

**Parents' Association of The Bronx High School of Science**  
**General Membership Meeting Agenda**  
**Nov 15, 7:00 PM (Hybrid)**

Co-President Jennifer Allen-Chen called the meeting to order at 7:08.

Yan Yu moved to approve the minutes of the October 18, 2023 meeting; Gabrielle Kolbel seconded. The minutes were approved.

**1) Principal's Report - Rachel Hoyle**

Principal Hoyle shared the following:

- She recently returned from the National Consortium of Secondary STEM Schools (NCSSSS) Professional Conference where Bronx Science was awarded the NCSSSS Innovative Partnership Award for its partnership with the Bronx Science Alumni Foundation and our partner schools in the Manne Research Institute.
- Thanks to the PTA and all volunteers for their support in the recent open house for potential new students.
- Other recent successful events include a Paying for College night - slides are available if you were not able to attend in person.
- Parent-teacher conferences have now been completed and went smoothly. This was the first time this particular sign up system was used and it seemed to work well. If you were not able to get what you needed from the conference please reach out to teachers as they are eager to partner with your student for academic success.
- The new arts initiative is also going well - students are being provided with the opportunity to experience art in NYC (ie. opera, dance, museums, Broadway) at a subsidized price. Thank you to the Alumni Association for their sponsorship.
- Upcoming events include homecoming next week, which will include visits with alumni and a pep rally celebrating our athletic, robotics and speech/debate teams.
- Play practice is currently underway for the show *Puffs (Two Acts for Young Wizards)* on December 6 and 7.
- Deputy Superintendent Fia Davis will make her annual visit to Bronx Science on Monday where will share the amazing work of our teachers particularly as it relates to creating equity through discussion protocols.
- On Monday there will also be a Coffee with the Principal consisting of a panel of students discussing how they (and your student) can best utilize the department.
- Happy Thanksgiving to everyone, we are grateful for your dedication to BxSci and how you contribute to your student and our community!

**2) Treasurer's Report- Elizabeth Polkowitz**

Elizabeth Polkowitz presented the revenue and expenses to date:

Target \$528,552 and to date \$98,895 + \$80,467 in surplus (35.4% to target). Expenses are budgeted \$528,552 to date \$56,105 (10.6% to budget).

As of October 31, \$834k bank balance. Expense breakdown: Student expenses \$21,457, school expenses \$26,663 and PA administrative expenses \$8,015. Here, “student expenses” include start of year events and club expenses; “school expenses” include wifi subscription and department requests like supporting biology labs. Any questions regarding budget and spending should be directed to the Presidents or Treasurer via email.

### **3) Fundraising- Yan Yu**

Yan Yu presented an update on fundraising status. To date, the committee has achieved \$94,442 in donations, which is 31.5% of goals and approximately \$35k behind fundraising as of this time last year when we were at 44% of goal. If you have not yet made your donation, please do so now and remember that the recommended amount per child is \$750 (both Hunter and Stuyvesant ask for more). Please make whatever donation you are able, every dollar matters and we would like to see 100% participation.

Revenues raised by the PTA are used to help fund things like online resources, Naviance, guidance expenses, student clubs, sports & academic teams, theater & arts programs, technology upgrades, student awards dinners, graduation expenses, etc. Donations can be made by phone, the PA website, regular mail (freshman families will receive a letter in your child’s backpack on Thursday with their report cards). Please also ask your employer if they can match your gift.

Fundraising progress is tracked on the PA website which includes information on how to donate and an optional donor wall.

### **4) Gala Update- Gabrielle Kolbel**

Gabrielle Kolbel reminded parents that the Spring Gala this year will be April 11 at Temple Emanu-El at One East 65th Street.

The committee also raises money via a raffle. Tickets (\$25/each) are limited and available now. The current raffle is for an iPhone 15Pro in blue titanium. Information available via text and other social media platforms.

The Gala committee still needs volunteers, particularly to help solicit auction items. Please contact Gabrielle if you would like to help.

### **5) SLT Report- MJ Islas**

MJ Islas reported as follows:

The SLT meets monthly with respect to the following goals for 2023-24: 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.

At this month's meeting, the committee discussed that at this point of year we have data from marking period one for 4 of the 6 goals, and we are meeting two of the four and nearly meeting the other two goals. The committee looked at student responses and identified areas for focus with an action plan in place to meet needs where students identified need for improvement. The committee also discussed teacher communications so that teachers are aware of the goals.

## **6) Co-Presidents Report**

Elizabeth Polkovitz thanked Lorne Kerr and Lisa Li for chairing the PTA portion of the open house, as well as everyone else who came out to volunteer or support the event. The open house had thousands of attendees and the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive due in large part to the efforts of parent volunteers.

Elizabeth further thanked Nicole Allen for chairing the committee that organized Comedy Night at the Gotham Comedy Club, which we hope to have in a larger space in the main lounge next year. The event was sold out and raised over \$2,000.

On December 14, Deputy Superintendent Fia Davis will be having an online town hall. The PTA will post links and encourage parents to attend.

The registration is tomorrow for the next Coffee w Principal (November 20 at 8:30 am). This event will be a special student panel on use of guidance resources.

The PTA is currently developing a project utilizing funds from last year's paddle raise to develop an outdoor social space for students near the Manne Center. The design is likely to incorporate conversational seating and amphitheater seating for outdoor classes. If anyone knows a landscape designer or architect who might be willing to contribute to the project, please reach out to one of the Presidents. Once initial design work has been discussed, the PTA will be able to present some initial sketches and budgets to parents.

The PTA also needs more in-person support for meetings. If you are good with Zoom and can be in person on a rotating schedule with the rest of the tech team, please volunteer.

## **7) Other Business**

None.

## **8) Special Presentation—Adam Ingersoll, Compass Education**

Adam Ingersoll from Compass Education gave a presentation on the testing process that covered the following agenda: 1) understanding and monitoring the testing landscape, 2) choosing between SAT and ACT, 3) creating a testing timeline and plan, 4) practicing and assessing your progress, and 5) taking the official tests and deciding whether to submit scores.

**Meeting adjourned:** Elizabeth Polkovitz adjourned the meeting at 8:50.

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## **Important Upcoming Events/Dates**

**December 13th PA Meeting, Holiday Party, and Merchandise Sale: Refreshments served/sale begins at 6 PM. Meeting starts at 7:00 PM, Room 114**

**December 14th Virtual District Parent Town Hall with Superintendent Fia Davis. All parents are invited.**