

Parents' Association of The Bronx High School of Science
General Meeting
20 September 2023, 7:00 p.m. HYBRID

Co-President Christine Kattan called the meeting to order at 7:01.

Jamila motioned to approve the 13 June 23 PA meeting minutes; Jodi seconded; the minutes were approved.

New Business:

1) Introductions of PA Executive Board: Those in person introduced themselves; Jennifer Allen-Cheng introduced members attending remotely or absent. Members for the 2023-2024 school year are: Co-Presidents Jennifer Allen-Cheng, Christine Kattan and Elizabeth Polkovitz; Co-Vice Presidents Ernie Sander and Yan Yu; Treasurer Kai Lu; Assistant Co-Treasurers Ram Halder and Amy Xue; Co-Recording Secretaries Jennifer Courtian, Katia Kubicek and Wendy Stryker; Corresponding Secretary Xia (Lisa) Li; Members-At-Large: Nicole Allen, Maggie Gao, Dorie Paparo, Helen Qiu and Paul Sinclair.

2) Principal's Report: Rachel Hoyle spoke about:

- In-person summer school and summer institutes, including in the Manne Center were a big success
- There will be research in Manne also this fall
- The new parent orientation was last week
- The first Coffee with the Principal will focus on safety
- 9th graders are all being programmed to go to SGI for a few weeks in an effort to remove any stigma there might be about attending
- Afterschool activities are starting this coming week; the club fair was yesterday
- There will be 3 Zoom panels of teachers and alumni who went to lesser-attended colleges of engineering, arts and sciences and women's colleges
- Project Accepted is this weekend. Seniors have mock interviews and sessions with college reps. This helps the students promote themselves in their college applications
- School is off to a great start, with a hiccup in the transitions from the BxSci Google domain to the DOE one, but this will be done eventually
- Bronx Science has 43 National Merit semifinalists.

3) Parent Coordinator Rebecca Barreras can be contacted by phone and email (she checks both her BxSci and DOE email). Please reach out.

4) Treasurer's Report: Co-President Elizabeth Polkovitz reports for Kai that our finances are in good shape, especially with our band CDs earning interest over the summer.

5) Budget Vote: Elizabeth also reports that the direct appeal and gala income exceeded projections by almost \$50,000. The surplus is being distributed thusly:

- We are trying to get live translations so language support services are increasing from \$1200 to \$3000
- As per new rules, we were not allowed to mail donation letters to freshman families. These letters will be backpacked. Letters were also given out at orientation and will be again at tonight's general meeting. Mailing expenses are now \$4,300 (up from \$3,700)
- PA electronic subscriptions will also go up to \$11,000 (up from \$8,100)-- this also includes Constant Contact
- There is an adjustment to \$2800 for tax returns, supplies and miscellaneous
- The club activities budget is up to \$15,000 from \$12,000
- Club advisors expenses are being reduced to \$12,812 from \$20,000
- \$750 is added for Regeneron/Research expenses.

We have a \$528,552 total budget for the year.

Jamila motion to approve amended budget; Nicole seconded. The revised budget was approved.

6) Fundraising: Elizabeth gave the report for the absent Yan Yu. Our direct appeal goal remains \$300,000. The suggested donation of \$750 per student, but any amount that is meaningful to you is meaningful to us. Every penny finds its way to better our school and support our students! 80% goes to students; the rest to technology support. Last year donations helped with: a) online resources and software; b) Naviance, c) Guidance/College Office expenses, d) student clubs, e) sports & academic teams, f) theater & arts programs; g) technology upgrades, h) student award dinners; i) graduation expenses There are multiple ways to donate: 1) by phone, you can text 917-920-2677; 2) go to our PA website at bxsciencepa.org; 3) by regular mail (check for your fundraising letter). Don't forget to check if your employer will match your gift. We have 11 donations totaling \$7,938 so far. There is an optional donor wall recognition.

7) Chair Introductions: Christine Kattan reported that we are currently recruiting members of the following PA teams (with chair and contact information):

- Spring Gala Committee, Chair: Gabrielle Koelbel

auctionchair@bxsciencepa.org
1st Meeting: Tues, 9/26, 7 PM (virtual)
The gala needs lots of volunteers

- Merchandise Team, Chair: Ernie Sander
merch@bxsciencepa.org
- Hospitality Team, Co-Chairs: Lilach Bar & Kosaku Shinoda
hospitality@bxsciencepa.org
- Tech Co-Manager needed, Manager: Bryan Liff
bryan.liff@bxsciencepa.org
- Translation Teams (Bengali, Korean, Spanish)
president@bxsciencepa.org

Additional PA teams and committees are full for this year. The Audit Committee will form in the spring. There is also a Constant Contact Team, a Mandarin Chinese Translation Team, a Nominating Committee, Open House Chairs, a Social Media Manager, a Webmaster Team and a Welcome Committee.

8) Co-President Jennifer spoke about the ad hoc IEP/504 sub-committee that may become a standing committee.

9) Nominating Committee Announcement: Chair Jodi Solomon announced the open positions for next month's election:

- SLT - ONE Parent Representative. This position is for a parent/guardian of a 9th grade student. The SLT plays an advisory role to the principal and to the school leadership
- PA Executive Board - THREE Member-at-Large Positions. These positions are for 9th grade parents/guardians and new incoming 10th grade parents/guardians. Members-at-Large attend Parents' Association meetings and functions and serve on special committees or projects.

You can nominate yourself or someone else:

- Self-nomination: Complete the Google Form on the PA Website ("PA and SLT Elections" tab) by 11:59 PM on Wednesday, Sept 27
- Nominate someone else: Email nominations@bxsciencepa.org by 11:59 PM on

Sunday, Sept 24.

The election will be held on October 18. See the “PA and SLT Elections” tab on the Bronx Science PA website for more detailed information. Email nominations@bxsciencepa.org with questions.

9) SLT Report: Josh Cahan explains that the SLT is an advisory group (parents, students, teachers) that meets with the principal on a set of goals for the year.

10) Safety Report: Christine Kattan is on the safety committee. The first meeting discussed emergency protocols. The safety passage on Paul Avenue leading to the subway is open. Students should walk with a buddy and stay off their phones while walking to and from school. See “Safety and Security” in the drop-down from the “Parents” tab on the school website. Director of Safety: Vana Loukissas, ELoukissas@schools.nyc.gov
PA Co-President: Christine Kattan, president@bxsciencepa.org

11) Co-Presidents’ Report: Precinct reps will be at Coffee with The Principal. We need volunteers for Project Accepted this weekend.

12) Other Business: None.

Co-President Christine Kattan adjourned the meeting at 7:41 with instruction for breakout rooms by grade.

Important Upcoming Events/Dates:

Coffee with the Principal/Safety Town Hall: Wed, Oct 11 at 8:30 AM (in-person)

October PA Meeting and Fall Elections: Wed, Oct 18 at 7:00 PM (remote only)