

**Parents' Association of The Bronx High School of Science
General Membership Meeting Agenda
Dec 13, 7:00 PM**

Call to Order

About 75-80 people attended the General Meeting. An attendance sheet was available and about 1/2 signed it.

Approve 11/15/23 meeting minutes.

New Business

Principal's Report - Rachel Hoyle

1) Principal Hoyle shared the following:

- Last week was the school play which was based on Harry Potter.
- Next week is the winter concert in the auditorium.
- We are in the middle of De-Stress December where we do something for the students each of 12 days to de-stress. Today we had hot chocolate from the guidance office.
- College early decisions are coming out. Approximately 500 students applied early decision. There was a high participation rate in the supplement review by alumni project. For the most part the reviews are conducted by students who are attending the applicable college. Recently another 500 supplements were submitted for review on regular decision applications.
- Over February break, we will be undergoing an update of the Wi-Fi network at the school so students can access things on the www.
- Over December break, we will be undergoing a renovation of the cafeteria which is aimed at creating shorter lines for food. The renovation will create grab-and-go stations for hot and cold food for lunch and breakfast. The staff will prepare the food in advanced to hopefully make the lines shorter. The hot food stations will be closed Thursday and Friday of next week.

2) Treasurer's Report

Elizabeth Polkovitz gave the Treasurer's report. Per the report submitted by Kai Lu, as of the end of November, fundraising is at approximately \$178,774 (from donations and merch sales), and expenses at approximately \$149,518 so far. Expenses to date have been \$20,748 for PA administration (i.e., hospitality and online subscriptions), \$72,918 on student expenses (i.e., start of year events and club expenses) and approximately \$55,852 in school expenses (i.e., Wi-Fi subscription for enhanced wifi and department requests like supporting biology labs). The biggest expense so far has been about \$20,000 to subsidize academic teams (i.e., travel and entry fees for competitions). The revenue target for the year is \$528,552. We have a surplus of \$88,500 from last year. We've spent approximately 30% of the budget so far. Contact Kai via email with questions.

3) Fundraising

Dongli gave the fundraising report in Yan's absence. Fundraising is currently at approximately \$167,012, which is about 55% of target. The goal is \$300K. We are behind last year on fundraising by about 10%. The goal is to get full participation of all families and we ask for \$750 per family, but any amount per family counts. Explanation of ways to save so every family can donate. Donations are tax deductible. Explained again how the money is spent (see Treasurer's report). Discussed ways to donate. We have spent approximately 30% of the budget. The bulk of spending occurs in the second half of the year from March to year end on events. Almost ½ of expenses are student facing. If we don't meet our goals, it will impact the support of student activities. We support expensive clubs like cooking and teams that need transportation to meets and renting venues for practices. There is a donor wall, and everyone who donates can have their name appear regardless of the size of the donation. Any amount you can donate is meaningful to us.

4) Gala Update- Gabrielle Kolbel

Gabrielle is the Chair of the Gala Committee. The gala will be on April 11, 2024 at Temple Emanu-El so save the date. The theme is "Rock 'N Raise." We will be going live with the auction page soon. The purpose is to raise money. Last year, we raised \$175K, \$60K of which was to cover the expenses of the Gala.

- Sponsors. We need sponsors to help defray the costs. Reach out to small businesses, friends, anyone who can sponsor an element of the Gala. For example, someone can donate food or the band. We also reach out to companies that do business with BxSc like the bus companies. Ask your employers. Any sponsorships welcome. They will be advertised in our Gala materials.
- Auction. Live and silent. We need auction items. Ask your connections – art, surgery, a day in court, sports tickets, etc.
- Wine Pull. We need donations of wine bottles for the wine pull. Each bottle is wrapped, so it is a mystery pull. If you donate a certain amount, you can pull a bottle.
- Fall Raffle. The raffle sold out. The winning tickets were pulled.

5) SLT Report

Brian Schwartz, from the SLT gave a report. He discussed some of the goals of the SLT and performance to goal.

- Goal: for students with IEPs in 9th grade, to increase the number of students with an average of 85 or higher. The average was 88 after the first marking period and 82 after the second marking period.
- Goal: by end of year to have 100% of student who are from the Discovery program passing English. This increased from 83% to 90%
- Goal: for students with IEPs, to minimize the grade point average differential from students without IEPs. Q1: students with IEPs were 5.4% lower grades; Q2: students with IEPs were 5.8% lower. Why are their grades lower? Missing assignments. Devising an action plan to address the differential.

6) Co-President's Report

- We need to recruit more people to join the Tech Team. These are people who know how to handle AV equipment, run zoom meetings, etc. We currently have only one person, so

when he is not able to attend the meetings in person, we cannot have a remote option for the general meeting. We could not have a remote option for today because our one tech person could not attend in person. We are looking to add 2 or 3 more people to the team so they can rotate appearing in person. The more who join, the fewer each one will have to appear in person. It can be a Bronx Science parents or someone who is not a parent but who wants to help. Whoever joins the team must be able to attend meetings in person on the assigned days.

7) Other Business

None.

8) Special Presentation–AP Andrew Nasser and Student Panel, Accessing Guidance Resources

Topics to cover including the role of Guidance with social/emotional wellness of students and college counseling.

- We have 12 school counselors and 2 social workers, for a ratio of 273:1.
- We have made mental health a priority.
- Every office at the guidance center is a closed office with a door for privacy.
- The school counselor stays with your child all 4 years, so the counselor really knows your child.
- The Guidance Office has an open-door policy.
- Rebecca Barreras is a resource for the parents; guidance is for the students.
- Introduced the student panelists which included two seniors and two sophmores.
- Questions the panelists answered: (1) How did you utilize the guidance office when you first came to Bronx Science; (2) What can 9th graders expect the first time they meet their guidance counselor; (3) Reasons you have come to guidance and/or to see a social worker; (4) What did you find most helpful about the college process from your guidance counselor; (5) Discuss the college fair; (6) Q and A.

Wrap up: at our next meeting on 1/17/24, we will discuss teens and mental health. On 1/18/24 there will be a virtual parent town hall with the Superintendent, and everyone is encouraged to participate.

Important Upcoming Events/Dates

January PA Meeting: Wednesday, Jan 17 at 7 PM, at the school (hybrid)

Virtual District Parent Town Hall with Superintendent Fia Davis: Thursday, Jan 18 at 6 PM (remote). This is a new date! All parents and guardians are invited.
