising website is up and running
- Working on appeal mailer
 - delay due to Cindy retirement
 - ready to go as soon as we have student address

NOMINATING COMMITTEE UPDATE

- Slate to vote on and elect at General Meeting in October:
 - Alison Gardy (chair)
 - Cliff Stanton
 - Ellen Goldberg
 - Lucy Yang
- 3 spots open on EB for incoming freshmen and sophomore parents only
- 1 SLT for freshman parent only

OTHER BUSINESS

Project Accepted on October 2

- Need volunteers to serve breakfast and lunch; sign-up genius
- Eleanor Coufos request: Parent interviewers for seniors

Please tap into your networks. The PA is lean on volunteers for daytime events and hospitality.

- IDEA for parent directory with industry experience and time field
- Push effort to bring people in for auction
- Also merch, food, hospitality; huge, tiring effort
- Need to streamline volunteering
- Bengali translation team

Next EB Meeting: October 19. All virtual because of election.

Elizabeth adjourned the meeting at 6:47pm.