

**Parents' Association of The Bronx High School of Science
General Meeting, 15 May 2024, 7:00 p.m., Fully Remote**

Co-President Jennifer Allen-Cheng called the meeting to order at 7:03.

Jamileh motioned to approve the 17 April 24 PA meeting minutes; Dorie seconded; the minutes were approved by poll.

Zoom recorded around a maximum of 110 participants.

New Business

1) State of the School - Principal Rachel Hoyle and AP Andrew Nasser

Hoyle: The school motto, “inquire, discover, create” informs everything we do. We have many high level, AP and post-AP, classes and are a school of international renown. The focus for ‘23-’24 was on 1) Social and Emotional Learning, which focused on SEL assessments of 9th graders and saw improvement over the course of the year; 2) a shift to Hess’ Cognitive Rigor Matrix that draws from both the older Bloom pyramid and Webb circle; 3) Our teachers push students to think critically; we are now offering discussion protocols to increase equity of voice in the classroom. There has been a shift from “ping-pong” discussions going back and forth between teacher and student to making discussions more student-centered and having every member of a group respond once before someone goes twice, for example; 3) increasing support to our IEP students and families.

Nasser

- We have many spirit events. The school carnival is next week
- NHS students offer tutoring and give tours
- Music and drama offer 2 concerts each year; “Puffs” and SING performances happened; next week is “Mean Girls”

Hoyle

- The Research Program had much success across many competitions, including 2 Regeneron finalists
- The Manne Institute: 70 kids participated last summer; 100 each semester during the school year
- Speech and Debate is #1 in the country
- The Robotics Teams also both did really well; we have a new, smaller robotics division so more younger students can participate

- The Math Team did well
- Many students had national scholarship recognition
- The Science Survey has lots of new articles
- We have 43 PSAL teams

Nasser

- 9th grade advisory continues
- Also 3 advisory session for 10th grade
- The Guidance Department also offered special events
- The college process offers multiple events including Project Accepted, Financial Aid Night, 2 College Nights at which college reps speak; college visits, etc. College acceptance numbers for the class of '24 can be found in Naviance

Hoyle

- Several new classes will be offered next year in English and Math
- Many thanks to the Alumni Foundation for their support
- Summer Institutes this year include new offerings
- Thank you to the PA for support
- The DOE has finally upgraded the Wifi

2) Treasurer's Report- Kai Lu reported that YTD Income is \$276,188. We have a prior year surplus of \$88,467. We are 103% to our target of \$528,552. Expenses are at \$276,188, 52.3% to budget. \$79,635 came in in April (gala and other fundraising). Our 4/30 bank balance was \$1,036,844. PA Admin Expenses are at \$34,834 (13% of the budget); Student Expenses: \$122,333 (44%); School Expenses: \$119,0212 (43%).

3) Fundraising Report- Yan Yu reported that we have surpassed our goal of \$300,000, raising \$302,369! Matching donations were most welcome. There is still time to donate and multiple ways to do so: 1) by phone you can text 917-920-2677; 2) on the 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.

4) SLT Report- Josh Cahan reported that the SLT is looking for areas of focus for next year. They are looking at gender equity in advanced science courses and how to boost that. They are also looking at SEL survey results and what pieces need work and how parent input can help the school do better.

5) PA Executive Board Elections- Nominating Committee member Ellie Rabinovich, along with co-chair Jodi Solomon, thanked the whole committee, the PA co-presidents,

Rebecca Barreras and Willie Lugo for verifying voter eligibility the nominees; moving unverified people on the zoom to go to breakout room managed the process.

Nominees for PA Executive Board - UNCONTESTED

One Year Term, 2024 – 2025 School Year

Co-President

- Jennifer Allen-Cheng
- Xia Li
- Arthur Wong

Co-Vice President

- Helen Goldman
- Helen Qiu
- Ernie Sander

Co-Treasurer

- Julie Chin-Tom
- Amy Xue

Assistant Treasurer

- Mary Ann Carlese

Co-Recording Secretary

- Wendy Stryker
- Mark Yim

Corresponding Secretary

- Nicole Allen

Each candidate got 30 seconds to speak. Ted Scala motioned for a vote; Ernie Sander seconded. The poll was open for 1 minute. 99% voted yes; 1% no. Katia Kubicek, co-recording secretary, cast the vote.

Nominees for Member-at-Large, PA Executive Board

One Year Term, 2024 – 2025 School Year

- Ashok Eastman

Jodi Solomon explained that there are 3 spots and only 1 candidate. She asked for nominations from the floor 3 times. Members can raise their hand on Zoom and put their

name in chat. Ted Scala was nominated, accepted the nomination and was added to the slate. Each candidate got 30 seconds to speak. Jamileh motioned for a vote, which Ernie Sander seconded. The poll was open for 1 minute. 99% voted yes; 1% no. Katia Kubicek, co-recording secretary, again cast the vote.

6) SLT Elections

Nominees for Parent Rep on the School Leadership Team (SLT)
Two Year Term, 2024 – 2026 School Years

- Dimitra Koutsantoni

Jodi Solomon explained that nominations are still open. Deborah Alexander self-nominated. Each candidate got 90 seconds for introductions. Allison Rogovin read a statement for the absent Dimitra Koutsantoni.

Jamileh motioned to vote and Julie Chin-Tom seconded. Members can vote for only 1 candidate. If you vote for more than 1 your vote will be discarded. The poll was open for 2 minutes. The preliminary results were Dimitra Koutsantoni 30% and Deborah Alexander 70%. Katia Kubicek, co-recording secretary, again cast the vote. The Zoom poll still needs to be reviewed. Nominees will be contacted by the Nominating Committee to certify the election. The results of these elections are provisional until the poll can be reviewed. Nominees who were elected should please watch their email. The Nominating Committee will reach out to confirm contact information for the election certification form.

Many thanks to the nominating committee: Allison Rogovin & Jodi Solomon, Co-Chairs, Elaine Cipriano, Ellie Rabinovich and Lucy Wang.

Congratulations to the new board. The term begins 1 July.

7) Budget Presentation- Elizabeth Polkovitz shared a series of slides and explanations:

Projected Revenue

Annual Appeal	300,000
Gala Income after expenses	130,000
Merchandise and School Store	10,000

Comedy Night and Other Income	2,000
Reserve Fund/ Facility Upgrade Carry forward	71,100
Interest	10,000
Total	523,100

The annual appeal target remains the same. The reserve fund carry forward will be applied to the outdoor space by the Manne Center. This money was raised over the past 3 years.

Projected Expenditures: PA Administrative and Hospitality

PA Meetings and Parent Outreach	17,000
Teacher Appreciation	13,000
Mailings	4,000
Postage and Delivery	1,100
PA Electronic Subscriptions	12,000
Insurance	2,000
Tax Prep, Supplies, and Misc	2,000
Total	51,100

The goal is never to exceed 10% of the budget. The lion's share of the Admin Budget is parent-, alumni- and teacher-facing Hospitality such as Project Accepted, Coffees with the Principal and Teacher Appreciation. Student-facing hospitality is a different line. We take advantage of free platforms and discounts for non-profit organizations whenever possible.

Student Facing Expenses

Academic Teams	40,000
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Athletic Teams	35,000
Clubs	15,000
Total Clubs and Teams	90,000

The total academic team budget is more than an order of magnitude larger than what we can budget for thanks to the generosity of the Bronx Science Foundation. There is no academic equivalent to the PSAL infrastructure, so academic teams are expensive. Our academic team money pays league fees, helps with supplies, and provides financial aid for those students who would otherwise not be able to participate at all. Athletic funds go to durable equipment first, practice fees second, transferable uniforms (without your name, multi-wearer garments), tournament entry fees, and then to subsidize travel with remaining funds.

Student Facing continued: The Bronx Science Experience

School Spirit Events	20,000
Senior Expenses	60,000
National Honor Society	11,000
Student Hospitality	25,000
Theatre and Arts	10,000
Planners	9,000
Uncaptured Student Facing Expenses	10,000
Clubs and Teams	90,000
Total Student Facing	235,000

Student hospitality covers food to feed student volunteers, awards celebrations, Camp Science, etc. National Honor Society is dues and graduation regalia for seniors. School Spirit events: Fresh and Fringle, Carnival, Senior Council, Student Organization seasonal

events, contests. Senior Expenses are used to provide financial aid to those who cannot afford dues, the Prom DJ, and to reduce both graduation dues and prom fees for all. Planners will now be given to all 9th graders and upper class students who request them to reduce waste.

School Budget Enhancement

Department Requests	55,000
Facilities	15,000
Guidance and College Office	10,000
Facility Upgrade Grant	90,000
Student Electronic Subscriptions	20,000
Total	190,000

Department requests will be increasing \$15,000 from last year to \$55,000 as department requests maxed out this year: Lab supplies, equipment and repair; consumables for Animal Lab and certain lab science classes; books, electronic curricula, musical instrument repair and maintenance. Facilities covers locker repair, material needs for which there is no DOE vendor. The Facility Upgrade grant is 3 years worth of funds for an outdoor student gathering space. Electronic Subscriptions covers Naviance, ALEKS, ALBERT, journalism platforms and software.

Technology

Internet	Now zero after DOE improvements
Printers, Posters, Repair, and Ink	15,000
Other Technology	32,000
Total	47,000

Expenditures Summary

PA Administrative and Hospitality	51,100
Student Facing: Teams and Clubs	90,000
Student Facing: Bronx Sci Experience	145,000
School Budget Enhancement	190,000
Technology	47,000
Total	523,100

Budget Summary

Projected Revenue	461,000
Surplus	71,100
Total Budget	523,100
Projected Expenditures	523,100
Current Balance	1,036,844
One year operating expenses in reserve	-525,000
Remaining surplus	511,844

What's Next? The PA is prepared to increase School Budget Enhancement if needed once the school receives their annual budget. We are in preliminary talks with the school regarding necessary replacement of the school's MultiCast System, which is the primary way the SO communicates with the student body. It is unclear what's on the horizon with the cessation of pandemic increases to school budgets. We will vote on the preliminary budget in June, and the final version will be voted on by next year's membership in September. Email presidents with questions about the budget.

8) Co-Presidents Report- Christine Kattan discussed:

1) PA Open Positions:

- A Welcome Committee to help new families get together over the summer This is an immediate need. We are seeking 2 members to join a 3-member team. Work is conducted from home the last 2 weeks of June
- The Webmaster Team is seeking 2 members to join 3-member team for next year. Webmasters update the PA website

If interested, please contact: president@bxsciencepa.org

2) Bronx Science Parents' Association Upcoming Volunteer Events:

- Alumni Day: Sunday, June 2, shifts 9 AM- 3 PM
- Staff/Faculty Appreciation Lunch: Tuesday, June 4- FILLED!
- Prospective Students Open House: Wed, June 5, shifts 4 – 7PM
- Incoming Parent Breakfast: Thurs, June 6, shifts 8 AM – 12:30 PM
- Senior Awards Reception: Monday, June 10, shifts 3 – 6 PM

Signups are available via recent weekly Sunday PA e-newsletters and PA website: bxsciencepa.org

3) Bronx Science Parents' Association Upcoming Events

- Coffee with the Principal: Monday, May 20, 8:30 AM (at school). Register by tomorrow, Thurs, May 16 at 9 AM
- State of the District Town Hall with Superintendent Davis: Tues, May 21, 6 PM (virtual)
- Teen and Substance Abuse Presentation: Wed, May 23, 7 PM, (virtual). Email will sent with details tomorrow (5/16)
- June PA Meeting: Wed, June 12, 7 PM at school

Signups and Zoom links are available via recent weekly Sunday PA e-newsletters and PA website: bxsciencepa.org

Bronx Science Parents' Association End-of-Year Outdoor Social
Ellington in the Park, Sat, June 22, 4:30-6:30 PM

9) Other Business- NONE

Christine Kattan adjourned the meeting at 8:47.