

Parents' Association of The Bronx High School of Science Executive Board Meeting
19 October 2022, 5:45pm
VIRTUAL only (Zoom)

Christine Kattan called the meeting to order at 5:45.

Members attending (16): Co-Presidents Christine Kattan, Jayesh Patel, Elizabeth Polkovitz; Co-Vice Presidents Jennifer Allen-Cheng, Yan Yu; Treasurer Kai Lu and Assistant Treasurer Li Ping Xu; Co-Recording Secretaries Sheila Drumm, Katia Kubicek (taking minutes), Dorie Lederfajn Paparo; Corresponding Secretary Dongli Huang; Members-At-Large Ellen Goldberg, Abhilasha Mahan, Novelle Maxwell-Sinclair, Paul Sinclair, Mimi Yee

Not attending (1): Ram Halder, Assistant Treasurer

Abhilasha moved to approve the 20 September 2022 EB meeting minutes; Paul seconded; unanimous approval.

Election Preview: Elizabeth reported there are 6 candidates for the open 3 member-at-large positions and 1 candidate for the SLT position. Because Zoom polling does not allow us to limit people to 3 votes, the election must be verified after the meeting, a task with which Sheila and Katia volunteered to help post-election. Any ballot cast for more than 3 candidates will be rejected. Alison Gardy, the Nominating Committee Chair, will be sure to announce this and also ensure the poll remains up for 90 seconds or until voting stops. Dorie will run the chat for the General Meeting. Because all members of the Nominating Committee are senior parents, a new committee will need to be formed for the '23-'24 school year. Nominating Committee members cannot stand for election themselves, but can be current Board members.

Technology Update: Jayesh reports 1) the EB is migrating to Google Workspace in the hopes of having an EB archive. EB members should use Workspace email (not personal) addresses to respond to email; 2) next week the EB will be testing a "Meeting Owl" speaker in the hope it is the solution for hybrid meetings. He is looking to train at least 1 member to take over running the technology-side of meetings.

Test Prep Services: Emails were sent in September and last week surveying interest in test prep services, who would offer discounts and scholarships to students and hold classes at the school. EB members volunteered to assemble and send out the physical mailing the companies requested.

Direct Appeal/Fundraising Update: Yan reports we have received \$50K in donations since 1 July; down from the \$110K received in the comparable period last year. The late mailing of the direct appeal is most likely the reason. Checks may also be waiting in the school mailbox. Parents/guardians will receive a fundraising text at 6:30.

Treasurer's Report: Kai presented a slide reporting income of \$50K from July through 10/19 and detailing expenses of \$24,379 (\$12,031 for student subscriptions (Naviance); \$8,268 in PA Admin expenses; \$3,794 for Academic Teams and \$286 in other expenses. The 9/30 bank balance was \$642K. The PA has switched to QuickBooks software.

Principal's Report: Principal Hoyle said it has been a busy month. The first marking period is over; Big Bronx was held in-person, with over 1500 students participating; freshman enjoyed "Fresh & Fringe;" juniors took the PSAT; Fall College Night offered a presentation by the Admissions Director at Duke; Project Accepted was held; Spanish Heritage Month is being celebrated, notably with live cooking demos; Lunch with the Principal started with a group of 10 students.

Q&A: 1) She was asked for "publicity" about Big Bronx, which is a huge undertaking run by our students, who even bring in food for the participants; 2) When asked for specifics of Lunch with the Principal, she offered that a group of students brought ideas about how to better support reintegrating students with mental health absences. For now just about any student who wants to come to a lunch can. She asked a group what they like best about the school and was told the diversity of the student body; 3) A parent inquired why many students didn't get into AP Computer Science. Seniors were prioritized; another section could have been opened, but it would have meant hiring another teacher. AP Psychology is also extremely popular, but funding choices have to be made; 4) Was the PSAT offered only to juniors? Yes, it may well be offered to sophomores in the spring, but the DOE has not yet provided information.

Other Business: Important Upcoming Dates

Virtual Comedy Night with Zarna Garg: 10/27, 7-8 pm

In-person Coffee with the Principal: 10/20, 8:30-9:30 am (91 people RSVP'd; perhaps hybrid in the future)

Open House: 11/1 4:30-7:30 pm (parent volunteers needed)

Next Meeting: Tuesday, 15 November at 5:45. Virtual or hybrid TBD.

Christine adjourned the meeting at 6:40pm.