

Parents' Association of The Bronx High School of Science
PA Meeting
May 17, 2023, 7:00pm
ON ZOOM (because of Elections)

Co-President Christine Kattan commenced the meeting at 7:03pm. 105 People in attendance on Zoom.

Welcome! First order of business is the approval of the April minutes. Minutes from each PA meeting can be found on the PA website the Sunday before the following PA meeting.

Minutes from the April 19, 2023 PA meeting were approved. Motion, Cliff Stanton. Seconded, Jayesh Patel. Unanimous in room; online Zoom poll for parents at home.

Today's business: Two uncontested* elections, a presentation of a preliminary 2023-2024 budget, a rundown of upcoming events, and a State of the School report from Principal Rachel Hoyle and AP of Guidance Andrew Nasser.

*a candidate was self-nominated from the floor.

State of the School Report: Rachel Hoyle and Andrew Nasser

We are proud to share with you a look into the life of Bronx Science. Thank you to parents for your engagement, support, and partnership

- School Recognition
 - We are a school with worldwide acclaim
 - Visits from delegations from around the world, including Canada and Kazakhstan
 - 2023 Niche List of Best Schools in New York
 - Visit from the Director of National Intelligence, Avril Haines
 - Make sure that great students like ours are aware of the field of Intelligence
 - She was impressed by our students' insightfulness
- Academic Excellence
 - School motto: Inquire. Discover. Create.
 - Helping students across all disciplines learn to ask better questions
 - Fundamental aspect of our Research program
 - Part of science instruction across the board
 - History classes: Increase in "criticality"

- Asking questions about power structures in play and helping students understand their role in history
 - English classes: Close reading of literature and non-fiction
- Kids come in as curious students and leave with even stronger curiosity about the world around them and the skills they need to explore that curiosity
- Synthesize learning into brilliant ideas they can articulate well
- Our students leave Bronx Science prepared for college and to be leaders
- Our students are enrolled in:
 - 28 unique AP classes
 - 12 post-AP classes
 - Genetics, linear algebra, modern physics, financial and actuarial math
 - Through partnerships with universities, students are able to receive college credit for many of these courses
 - One student sat for and passed an actuarial exam that typically isn't taken until late in college
 - Fantastic electives
 - Electrical engineering, Holocaust leadership, Journalism
 - Dr. Fauci was interviewed by a Journalism student
- Instructional Focus for 2022-2023 School Year
 - I. Social Emotional Learning (SEL)
 - Self-assessments to 9th grade students
 - Students are very successful in school and value that part of themselves
 - Facing challenges for the first time and not great at recognizing emotions around those challenges or coping with stress; not good at asking for help
 - With data from students, focused on Elements of Engineering, project based class, and teachers are integrating lessons on SEL into curriculum
 - II. Personal Attention and Support
 - Warm classroom environments
 - Formative assessment
 - Assessments throughout so we can understand where our students are not learning
 - Making students feel safe so they can take intellectual risks in the classroom
 - Ensuring that students are learning what we are teaching
 - Ways to normalize needing help
 - Teachers becoming detectives to suss out when students need help
 - III. Cultivating an Inclusive and Welcoming Community
 - Diverse student body and cultivating inclusivity has been primary goal

- After School activities but also recognized need for all students to see themselves in history and in literature they are reading in class; agency in shaping world ahead of them
 - Studying works by Gholdy Muhammad, Jhumpa Lahiri
 - Mentoring event for Black students with Black alumni
 - S.O. event during Spanish heritage month; cooking with teachers from hispanic cultures
 - Schoolwide culture day
 - Women's alumni reception
 - Lunar New Year reception
- IV. Supporting our IEP Students and Families
 - Special Education presence at Open Houses
 - Instructional Support Section on school website
 - Early communication between parents and teachers
 - Best Practice offerings
 - IEP parent focus group
- Student Activities: Students work hard and play hard
 - S.O hosts monthly School Spirit Events
 - Monster Mash, Winter Wonderland, Cupid's Bash, Black History Month Gallery, Toy, Can, and Coats drives, implemented a Train Buddy Program, back to school picnic, blood drives, Friendsgiving, Breast Cancer Awareness Day, Festivus, Earth Day Fair, Spring Carnival (where Mr. Nasser volunteers to be in the dunk tank)
 - Homecoming event hosted by Bronx Science Foundation
 - National Honor Society (NHS)
 - 445 members, biggest cohort yet
 - Over 1,000 hours tutored
 - Over 1,000 volunteer hours across events
 - Thank you to NHS Advisor Paul DaSilva and AP Phoebe Cooper who supervise the NHS process
 - Music and Drama Program
 - She Kills Monsters, SING, Rent
 - Research Program
 - Regeneron Science and Talent Search
 - 8 Scholars
 - Regeneron ISEF 7 finalists
 - JSHS 54 regional finalists; 22 regional semifinalists; 3 finalist winners
 - Terra Science and Education 27 winners
 - Number 1 Speech & Debate team in the country
 - NYC Champions in Congressional Debate and Novice Lincoln Douglas Debate

- 31 to Tournament of Champions
 - 16 to the Catholic National Championship
 - 91 to NY State Championship
 - No cut team
- Student Achievements: STEM
 - Hosted Atomhacks
 - 120 in attendance
 - 30 project submissions
 - 7 workshops
 - FEMaidens
 - Third-place alliance at NYC regionals
 - Team spirit award at LI and NYC regional
 - Innovator award
 - FEMaidens and SciBorgs
 - Implemented systems to meet internal goals
 - Fully functional robots much earlier in season
 - Hosted FIRST Lego League City Championship
 - Desktop robotics club now FIRST team to better prepare for tryouts for other league teams
 - Science Olympiad
 - Second place in regionals, qualifying for states
 - Placed in top 20 regionally
 - Hosted state tournament
- Additional Student Achievements
 - National Merit Scholarship program 47 finalists, 10 winners
 - Mock Trial
 - MUN best delegation in two tournaments; best delegate award in all
 - Science Survey: Google analytics 320K readers
- Student Achievements Athletics
 - Girls Track PSAL City Champions, school's first-ever championship win
 - Almost all PSAL teams qualified for playoffs
 -

Guidance Department Updates

- 9th Grade Advisory
- 10th Grade Advisory
- 12 Days of Coping
- Safe SPaces
- Zen Dens
- The Guiding Light
- Open Door Policy

- College Process
 - Project Accepted
 - Young Alumni Events
 - Fall/Winter College Night
 - Seniors Q&A for Juniors
 - Financial Aid Nights
 - College Visits
 - Counselor Meetings
 - Professional Development
 - College Fair
- Class of 2023 Acceptances, a partial list
 - Cornell 60
 - NYU 39
 - Northeastern 43
 - Boston University 39
 - Columbia 18
 - U of Michigan 67
 - U of Pennsylvania 14
 - Yale 7
 - Princeton 8
 - Brown 8
 - Carnegie Mellon 18
 - Harvard 7
 - CUNY Macaulay Honors Program 42
 - MIT 7
 - U of Chicago 11
 - Emory 16
 - Duke 5
 - Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) 36
 - Boston College 9
 - Georgia Tech 16
 - Stanford 3
 - Cooper Union 7
 - Georgetown 11
 - SUNY Stony Brook 407
 - SUNY Binghamton 287

- Parent Association Support

Thanks to the PA for fundraising and making everything on the screen possible.

- NHS
- Senior Aid/Graduation
- Electronic subscriptions

- Department requests
- Extracurriculars
- Welcoming students
- School spirit events
- Bandwidth
- Teacher appreciation
- Alumni Foundation Support
 - College Process
 - Summer Institutes
 - Renovations
 - Extracurriculars
 - Speech & Debate
 - State of the Art Equipment
 - Student Aid
 - IDEAS Initiative
 - Professional Development
- Looking Forward
 - Summer school 100% in person for first time since 2019
 - Robotics Institute
 - Research Institute
 - Programming Academy
 - Arts Institute
 - AI Pre-Internship Program
 - Entrepreneurship Institute
 - Summer Institutes fully financed by Bronx Science Foundation
- Campus Improvements
 - Manne Institute opening to students this summer
 - Room 131 Lecture Space complete by September
 - Room 333 Science Classroom updated
 - Rooftop greenhouse
 - Shout out to AP McGrath for taking over all things green
 - Hydroponic gardening
 - Revitalizing garden behind school building

SLT REPORT MAY: Brian Schwartz

CEP, Comprehensive Education Plan, this year's goals:

- Minimize GPA gap between IEP students and rest of community
 - IEP 87.5 average vs 92 average for students at large
- Discovery student success
 - Out of 149, 129 are on track with passing grades and growing

Next year's goals:

- Personalized attention and support
- Positive response on school survey
 - “My teacher notices if I have trouble learning something”
- GPA gap minimized further
- Have all Discovery students pass major classes and PE in 9th grade
- Broader goals for students lagging in GPA
 - Lowest 10% of GPA brought closer to the mean
- IDEAS
 - Elements of Design class focused on SEL
 - SGI major resource; more students taking advantage of SGI
 - Exploring making SGI mandatory at start of year

Two New SLT members will be elected tonight

TREASURER'S REPORT through April: Kai Lu

- 89.1% to target
- 41.2% to budget
- Small fundraising in April; May we raised over 90K
- As of 4/30/2023 the bank balance is \$824K

PA PRESIDENTS REPORT: SNAPSHOT AS OF NOW by Elizabeth Polkovitz

PA Final Audit will happen next week with the final presentation during the June 13 hybrid PA meeting. This is when we will be voting on the budget

- Gala Update
 - Special thank you to gala co-chairs Gabrielle and Shira
 - May Yee leaving after 6 years as auction solicitations chair
 - Taylor Swift tickets are currently going for \$5,300

And now for detailed education on where we are and where we are going budget wise.

- Annual appeal goal was 300K; ACTUAL as of April end: \$355,651
- We are able to raise budget in certain areas for next year
- Gala goal, \$80K; Actual \$123K +
- Raffle goal, \$15K; Actual net \$13K
- Decide not to increase direct ask; we are meeting stretch goals
- Keeping gala goal in terms of tickets and auction at \$80K; \$123K was thanks to May Yee; her child is graduating and we don't want to set a goal that will discourage next year's team
- Raise paddle goal to \$30K
- Keep raffle same at \$13K
- School Store:
 - Expect to net \$15K next year

- Low estimate because we are not familiar with having in-person sales and have no idea how much parents buy
- Howard and Ronda are leaving and have prepped Ernie Sander
- Currently gearing up for Alumni Day sale
- Comedy Night
 - Used to do well in person; could do virtual
 - Estimated 10K; \$811 was the pitiful actual
 - Back to planning in-person for next fall at Gotham Comedy Club
 - Nicole Allen, new MAL, will take on the role of planning both Comedy Night and Yankee Night Out
- Amazon Smile program has been discontinued and we will miss the annual funds
- “Other income” is going down from \$12,500 to \$2,000

We can increase the budget thanks to meeting stretch goals.

- \$442,500 what we expected is now \$510,646 to work with
- More money goes direct to serving students; student-centered budget

What was talked about with administration on how to use:

- \$15K parent-focused hospitality
- \$13K Camp Science and Teacher Appreciation
- \$1,200 Language Dept support
- \$1,225 xeroxing
- \$8,200 election, subscriptions (ran short this year), webmaster, Zoom, gala platform
- Department requests are coming in May for the next school year make of 5/8th of budget
- Facilities budget increasing by \$12K
 - Lockers repair
 - AC replacement
- Facility Upgrade Grant
 - Last year, \$30K was planned to do outdoor work by the Manne Institute
 - Actual \$12,118; still no plan or bandwidth
- Paddle raise for the capital program
 - \$32,075
 - Money dedicated to student-centered upgrades; school to continue to upgrade cafeteria and outdoor spaces
- Student elections; increase budget to \$25K
- Academic teams; budget increased by \$18K to \$38K for next year
 - “Bottomless pit of need”
 - Travel fees cut down for students
 - Entry fees cut in half
 - Additional subsidizing for participation
- Same goes for Sports teams; help subsidize cost of training facilities, fields, entrance fees, travel, uniforms

- Clubs & activities
 - 10K, increase by \$2K to match actual
 - Club advisors budget line item is pending DOE budget; might be \$20K
- NHS budget staying same
- Regeneron budget rolling into misc.
- School spirit budget staying same
- Senior expenses
 - Huge increase in budget; \$20K
 - Would like to reduce everyone's cost so financial aid is less
- Hospitality, theater, etc., budget staying same
- Technology expenses stay the same at \$30K
- Post-covid printer repair; increase budget of \$6,500 to \$10K to meet actual needs
 - Toner dried up during lockdown

Total student budget of \$333,500 has been raised to \$376,075 for next school year; **grand total budget for next year: \$510,646**

MORE BUDGET RELATED BUSINESS

- Debit card authorization for items is allowed post-pandemic
- Vote from the floor:
 - Can we use a debit card for a \$1,500 auction-related expense (vendor who cannot take a check)?
 - Motion: Dorie; seconded, Jayesh. Passed with 94% yes and 6% abstain on online poll

YANKEES NIGHT OUT: Plug by Cliff Stanton

- May 25th @ 7pm
- Annual tradition for as long as he can remember
- Rub shoulders with administration and teachers
- Fun night out with friends and family

MORE EVENTS: Jayesh Patel

- Alumni Day, June 4
- Senior Awards, June 5
- Spring Open House, June 7
- Incoming Parent Breakfast, June 8
- June 10, Ellington in the Park

ELECTIONS led by Jodi Solomon, Nominating Committee Co-Chair

- **EB Election**
 - Uncontested slate

- Hello from all candidates
- Cliff timekeeper cameo
- Motion to approve by Gabrielle; seconded by Jayesh Patel
- 95 people on Zoom: Poll to vote, 100% yes.

Co-recording secretary casts vote on behalf of parents: The slate has been approved and voted in.

- **SLT Election**
 - Bylaws question of whether we can take nomination from floor causes delay; Michelle Byron taking phone call to discuss; answer: yes, we can take candidate nominations from the floor.
 - Call for nominations from floor three times
 - Carrie Nooten nominates self from floor
 - Slate: Joshua Cahan, MJ Islas, Carrie Nooten
 - 71 people on Zoom for vote; attendees asked to vote for two (2) candidates for two (2) open spots on SLT
 - Results:
 - Josh 70%
 - MJ 75%
 - Carrie 42%

Co-recording secretary casts vote on behalf of parents and Josh and MJ are elected to SLT.

Thank you to all nominees and to everyone for joining.

Meeting adjourned at 9:01pm.