

Parents' Association of The Bronx High School of Science

General Membership Meeting Agenda

Nov 21, 2024 @ 7:00 PM; in-person meeting
Minutes taken by Mark Yim

DRAFT

Meeting called to order at 7pm.

Attending: 58

With student(s) in

Class of 2028	21
Class of 2027	16
Class of 2026	15
Class of 2025	5
Visitor	1

See attached attendance sheets, three pages.

Ms. Kantawala moves to approve the 10/17/24 PA meeting minutes; Mr. Eastman seconds.
Approved unanimously.

1) Principal's Report - Rachel Hoyle.

Recent parent teacher conferences ran smoothly. Some recent or forthcoming events: Food Fair, Monster Mash, SING! auditions, fall play "Clue" 12/5-6; Winter Concert 12/17-18; this Wednesday, 400 college alums will come back for homecoming.

2) Treasurer's Report - MaryAnn Carlese.

Revenue is expected to be \$523,000 this year; expenses through 10/31 were \$147,000; funds raised through 10/31 were \$155,000, including \$75,000 carried over from last year. Current bank balance is \$900,000. Raised through merch sales: \$14,000 + \$7,000; additional expected going forward: \$20,000.

3) Fundraising - Helen Qiu, Lisa Li.

So far, \$94,000 received of the \$300,000 goal. Recommended donation is \$750 per student. Corporate match: Julie Chin-Tom should be contacted by corporates to finalize donations.

4) Gala Update - Gabrielle Kolbel.

April 10, 2025, "Lights, Camera, Auction!" Gala at Temple Emanu-El. Call Ms. Erin Cronin to donate and/or purchase special packages.

5) SLT Report - Stacy Berg Keller.

SLT is to work on comprehensive education planning - the specific remit is on social emotional learning.

6) Co-Presidents Report.

Coffee with Principal Hoyle is next Monday, Nov. 25. RSVP by tomorrow, Friday, Nov. 22. Digital SHSAT contract with Pearson is now being decided by an NYC committee charged with this; final decision will be on Dec. 18. Before then, a town hall will be held to get community input.

6) Comedy Night / Yankees Game Updates - Ashok Eastman.

Comedy event on Dec. 3 is sold out. May 2 (Friday) for the Yankees game fundraiser looks like a possibility.

8) Presentation on college admission testing landscape – Ms. Shipra Das, Compass Education.

Main points:

- Grade inflation since 2016 has been very noticeable, but SAT and ACT scores have been stable, as these tests are designed to be stable; thus, testing has a role in giving context to increasingly straight-A transcripts. Colleges accept both SAT and ACT equally.
- Top 400 colleges' policies on SAT and ACT pre-pandemic: 65% required, 34% optional. Currently: 7% required, 59% optional, 25% optional but under review. Note: remainder is no test accepted, e.g., University of California system.
- SAT is now digital and modularly adaptive; if your score is below a certain threshold on the 1st module, you are assigned an easier 2nd module, and your score will be capped at 650. Math content: 35% algebra II, 35% advanced math, 15% geometry & trigonometry, 15% stats & 'middle school' math. ACT uses test-center computers or pencil and paper and has a science section, which SAT doesn't. ACT has more questions, which are easier but have less time to answer. ACT is changing its format in the direction of the SAT, but not before the fall of 2025.
- Recommended preparation: 20 mins / night four months before the actual test date. Take one practice test per month. Recommended date for actual SAT: March of junior year. 'Superscoring' (reporting the best math and verbal scores from two or more sittings) is a powerful tool that should be used.
- Ms. Das can be contacted at Compass Education for related services.

Meeting is adjourned at 8:16pm.