

Parents Association of the Bronx High School of Science

General Meeting

18 October 2023 - REMOTE

Co-President Elizabeth Polkovitz called the meeting to order at 7:02. She began the meeting by noting that the last few weeks have been challenging for many and reiterating that the PTA is here to provide support.

Deborah Alexander moved to approve the minutes of the September 20, 2023 meeting; Jennifer Allen seconded. The minutes were approved with 8 abstaining. Families were reminded that the minutes are available on the PA website and are also included in the weekly email newsletter the week before the meeting.

1. **Principal's Report**

Principal Hoyle echoed the sentiment that this is a difficult time and reminded parents that she is here to support and help your students. She also reported the following:

-We finished our first digital administration of the PSAT with some challenges but the event was overall successful.

-Today was the end of the first marking period and report cards will go home on Thursday. Jupiter is still the best source for most current grades.

-Parent-teacher conferences are coming up next week, please sign up.

-The Big Bronx national debate tournament happened and was a big success.

-The school has hosted several college-related events including the ability to submit supplements to be read by alumni, a College Night with U. Chicago's Dean of Admissions, and an upcoming virtual "Paying for College" presentation.

Next week is also our open house and we can still use volunteers to come represent the school.

2. **Treasurer's Report**

Amy Xue presented the revenue and expenses to date:

Target \$528,552 and to date \$49,631 + \$80,467 in surplus (16.7% to target). Expenses are budgeted \$528,552 to date \$24,777 (4.7% to budget).

As of September 30, \$870k bank balance. Expense breakdown: Student expenses \$17,027, school expenses \$3,570 and PA administrative expenses \$4,180.

3. Fundraising Updates

Yan Yu reported that @\$51k has been raised from @100 families with a target of \$300k; all families should please participate. Suggested donation per child is \$750 but consider contributing more if you are able. Donations are tax-deductible and can be done by text (917-920-2677), PA website, regular mail (a fundraising letter will be sent with a return envelope) and employer match. Please check the Bronx Science PA website to see the status of participation. 80% of donations go directly to students, any amount that you can give is appreciated.

4) Comedy Night

Nicole Allen provided an update on Comedy Night, which is back to in-person this year. It will be on Thursday November 2 at Gotham Comedy Club on 23rd Street. Half the tickets have been sold already (only @75 available) and the early bird rate is available until October 25. You must be 21 years old to attend, and all proceeds will be donated to support Bronx Science.

5. SLT Report

Brian Schwartz reported as follows:

The SLT meets monthly and most recently met to work on finalizing goals for 2023-24, which are as follows: 1) Increase % of 9th grade IEP demonstrating mastery in English (grade of 85 or better), 2) increase positive response rate on survey given to all 9th graders on social emotional learning, 3) increase % of 9th grade Discovery students passing all classes and physical education, 4) 100% college acceptance rate (already at goal), 5) increase parent participation in NYC Parent School Survey, and 6) decrease grade gap between IEP students vs non-IEP students.

6. Nominating Committee

Co-Chair of the Nominating Committee Allison Rogovin welcomed everyone and explained that an election would be held for three (3) at-large members to the Executive Board, with the requirement that all candidates be the parent or guardian of a current 9th grader or new incoming 10th grader. After that, there would be an election for one parent representative to the SLT, with the requirement that candidates must be the parent or guardian of a current 9th grader.

Biographies for all candidates were posted on the PA website and distributed for the required length of time, and were re-distributed through the Zoom chat.

Nominations for the EB were not taken from the floor, and the following contested slate was presented with parents able to vote for any three of the following:

MaryAnn Carlese

Helen Goldman

Tobias Schaefer

Arthur Wong

All candidates had the opportunity to make a statement for 90 seconds.

7. PA Executive Board Election

Roxana Cheng moved to hold the election for the PA Executive Board, which was seconded by Alice Auth.

Results were tallied on a provisional basis. Co-recording secretary Wendy Stryker cast the vote, and Allison Rogovin congratulated the new members who are: MaryAnn Carlese, Helen Goldman, and Arthur Wong.

8. SLT Election

Co-Chair of the Nominating Committee Jodi Solomon asked if any candidate wished to withdraw their name, and Helen Goldman requested that her name be withdrawn.

In keeping with parliamentary procedure, Jodi Solomon asked three times if there were any nominations from the floor. Qing Gui self nominated and having been read three times, the nominating process was closed.

Biographies for all candidates were posted on the PA website and distributed for the required length of time, and were re-distributed through the Zoom chat. A biography for new candidate Qing Gui was posted in the Zoom chat.

9. SLT Nominee Statements

All candidates had the opportunity to make a statement for 90 seconds.

10. SLT Election

At the request of Nominating Committee Co-Chair Jodi Solomon, Roxana Cheng moved to hold the election for SLT representative of the following candidates. The motion was seconded by Dongli Huang.

Qing Gui

Christine Nuzum

Nikos Papageorgiou

Results were tallied on a provisional basis. Co-recording Secretary Wendy Stryker cast the vote, and Christine Nuzum was elected. Pending review of the votes, Jodi Solomon congratulated the winner, and thanked the Nominating Committee (Allison Rogovin (co-chair) Jodi Solomon (co-chair) Elaine Cipriano, Lucy Yang). There will be another election in May with all grade level parents eligible to run.

Christine Kattan thanked the candidates and the Nominating Committee as well as all parents who came out to vote.

11. Co-Presidents' Report

Christine Kattan provided a reminder of the October 24 Open House, slots are still available for volunteers.

There is also a need for a volunteer to be on the tech team - anyone interested should email one of the Co-Presidents to express interest.

12. Other Business

None

13. Special Presentation

AP Andrew Nasser introduced the special speaker, Special Education teacher Jep Jonson, who presented "Kids Who Struggle: Why Do Some Students Struggle? How Can We Help?"

Co-President Christine Kattan adjourned the meeting at 8:51.

Important Upcoming Events/Dates

Open House for Prospective Students: Tuesday, October 24, 4:30-7:30 PM

Comedy Night at Gotham Comedy: Thursday, November 2, 6:00-9:00 PM (in-person)

November PA Meeting: Wednesday, November 15, 7:00 PM (hybrid) with presentation from Compass Education about the college admission process.