

**PARENTS' ASSOCIATION OF  
THE BRONX HIGH SCHOOL OF SCIENCE  
General Meeting Minutes – DRAFT  
November 17, 2016**

**1) Call to Order:** Co-President Elizabeth Newberry commenced tonight's meeting at 7:05p.m. There were 98 parents who signed the meeting sign-up sheets.

**2) Approval of October 18, 2016 minutes:** The minutes were approved by a show of hands with no dissenters.

**3) Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Heidi Moustakos reported that current income is approximately \$96,000 with expenses of \$64,000. A parent asked about the size of the overall budget, which is \$400,000 this year. This is up from the previous year and includes a budget to cover items like Naviance, theater and arts needs, computer technology, offsite meetings (such as the upcoming Summer Opportunities meeting to be held in midtown Manhattan). A parent also asked about funding for sports team tournament fees stating that in previous years parents were not asked to pay for the tournament fees. Co-President Elizabeth Newberry explained that this year's PA budget is lower for sports teams in order to cover other student activities such as Speech and Debate, which did not previously receive funding from the PA. She also explained that the Alumni Foundation picks up some of the fees for sports teams. A parent asked whether proceeds for bake sales designated to cover tournament fees could be used for that explicit purpose. Co-President Newberry responded that to her knowledge there are no DOE rules prohibiting this and that the funds should be able to go towards the overall team's tournament fees.

**4) School Leadership Team (SLT) Report:** Barbara Reiser, one of the parent representative of the SLT, provided an update on the monthly SLT meeting. The Comprehensive Education Plan (CEP) was discussed, and can be viewed on the web by searching under 10X445 (The Bronx High School of Science code) on the DOE website. She also announced that Mike McGrath has been officially appointed as AP for Physical Education, and discussed Open School Week, which was held earlier this week. Parents asked whether it was possible for parent visitors to arrive at a time other than the beginning of the school day since this is a hardship for some parents; Dr. Donahue replied that this would be difficult logistically since parents need to stay with their students at all times and the school needs to know who is in the building. In the SLT meeting, Ms. Rocchio (AP Foreign Language) talked about teacher training and a technology that teachers can use with a smart phone scanner to survey students' understanding of a given topic to enhance teaching. Another topic of discussion at the SLT meeting was safety, an important topic in light of some recent incidents that have occurred. Students are advised to leave with another student or parent if they are staying late after school, to stay on campus during lunch and to avoid Harris Field and points beyond. Ms. Reiser reminded parents that the SLT meeting minutes can be found on Naviance.

**5) Principal's Report by Dr. Jean Donahue:**

- Dr. Donahue reported that there had been 4 safety incidents so far this school year involving students, which is more than prior years. The latest incident occurred after school hours, however other incidents have occurred during the day. One incident took place on Harris Field and another by Tony's Halal Truck near Lehman College. She has contacted the NYPD and asked them to increase patrols, and has also requested better lighting. Dr. Donahue advises students not to leave campus during the day (Bronx Science has an open campus so that students can enjoy the courtyard). She also reminded parents that students should not go to Harris Field unless accompanied by a PE teacher or coach as it is not part of school property and is elevated so it is hard to see what is going on there. A parent asked whether the area was considered less safe for girls than for boys; Dr. Donahue replied that all four incidents this year had involved boys,

however she felt that the risk was the same for both. Dr. Donahue reminded parents that Ms. Loukasis sends a monthly safety newsletter and suggests that parents read this and discuss with their students.

- Bronx Science continues to attract renown from around the world. Two groups of educators from Denmark and from the Netherlands visited Bronx Science to observe classes, speak to members of the faculty and administration, and learn effective teaching methods.
- Dr. Donahue announced several upcoming events in December including the Fall Play, Winter Concert, Senior Research student poster exhibit and dinner.
- A parent asked about support for immigrant students / families concerned about ramifications of the recent presidential election. Dr. Donahue replied that there has been no official guidance from the DOE on this matter, however school is a safe place for immigrants and she will ensure that the Guidance department is prepared for any questions or concerns. She shared that the day after the Presidential Election, Social Studies teachers gave students the opportunity to express their feedback and thoughts and guidance counselors were also available to students.
- Dr. Donahue wished all a Happy Thanksgiving

## 7) Upcoming events:

**PA Phonathon:** November 21 & 22 in the evening, volunteers still needed. This is the biggest fundraiser of the year for the PA.

**PA of Bx Sci Summer Opportunities Event:** December 5 at W. 53<sup>rd</sup> St. NY Public Library. Cathy Israelevitz of the PA Executive Board has been leading an effort to create events that are accessible and relevant for parents as a supplement to the monthly PA meetings. This first event will bring together speakers from various resources including summer camps, academic and research programs, jobs and internship programs to highlight summer opportunities for high school students. The event can accommodate 100 parents and will be held in the evening from 6-8:30. Due to limited space you must RSVP.

**8) Featured Speaker:** Simone Kaplan, speaker coordinator for the PA, introduced **Sara Harberson** who gave a very informative, lively and interactive overview of what college admissions officers look for and how best to navigate the college admissions process.

Sara is a nationally recognized authority on elite college admissions. Her philosophy is that every kid applying to college deserves the best advice. Her groundbreaking, free website, [Admissions Revolution](#), gives all students the key information they need to realize their college dreams. Sara's rare perspective is born from humble roots. She is a proud graduate of a large public high school in New Jersey. She went on to graduate *summa cum laude* from Hamilton College and earned her Masters in Higher Education from the University of Pennsylvania. Over the course of 10 years, Sara rose through the ranks to become the Associate Dean of Admissions at the University of Pennsylvania, and then became the youngest Dean of Admissions in the country at Franklin and Marshall College. After taking time off to raise her young family, Sara returned to become the Director of College Counseling at the Baldwin School on the Philadelphia Main Line. Sara is the only private counselor in the country who has led both an admissions office at a highly selective college and a college counseling office on the other side of the process at an elite high school. Sara has read hundreds of thousands of essays and applications. Sara is regularly featured on NBC News, Huffington Post, and TODAY Parents. She has written editorial pieces about elite college admissions featured in the *Los Angeles Times*, *Chicago Tribune*, and *Atlanta Constitution Journal*. As a dean of admissions, college counselor and mother of three, Sara has

an extraordinary understanding of college admissions. She knows what it takes for each student to get into his or her optimal college. Sara's goal is to help every student achieve the best version of themselves through the college admissions process.

**9) Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:45 p.m.

DRAFT