

Parents Association of the Bronx High School of Science

General Meeting

13 March 2024 - IN PERSON

Co-President Jennifer Allen-Cheng called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Katia Kubicek moved to approve the minutes of the February 13, 2024 meeting, Nicole Allen seconded. The minutes were approved with one vote in opposition. Jennifer thanked the Hospitality Committee for managing the night's dinner.

1. Principal's Report

Principal Hoyle reported that the recent in-person College Night was standing room only, and that college visits for juniors were a big success. She will be working on expanding the college visits. She also reported on the following:

-The robotics teams participated in a competition last weekend and the Sciborgs did exceptionally well. The teams are looking forward to NYC regionals.

-The Science Olympiad won their region with the highest they have placed in recent memory. They are going to States this weekend.

-Last week we had celebrations for seniors in the research program to display their work for parents, mentors and teachers and celebrate their 4 years of hard work and dedication. There will be an opportunity in June to see their work in school.

-We are currently in the middle of course selection. Students will get email with special permission approval classes next week and can start registering. Ask your student what they will be selecting.

-Next week is the combination PSAT/SAT day. There will be some math review for 9th graders, brunch for seniors, and parent-teacher conferences. If you have not been able to schedule, please reach out to the teachers and ask for a phone call. If you have difficulty let the AP know. Ms. Barreras is always willing to help.

-Complete your school survey if you have not yet done so! It takes less than 10 minutes and provides SLT with information to make important policy decisions. It also communicates to families that we have an involved parent base. Last year 30% of parents participated and we want to get that # up to 50%. Links will be in weekly emails; there is a QR code in the President's Report.

2. Bylaws Committee

Katia Kubicek presented proposed amendments to the PA bylaws, and noted that specifics were circulated via a link in the Sunday newsletter; the full bylaws are on the PA website. She explained that the bylaw revisions were prompted by notice that two articles and three sections needed refining. By way of overview, Article 4 Section 4 now clarifies that certain offices can have more than one co-officer. There is also a slightly different procedure for SLT and EB

nominations; the proposed change will clarify how nominations are taken from the floor for SLT and PA elections. This article will be voted up or down next month.

3. Nominating Committee Report

Co-President Christine Kattan made the following announcement on behalf of the Nominating Committee:

All positions on the Executive Board are open to rising 10, 11 and 12 grade parents other than those member-at-large positions reserved for new parents. Descriptions of the positions are in the PA newsletter that was distributed on March 10 and can also be found on the elections tab on the PA website. You can nominate yourself or someone else by emailing nominations@bciepa.org with information as to who you are nominating and the position of interest. You will be provided with information to submit a bio. The election is May 15, so please reach out to the Nominating Committee with questions. The deadline to make nominations for the Executive Board is April 17. If no nominations are made for a position, they will be taken from the floor.

SLT: nominations will be open through the election date and can be taken from the floor.

Christine thanked the following members of the Nominating Committee. Alison Rogovin, Jodi Solomon, Elli Rabinowitz, Elaine Cipriano, Lucy Yang.

4. SLT Report

MJ Islas reported that at the most recent SLT meeting they discussed course selection and placement dates, and participated in a training re participating in and passing along parent feedback and concerns. She reiterated the importance of parent surveys to help the SLT create goals that reflect what parents want to see for the future of the school.

5. Treasurer's Report

Co-President Elizabeth Polkowitz presented the report on behalf of Treasurer Kai Lu.

She reported that we are currently at 80.4% to target at \$302k+\$88k toward a goal of \$528k. We are at 42.3% to budget which does not include a 10k check recently written to the academic teams. Many senior and department expenses come at the end of the year.

She reported that the bank balance is currently at \$962k and reported that expenses remain evenly split between school expenses like departmental and internet support and student expenses like academic/athletic teams and clubs. She provided a reminder that PA administrative expenses are kept low and at approximately 15%.

6. Fundraising Report

Yan Yu reported that we are currently at \$294k which is a bit short of our goal of \$300k. She reminded those who have not yet made their donations to please do so, and reminded those who have made their donations that they are welcome to donate again. She reviewed the four ways to donate (by phone, PA website, regular mail, and employer match).

7. Gala Update

Gabrielle Koelbel provided a reminder that the Gala will take place on April 11. Tickets are on sale now, the link is on the website and in various mailings. A raffle is underway to win a MacbookPro - tickets \$25 and 5 for \$100 - the link on PA website. The winner will be drawn at the Gala itself; you do not have to be present to win. The silent auction begins March 20.

8. Co-Presidents' Report

Co-President Elizabeth Polkowitz shared a QR report to complete the school survey.

Co-President Jennifer Allen-Cheng reported on the following:

-We are working on building out a Tech Committee to assist at PA meetings and training can be provided. Anyone who would like to volunteer is welcome, but meetings must be attended in person - the more volunteers we have the fewer in-person meetings each tech volunteer needs to attend.

-We are also working on expanding a Hospitality Committee for the PA and other other school and club related events including evening activities/open houses. While we have a good team of three, there is plenty of opportunity to join. This committee does require some in person presence but we can rotate based on the size of the team.

- We will be selling tickets to a May 17 Yankees game. This is a good opportunity to build community and see teachers and administrators outside of school.

9. Special Presentation

Eleanor Coufos, BxSci '99 and President of the BxSci Foundation talked about summer and other opportunities provided to students by the Alumni Foundation.

10. Other Business

Co-President Elizabeth Polkowitz provided a reminder for the Monday Coffee with the Principal which will include a student panel of kids who have done the summer programs.

The next PA meeting will be on April 17. While the topic is usually "How to have Difficult Conversations with Teens", we will be changing it to an adult panel about talking to your kids about substance abuse and identifying signs. The meeting will be in person only with no remote option and no recording.

The accepted students open house is in 2 weeks to help welcome potential new students. Volunteer signups will be available online.

The Gala is April 11 - buy your tickets now!

Nominations for EB and SLT are due by Wednesday April 17.

Co-President Elizabeth Polkowitz adjourned the meeting at 8:15 pm.

