

Parents' Association of The Bronx High School of Science
Virtual General Meeting
17 October 2024, 7 p.m.

DRAFT MINUTES

Ms. Allen-Cheng called the meeting to order at 7:05.

Wendy Stryker moved to approve the September 18, 2024 PA minutes. Jamileh-Sofia diGuida seconded. A poll was run and the minutes were approved.

1. Principal's Report

Ms. Hoyle reported that the Fresh & Fringe event went well. The first marking period ended and report cards went home last week. Up to date grades are always available on Jupiter. Parent/teacher conferences are this week; registration is still open. If you need a conference in the future or the time slots are full, reach out to teachers and you can schedule a separate conference. Fall College Night with the Dean of Admissions from U. Chicago went well and the auditorium was full. We are celebrating 47 National Merit Semifinalists, 33 Scholars in the National Hispanic Recognition Program, and 16 Scholars in the National African-American Recognition Program. There is a full list on the school website. Thanks to all parent volunteers who attended the Open House. There will be another one in the spring!

2. Special Presentation

Mr. Nassar and Mr. Jonson presented a program on time management, study skills and how to support your child. A link to the slides will be available in the PA newsletter.

3. Treasurer's Report

Ms. Chin-Tom presented the Treasurer's Report based on information as of the end of September. The bank balance is currently \$901,313. By way of reminder, the PA is now fundraising for next year's expenses. Targeted revenue is \$523k; the PA has currently raised \$107,220 of which \$71,200 is reserve funds. Expenses are budgeted at \$523,100, actual expenses to date are \$123,658 although half of that number (i.e. senior expenses of \$50k) are from late last year. Ms. Chin-Tom explained that the PA may come back later in the year to request an increase in the budget to move the unspent budget from last year into this year.

4. Fundraising Updates

Ms. Qiu gave the fundraising report. Ms. Qiu reported that fundraising is currently at \$22,673 against our goal of \$300k and that we are currently behind where we were with fundraising last year. The request for the annual appeal is \$750/child but any amount is helpful. Donations can be made by phone, regular mail or the PA website. Please ask your employer if they will match donations. All contributions go to supporting students.

5. Comedy Night

Mr. Eastman shared details about Comedy Night, a fundraising event to be held on Tuesday Dec. 3 at the Gotham Comedy Club. This event is adults only, and funds will be donated to the PA. Tickets sell out quickly so buy soon - details are on the PA website and will be in the newsletters.

6. Spring Gala

Ms. Koelbel shared details about the event which will be on Thursday, April 10, 2025. Please reach out to Gabrielle to volunteer to join the Gala Committee! She is particularly seeking help soliciting donations and there are opportunities for families to sponsor the event.

7. SLT Report

Ms. Alexander reported that the SLT committee is working on the Comprehensive Educational Plan which sets goals for the year including decreasing the gap in grades between IEP and non-IEP students and increasing participation in the parent survey.

8. Nominating Committee

Ms. Li thanked the Nominating Committee for its work and thanked the candidates for stepping forward. Ms. Li introduced Ms. Solomon and Ms. Buchalter. Ms. Solomon thanked last year's Nominating Committee, the new Committee, the PA Co-Presidents, the Tech Team, Ms. Barerras and CIO Willie Lugo who verified eligibility, as well as all parents/guardians who volunteered to serve.

Ms. Solomon explained that in accordance with the Chancellor's regulations, two elections would be held for three Member at Large positions on the Executive Board. These positions are reserved for parents/guardians of 9th grade/incoming 10th grade students and a position on the SLT which is open to 9th grade parents/guardians only. Biographical information was properly posted and was also placed in the Zoom chat.

The Member at Large Election was held for two candidates – Ami Kantawala and Sneha Kelkar - and a third candidate who self nominated from the floor. Ms. Solomon called three times for nominations, Sovannary Tan self-nominated, and nominations were closed.

9. PA Exec Board Nominee Statements

All candidates were given the opportunity to post a bio in the chat and to introduce themselves via Zoom.

10. PA Exec Board Election

A poll was opened and candidates were voted on as a slate. All three were provisionally elected and the Co-Recording Secretary provisionally certified the vote.

11. SLT Nominee Statements

Ms. Buchalter commenced the SLT Election and asked if any candidates wished to withdraw; Ami Kantawala withdrew. With a slate consisting of one candidate Annie Wu, Ms. Buchalter called three times for nominations from the floor and Stacey Berg Keller self-nominated. Biographies were posted to the chat for review and the candidates were given 90 seconds to make a statement.

12. SLT Election

Ms. Buchalter requested that someone make a motion for a vote on the SLT election. Jeffrey Keller moved and Brian Schwartz seconded. Members were reminded to vote for one candidate only. A poll was cast and Stacey Berg Keller was provisionally elected. The Co-Recording Secretary provisionally approved the vote.

There will be another election held in May 2025 and all parents and guardians are eligible to run for any position on the Executive Board and SLT. The fall 2024 elections were concluded.

13. Co-Presidents' Report

Ms. Li thanked the Nominating Committee (Ted Scala, Haihong (Haidy) Wang, Ellie Buchalter, Jodi Solomon) and the newly elected parents.

Ms. Li also thanked all volunteers who assisted at the Open House and encouraged ALL parents to contribute to the Annual Fund at the recommended amount of \$750, or if such amount is difficult, any amount that is reasonable in light of personal circumstances. There is a virtual Town Hall meeting on October 24 from 6-8 pm hosted by the Bronx North High School superintendent. All parents are encouraged to attend to show support and details will be in the newsletter. Please also purchase tickets to Comedy Night.

14. Other

N/A

15. Meeting Adjournment

Ms. Li adjourned the meeting at 8:24 pm.