

## **Parents' Association of The Bronx High School of Science Parents Association Meeting November 15, 2022 (hybrid)**

### **PA Presidents**

Christine Kattan

Jayesh Patel

Elizabeth Polkovitz

Christine Kattan called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm

Christine gave an overview of the agenda. She announced the new audio-visual technology, Owl, being used for the first time and encouraged remote attendees to email or drop any feedback in zoom chat. Mentioned the highlight of the night with guest speakers, Dr Laura Roberts and Dr Amanda Wallace talking about Teens & Mental Health

**1. Approve October minutes** - Christine Kattan called to approve the October meeting minutes. Michelle Byron motioned to approve and Roxanne Cheng seconded the motion. Jayesh launched a poll for remote attendees. Passed in live audience and remotely.

**2. Principal's Report** - Rachel Hoyle thanked everyone who helped to make the open house a success. It was great to see students' energy and parents sharing their experience and knowledge with hopeful parents. Students did a great job displaying clubs and teams. In other news, the new superintendent visited the school earlier in the day. Visited classrooms and met with teachers and students. Helpful to share goals and instructional focus with her. The ribbon cutting also took place at the new Manne research building. It's not quite ready but getting there. 7 other schools in the district will be able to avail of the facility. Paying for College Night took place and was very popular. The cross-country team won the City Championship, the Robotics team went on their first off site event of the year. The school is looking forward to parent teacher conferences. She acknowledged that spots with teachers are scarce and that if parents or guardians were unable to get an appointment with a desired teacher, they should reach out to them to set something up.

Next week is the annual homecoming event for the most recent graduates. Former students will get to see friends and celebrate school spirit.

**3. Treasurer's Report** - Kai Lu gave an overview of the financials for the period ending 10/31. Fundraising was up almost 30% in October. The school spent 12% of the budget ytd. \$110,000 was raised in October. The school was  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the way to the annual giving goal of \$300,000, 95% of this revenue came from parents. Biggest spend was electronic subscription, Naviance (online tool for juniors and seniors) about \$11,000. It's an important tool students use for collecting and managing information for college applications. Other subscriptions were for math programs ALEX and ALBERT.

**4. Fundraising Update** - Yan Yu thanked everyone who donated so far and asked others to please give what they can and that it is tax deductible. Alerted everyone to Giving Tuesday coming up. Reminded attendees about underfunded challenges across public schools and ongoing risk about budget cuts and that more than ever, the school needs help in raising funds. The school is 56% away from target. Encouraged

families to make a donation that night. Ongoing reminders being sent in a weekly text message, email and the PA website

Christine asked parents and guardians to consider joining the Spring Gala Committee or the donations subcommittee that solicits restaurant, event, concert and other donations. The auction will be in May. Look out for the Fall raffle. Please buy tickets and be in with a chance to win an iPhone 14 Pro. The draw will take place at the next PA meeting in December and not required to be present to win. Monday, November 28 is when the next Gala meeting will be held. Parents and guardians are encouraged to get involved.

**5. SLT report** - Brian Schwarz, member of the SLT shared the 3 goals of the Senior Leadership Team and their work in addressing the CEP (Comprehensive Education Plan). Top 3 goals are

1. to have the number of students who say they're receiving personal attention 70% or more (it was 61% last year). This will be evaluated using the DOE survey, an internal survey (if students receive too much work, enough support)
2. to minimize differences between students with IEPs and no IEPs on GPA. The goal is 4% for the year.
3. to increase attention on Discovery students, mandating SGI's for them where appropriate. There are 149 students and while there is summer prep and some interventions, SGI's are optional, parent input is limited. Support with the college process could be improved and more specific interventions put in place. Will measure progress using student survey, internal electronic DOE survey and green one in March. An attendee asked shouldn't 100% of students feel like they're getting individual support? As with all surveys, it is impossible to take it 100%, unfortunately wording based on DOE survey can be ambiguous.

**6. The Manne Institute** - Elizabeth Polkovitz recapped the events of the day with the ribbon cutting of The Manne Institute just 16 months after the ground breaking. It was only possible because of Mr Manne's transformative donation and the support of Eleanor Coufos and the entire Alumni Foundation. It will be a state of the art research lab for the school and will also be open to other area schools.

**7. December PA meeting** - Eleanor Coufos, VP Alumni Foundation will be the featured speaker at the next PA meeting in December and will share experiences and advice regarding summer opportunities for students, including information about the Engineering and Design Institutes. This hybrid meeting will be a festive night with dinner being hosted by the PA and parents and guardians are encouraged to attend in person.

**8. Coffee with the Principal** - the 2nd Coffee with the Principal will take place on December 8 at 8:30-9:30 am and will welcome guest speaker Eleanor Coufos, VP Alumni Foundation.

**9. Upcoming School District Town Hall** - Be on the lookout for details about upcoming virtual town hall with new Superintendent, Thea Davies for Districts 8, 10 and 11. Goal to have at least 10 families from each school and we encourage many of our families to join. It's a valuable way to see how education is going in our school district and in the school

**10. Other business** - Elizabeth asked for feedback in regards to the new Owl system and thanked Jayesh and Co Vice-President Jennifer Allen-Cheng for instigating the idea.

**11. Guest speakers** - Dr Laura Roberts, Dr Amanda Wallace introduced and to talk about Teens & Mental Health and joined by Andrew Nassar, Assistant Principal of Guidance.

Addressed factors most important for teens to receive from parents and guardians - love, time, attention, someone who will listen to them

Discussed the importance of self care for the students and also adults as well as modeling habits and behavior, volunteering and experimenting. Family time very important and self time

Also discussed communicating, misinterpreting fear and worry with anger, acknowledging feelings and encouraging teens to become internally resourceful

Other topics included giving trust and privacy, managing screen time and setting boundaries or limits. Differentiating between active homework and social media.

Elizabeth adjourned the meeting at 8:56 pm