

# Parents' Association of The Bronx High School of Science Parents Association Meeting

## April 19, 2023 (hybrid)

### PA Presidents

Christine Kattan

Jayesh Patel

Elizabeth Polkovitz

Elizabeth called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm and welcomed everyone attending the meeting from home and in-person. She brought attention to the school survey QR code on the screen, and encouraged parents and guardians to complete it before the deadline because as the primary source of feedback, it's where families can best communicate what they think the school is doing well and where they would like to see improvements.

The first order of business was to approve the March minutes and it was motioned and approved.

Elizabeth introduced the guest speaker for the evening, Adam Ingersoll who would be talking about testing and the college landscape, and she said the slate for the upcoming May elections which would also be presented.

### 1) Principal's Report

- Principal Hoyle was delighted to see students were refreshed after the break.

- If parents or guardians didn't connect with teachers during **PT conferences**, please reach out to the school administration or teachers and we will help in connecting them.

- **AP exams** are around the corner, Regents will follow and teachers are offering after-school prep for both. Please encourage students to take advantage of these opportunities and students should be reviewing their work independently

- Health, music, art and drama **summer programs** will be held in person in the school building and students are encouraged to sign up before the May 15 deadline

- The **course selection** process is now complete. A new system and google form were used and the school will try to honor as many requests as possible and staff accordingly

The science Olympiad, debate and robotics **teams** enjoyed great success at recent competitions.

Congratulations to research students involved in vision projects and to the ten students who will go on to compete nationally

- Please complete the **school survey**. We want to be the best and feedback is vital in helping to understand what we're doing well and where we can do better. Only 29% of families have completed the survey so far.

**Coffee with the Principal** will take place on May 23 and parents and guardians are invited to sign up to attend. The state of the school address will be presented and afterwards there will be an opportunity to tour the Manne building

### 2) Nominating Committee

Allison Rogovin, one of the new co-chairs was introduced and she presented the current slate of PA Executive Board and Senior Leadership Team candidates. She described the roles. The deadline for nominating yourself or someone else is April 21 and the elections will be held on May 17. EB positions

are 1 year term positions and SLT are 2 year terms. 2 SLT positions are open but 1 seat is reserved for an incoming freshman parent. Open to parents of current students. The current slate of EB and SLT are uncontested. The bios for candidates will be posted on the PA website a week ahead of the election. Nominations were invited from the floor during the meeting and a parent (attending remotely) nominated herself for one of the open positions. It was noted that nominations will not be taken from the floor during the May 17 meeting, unless no one is running for a position.

### **3) SLT Report**

Brian Schwartz described the role that the SLT plays in helping to set academic and school goals and that it assists in developing and implementing a Comprehensive Education Plan (CEP). The overall goal being to improve education and the overall education experience for students

This year, some goals this year were to:

- increase student positive responses for personal attention and support
- decrease differences between average grades of students with and without iep's
- 140 discovery students in enrichment during the summer and to ensure their success
- 100% graduation and acceptance rate

One of the goals for next year will be to increase the percentage of students who feel their teachers notice if they have a problem learning something

Action plans will include 'getting to know you surveys' and reimagining SGIs. The SLT see rotating SGIs as a great way to mix things up and entice more students to avail of the opportunity for extra help.

Want to change the culture so that it's okay to make mistakes. Be more targeted when inviting students to attend

### **4) Treasurer's Report**

Kai Lu reviewed slides showing that we are almost on target for fundraising. March was a very good month. Higher spending levels were explained with new printers, ac and supplies.

Christine announced that the first budget meeting will take place next week.

### **5) Spring Gala Update**

Gabrielle Koebel, co-chair, reminded parents that the gala will take place on May 11. Everyone is super excited. Volunteers are needed so please sign up to help. Look out for online auction texts and share the link with friends and family. Anyone can sign in and bid on donated items and there are lots of fantastic items available. VIP tickets are still available

### **6) Security Report**

Jayesh shared some situations that students should be aware of

- Construction in front of the school
- Kids losing valuables in bags while doing sports over at the playing fields. Students should safeguard their valuables and leave them behind in their lockers
- Theft problem with people come from outside into the school building stealing scientific calculators

### **7) Co-President's Report**

Elizabeth reminded everyone about the **CCHS elections** and asked parents not to miss this opportunity to vote through May 9. We can vote for up to 3 candidates in the Bronx. It doesn't matter where we live.

The school code is X445 and candidates are running from our school but we are not allowed to endorse them. Only 1 parent per school can serve through NY schools. The candidate list is available. Forum in March was recorded for anyone who wants to listen to it..

Finally, Elizabeth invited families to join for a fun **event** to see the Yankees on May 25. It will be a great night out with families and staff and also to our end of year social at Ellington in the Park in June.

### **8) Special Presentation: What You Need To Know About College Admissions With Adam Ingersoll**

Adam has been coming to the school for a number of years. In regards to standardized testing, college he said admissions are in flux. What is the best guidance? The advice depends on the class year your child is in. If in 10th Grade, a new SAT in digital format is replacing the paper version. Compass Education Group will offer free diagnostic exams for your child. No fee, no obligation

Understands parents are well intentioned and don't want to make tactical errors but at the same time, he cautions against pushing too hard. Keep a balance. Create a testing to do list. A lot of judgment calls have to be made - SAT or ACT, when to take it, how many times

37 months ago, the majority of schools required these tests and then they didn't. Given the relaxed test requirements. Do I test? Do I submit what I have? How relevant is testing likely to be? He has 4 teenagers and understands kids test differently. Do I have a kid who doesn't test strongly?

Get a clear baseline on these tests late in 10th grade using diagnostic tests. Create a timeline. Arrive in the fall of 11th grade and unless practice scores are perfect, not inclined to take the test before 11th grade.

Preparation shows up in the scores. Need guidance to determine the best time. Some kids are high achievers and will chase the unattainable perfect score. Consider the law of diminishing returns. Tricky parenting dilemmas. How to know if a score is worth submitting? Judgment calls required

Majority of parents leave it up to students

California schools including CalTech don't look at test scores despite being highly competitive schools.

A handful of schools still require the test - State Florida, Tennessee, Georgia, West Point, Georgetown, Purdue, MIT. The majority of schools though are test optional

MIT and Caltech, considered to be of the most competitive schools, have reached opposite conclusions about the necessity of the test.

Try and get a sense from school websites the emphasis they place on testing and scores. Look for the nuances. Generally for highly selective schools, submitting a score will favor an application. Students with strongest testing tend to be the strongest applicants. Also, if applying from a very competitive school, having a test score is optimal.

Does it make the AP scores more relevant?

We have seen the problem of grade inflation from the pandemic where B is the new C. Faculties were very flexible. The student transcript is still the most important part of the application. Demonstrates rigor. Shows subjects selected.

There's enormous pressure on colleges to not go back to testing. Schools trying to create more equity on campus. Yale had a 50% increase in applications since 2020. 250,000 students applied to 10 or more colleges

Applying ED (Bronx Science more likely than low volume applicants)

His advice is to start with a practice test, understand the results.

Think about lottery ticket universities, reach schools, look broadly. Plan to test spring of 11th grade and to take the final round of testing in the fall of 12th grade.

An aggressive timeline can backfire. It's not necessary to finish by 11th grade  
ACT is longer. A lot more reading. SAT - digital version will be an hour shorter with no more long passages and with a calculator. Consider can your student handle longer sections or shorter fast paced test? ACT - more speedy and with science. Math is straightforward. Middle school Geometry SAT hardly any geometry. Digital Test for students graduating in 2025. PSAT Oct will debut the test 2 hrs. 14 mins. Adaptive testing. Routed to 2 different routes. How much can you improve your score? 150-200 on SAT and perhaps 5 or 6 points on ACT. Comes with handwork

#### **9) Other Business**

Elizabeth thanked Adam for his presentation and guidance

Thanked parents at home for their patience with the audio issues. We're continuing to work on improving them. Thanks to Brian and Ernie for sound

Next meeting on May 17 will be remote only. Not allowed in-person elections.

Next hybrid meeting will be in June and we hope to see as many of you as possible in-person

Upcoming events include Principal Hoyle's State of the school address, the preliminary budget review, the Gala on May 11 with family sponsored packages still available. Please take a look at the online auction. The link to Adam's information will be in the next newsletter.

Lastly, consideration is being given to moving the PA meetings to a smaller room.

Elizabeth adjourned meeting at 8:48 pm