

Parents' Association of The Bronx High School of Science Executive Board Meeting April 19, 2023 (hybrid)

In-person Attendees

Christine Kattan - Co-President
Jayesh Patel - Co-President
Elizabeth Polkovitz - Co-President
Jennifer Allen-Cheng - Co-Vice President
Li Ping Xu - Assistant Treasurer
Ram Halder - Assistant Treasurer
Sheila Boland (taking minutes) - Co-Recording Secretary

Remote Attendees

Yan Yu - Co-Vice President
Kai Lu - Treasurer
Katia Kubicek - Co-Recording Secretary
Dorie Lederfajn Paparo - Co-Recording Secretary
Xia (Lisa) Li - Member-At-Large
Ellen Goldberg - Member-At-Large
Abhilasha Mahan - Member-At-Large
Novelle Maxwell-Sinclair - Member-At-Large
Paul Sinclair - Member-At-Large
Helen Qiu - Member-At-Large
Amy Xue - Member-At-Large

Absentees

Dongli Huang - Corresponding Secretary
Mimi Yee - Member-At-Large

Jayesh opened the meeting and made a motion to approve the March 15 meeting minutes. Ram seconded and the minutes were approved.

New Business

1) President's Report

- Christine reported that the annual **audit** will take place on May 24, from 4 to 7 pm. Lisa, who had volunteered from the board cannot make it that day and Christine asked for another board member to volunteer. Paul might be able to do it and himself and Christine will talk separately

- Elizabeth reminded everyone that **The NYC School Survey** closes tomorrow and stressed the importance in families completing it

- Christine said that in advance of the May **elections** update, the Nominating Committee will introduce the slate at the general meeting tonight. Nominations can be taken on the floor or submitted by Friday, April 21. Only 1 MAL position does not have a candidate yet.

- Christine talked about **committee chairs** and acknowledged the parents who have stepped up for the open positions. Jodi Solomon has volunteered to chair the welcome committee for incoming 9th grade families and one more volunteer is needed for this new committee. The job will entail connecting with incoming freshman families and giving guidance to them, and it can be done from home. The merchandise committee is looking for a second co-chair to assist Ernie in managing the inventory, streamlining the process and making merchandise sales easier. The person is to replace Chris Harwood who is graduating out of the school.

- Elizabeth gave an overview of factors affecting the **budget** for next year - the annual appeal is \$369,233 and now over our goal, the PA had \$10k in revenue from school store sales, the Teacher Appreciation line isn't complete, the PA, parent outreach and National Honors Society spends are incomplete, mailings are right on target, electronic subscriptions are a little more and for next year, the miscellaneous line will be adjusted. The PA is calling out to school administration to get department requests. ACs (\$12,000) and a poster printer (\$5,000) for Regeneron were recently purchased. The AC costs were charged under facility upgrades. Student subscriptions are right on and so is Athletics. Academic teams are not taking advantage of full budget allocations. The preliminary budget meeting will take place next week with Rachel and Phoebe and the committee will include the presidents and treasurer's team. Senior expenses are currently at \$9k but graduation and prom expenses still have to be taken into account. The DJ for the prom is \$15k. Posters, printers and ink expenses were high because supplies the school had in storage since 2019 were depleted during the year. There are questions for the school about lines they haven't utilized. What is the objective for the meeting next week? To determine expenses still to come? Need to take into account inflation and increase in events

- Separate to budget preparation, the PA needs to have a discussion about the **existing surplus**. There have been suggestions about a reflective garden. Is this what the school still wants? We will vote on the budget in June.

2) Principal's Report

Principal Hoyle welcomed everyone back from the break. Recent news:

- Seniors received college acceptances
- More than 600 students sat the PSAT and more than 500 sat the SAT
- Feedback from virtual parent conferences was very positive. Parents in general favor remote meetings. More convenient and efficient for both teachers and parents.
- Recent Lunar New Year celebrations in the school.
- The Olympiad team had great success in recent competition. Robots hit all internal goals

- Atom Hacks took place in the school and students had fun participating, learning and creating
- Excited to report the school building will be open in the summer for elective art, music, health and drama programs and for the BS Institute programs. The deadline for students to register is May 15.
- Principal Hoyle was asked if the Manne research center will be up and running next year. The Alumni Foundation has hired a full time person who will create partnerships. It will be used in the summer in conjunction with the Research Institute. Trying to establish partnerships with some select nearby schools. It won't be used on a day to day basis for regular classes by Bronx Science students, rather as an independent high level research center. Students will be able to avail of the lab facilities after school or at weekends for special projects and independent research.

1) President's Report (continued)

Christine reminded the board that the **budget** preliminary meeting will take place with Principal Hoyle and Phoebe Cooper on Thursday, the 24th at 6pm on zoom. Assistant Treasurers, and Treasurer will attend along with presidents. Anyone can join and listen if interested.

3) Treasurer's Report

Kai Lu shared the latest financial results with slides.

- Almost with the gala, the PA should exceed the fundraising goal for the year. March was pretty good on account of a couple of big donations as well as a corporate one. It was the second biggest month in terms of total donations received.
- Bank balance is still good.
- The PA purchased a new printer and new acs. Supplies were \$15,000

1) President's Report (continued)

The school is in its last year of pandemic money. There is still almost \$1 million of this federal money that will go away. It presents an opportunity to consider if we should change the model? (301 c3) Should we have a reserve for capital expenditure? Are there opportunities for us to offer scholarships? We want to be thoughtful about how we spend the money. Do we have a scholarship fund? e.g. travel to Houston for a Robotics competition? The PA would like to make as many funds available to as many students as possible so we spread it out and not focus on prestige clubs

Yan Yu gave a **fundraising** update. The school has raised 50% more than last year
Thanks to the fundraising and treasury team for keeping track of incoming donations

Christine talked about the upcoming **elections** in May and presented the current EB slate. So far, all the positions are uncontested. There is still 1 open MAL position. Christine noted that all board members have been contacted to discuss their interest in running again. If any board

member is interested in running for the same position or a different position on the board but has not notified the Nominating Committee, they are not on the slate presented tonight. They have an opportunity to nominate themselves from the floor at tonight's meeting or submit a nomination up until Friday, April 21, 2023 at 11:59 PM.

Candidates will have an opportunity to speak for 90 seconds during the May meeting.

2 teachers joining SLT will compliment team

Elizabeth thanked members who are graduating or leaving.

Jayesh gave a **safety update**.

- Construction is going on in front of the school. Should be done by June. Students and parents dropping off in the morning should be careful.

- Students have reported losing valuables in the park. The problem has been arising when they are there for sports, leave their stuff on the sidelines and phones and other items are taken from their bags. Strong advice is for students to put all valuables in their lockers before they go across to play

- Theft has been taking place in Bronx Science and some neighboring schools. Outsiders are coming in, roaming around the building and stealing scientific calculators. Problem in at least 3 schools. School safety and precincts are working together. Advice is to lock everything at the end of the day and to be careful. Principals in the Bronx are meeting weekly with the captain. Commanding officer for school safety is coordinating efforts across all school

The school will host the **NHS dinner** for seniors next week. Also acknowledged the hospitality team and their hard work and efforts which have been incredible throughout the year.

Upcoming events - the gala on May 11 is almost sold out. A few VIP tickets are still left. Families are encouraged to sign up for the Yankees game and also to join for year end get together at Ellington in the Park. All are welcome for these fun events.

Christine adjourned the meeting at 6:36 pm