

**Parents' Association of The Bronx High School of Science
General Membership Meeting
19 September 2024, 7:00 p.m., In-Person**

Co-President Jennifer Allen-Cheng called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

Ms. Allen-Cheng thanked everyone who has stepped up to volunteer including the hospitality team, and welcomed all who would like to volunteer for future events. Sign up links will be circulated through the year. Ms. Allen-Cheng reminded parents that minutes of past meetings can be found on the PA website and explained that prior minutes must be approved by the PA. Julie Chin-Tom moved to approve the minutes of the June 12, 2024 PA meeting; Bryan Liff seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the minutes were approved.

Ms. Allen-Cheng requested a motion to approve the proposed slate of nominating committee members. Jamileh-Sofia diGuida moved and Ernie Sander seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the following slate was approved as members of the 2024-2025 Nominating Committee: Jodi Solomon (Co-Chair), Ellie Buchalter (Co-Chair), Ted Scala, Haihong (Haidy) Wang.

New Business

1) Introductions of PA Executive Board

Ms. Allen-Cheng, Arthur Wong and Lisa Li introduced themselves as Co-Presidents. All Executive Board members in attendance introduced themselves as well.

2) Principal's Report - Andrew Nassar

AP Nassar presented the Principal's Report. Summer highlights included hosting summer school and welcoming admitted Discovery students. The school also hosted summer institutes with the Alumni Foundation in robotics, science research, AI, arts, programming, entrepreneurship, finance, government and law. In August, the Big Sibs hosted 9th grade orientation where students were able to get IDs, locker combinations and play games. Big Sibs kept in touch through the first week of school and had sharing circles and games. Last week the school hosted orientation for 9th grade parents. The academic teams have been having interest meetings, and last week's club fair was well attended. AP Nassar shared that AP of Organization Phoebe Cooper retired at the end of last year, and Colin Morrell will be interim APO. Kathleen Lyons will be Interim Acting AP of Mathematics. Permanent appointments for these positions will be made over the next few months. Other upcoming events include the start of clubs on September 23 and the Fresh and Fringle on September 27. The first marking period ends on October 8, and the Open House for prospective students will be October 15.

3) Parent Coordinator - Rebecca Barreras

Ms. Allen-Cheng introduced Parent Coordinator Rebecca Barreras.

4) Treasurer's Report

Co-President Lisa Li introduced Co-Treasurer Julie Chin-Tom who presented the Treasurer's Report. Ms. Chin-Tom presented a high-level report due to minimal activity over the summer. She explained that the PA has targeted revenues of \$523k (of which \$3k has been raised to date) and expenses of \$523k (\$2k spent to date). Revenues will include \$71k in reserves from past years. The bank balance is currently \$898k as the PA raises expenses in advance of expending them. In October, Ms. Chin-Tom will provide more detail on categories of revenue/expense and the two big projects that are budgeted for this year.

5) Fundraising

Ms. Li introduced Co-Vice President Helen Qui who will lead fundraising efforts. Ms. Qui explained that the suggested donation this year is \$750 per student which is the same as last year. Other high schools like Hunter and Stuyvesant ask for significantly more. All of the money raised is used for student and school expenses. For example, last year funds were used for online resources, Naviance, college office expenses, student clubs, teams, theater & arts programs, technology upgrades, and student events. Donations can be made three ways: by phone, regular mail and the PA website (bxsciencepa.org).

Next week 9, 11 and 12 grade students will receive mail requesting donations and 10th grade students will bring their letter home.

6) Chair Introductions

Ms. Li recognized the committee chairs; for Hospitality (Anne Tien, Fotini Marcopulos, Patrice Smith, Tanya Morris), Merchandise (Jenny He and Sai Swarup), Spring Gala (Gabrielle Koelbel), Technology (Bryan Liff), and Translation . She also recognized the following additional PA teams and committees: Audit, Constant Contact, Mandarin Chinese Translation, Nominating, Open House, Social Media Manager, Webmaster, Welcome Committee.

7) Committee Announcements

Ms. Li introduced Nominating Committee Co-Chairs Jodi Solomon and Ellie Buchalter. Ms. Solomon and Ms. Buchalter explained that elections will be held for four open positions: SLT (open to parents of 9th graders), and 3 Member-at-Large positions (open to 9th grade parents and new incoming 10th grade parents). Interested candidates should submit via Google form by September 25 at 11:59 pm to nominate themselves, and by September 24 to nominate someone else. Interested parents may also join the Nominating Committee. The election will be on October 17.

8) SLT Report

Ms. Li explained that the PA has membership on the SLT and Safety Committees.

9) Safety Report

Ms. Allen-Cheng explained that the Safety Committee meets monthly and consists of PA representatives, school administrators, school staff, clerical staff, food service staff, and

members of the community like 52 Precinct officers. The Safety Committee discusses safety plans, drills, building safety, physical and mental health. The Safety Committee meets monthly. There will be a town hall on October 22 about building safety.

10) Co-Presidents Report

Co-President Arthur Wong presented the Co-Presidents report. Mr. Wong explained the role of the PA which includes supporting communications like the weekly newsletter and Facebook page, volunteer support for hospitality, and doing fundraising to support student events and projects like the planned updates for Wolverine TV and an outside seating space for students. The PA has representatives on the SLT and School Safety Teams, and helps to build community with events like Comedy Night, the spring Yankees game, and the Gala which will be in April. Parent/guardian participation is welcomed.

Mr. Wong thanked volunteers in advance for Project Accepted and explained that additional translators are needed. Mr. Wong then introduced AP Nassar who explained the format for the remainder of the program, where parents will meet in breakout rooms by grade with a guidance counselor to discuss grade-specific issues for the upcoming year.

Mr. Wong adjourned the meeting at 7:44 pm for breakout sessions. The next meeting will be on October 17, 2024. It will be fully virtual and will include the fall election.