

**Parents' Association of The Bronx High School of Science
General Meeting, 17 January 2024, 7:00 p.m., Room 114 (in-person)**

Co-President Jennifer Allen-Cheng called the meeting to order at 7:00.

Paul Sinclair motioned to approve the 13 Dec 23 PA meeting minutes; Bryan Liff seconded; the minutes were approved.

New Business

1) Principal's Report: Rachel Hoyle shared 1) The winter concert went well; 2) Midyears are next week; NHS has tutoring during lunch in the College Office; there is also tutoring by department; 3) Robotics kicked off this month; 4) The Science Olympiad is upcoming; 5) SING!, the student-written musical, is coming up; 6) There was an interest meeting for Mean Girls, the spring musical; 7) 9 students placed in the top 300 at the Regeneron competition.

2) Treasurer's Report: Co-President Elizabeth Polkovitz gave the report in Kai's absence. Our YTD income is \$239,785 YTD, mostly from the annual Direct Appeal, but also from merchandise sales and the comedy night. We have a surplus of \$88,467 because we exceeded our goals in last year's Direct Appeal and at the gala. We are 62.1% to our target of \$528,552 income. We have had \$168,484 in expenses. PA administrative expenses of \$23,178 (14%)-- mostly food; also QuickBooks. Student expenses of \$74,874 (44%) include clubs, academic and athletic teams. School expenses of \$70,432 (42%) include Naviance and other subscriptions. We are 31.9% to budget. Much of our spending is in the spring, including senior expenses and academic department requests for the following year. \$69,595 came in in December. Our 12/31 bank balance was \$929K.

3) Fundraising: Yan Yu reported that \$67,000 came in in December. The Direct Appeal has brought in 76% of our target of \$300,00; last year this time we were at 80.7%. There are multiple ways to donate: 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. Elizabeth thanked Yan and reported 422 individual donors. Our goal remains 100% participation, but our realistic target is 20%-- and we may meet it. Whatever you can afford is meaningful for us.

4) Gala Update: Gabrielle Kolbel, Chair of the gala committee, reported the committee is hard at work. The gala is a month earlier than usual: Thursday, 11 April, 6-9 at Temple Emanu-El (1 East 65th Street). Sponsorship Opportunities are available. Why sponsor the gala? Community engagement is a great way to grow business and build your brand.

(Reach out to sponsorships@bxsciencepa.org) We also need donations for online and live auctions: Trips, tours, sports/arts/entertainment tickets, gift baskets, dining, classes, spa experiences, etc. (Email our Donations Chair, Erin Kromann, at ekromann@gmail.com). Donate wine to the Wine Pull bottles with a minimum price point of \$20+. (Contact winepull@bxsciencepa.org). Elizabeth explained the Wine Pull: We sell tickets with numbers that match bottles of wine and you might get something really special.

5) SLT: Christine Nuzum reported that today they ratified their bylaws and looked at the goal of all students succeeding and passing major classes. They took a close look at anonymous 9th grade students who are not passing or are struggling to pass. Geometry is tough for a lot of them. Students with poor assessment grades also have poor homework grades and incomplete assignments. There was discussion that perhaps those students do not know how to get started and a designated space in school for Geometry homework might be helpful. There is ongoing discussion about homework and its role in learning.

6) Co-Presidents Report: Christine Kattan spoke about open positions on the PA. The Hospitality Team (Co-Chairs: Lilach Bar & Kosaku Shinoda) needs 1 more member. The Tech Team (Manager Bryan Liff) needs 2-3 additional members. We need at least 4 members to have 2 teams. Members must be able to come to school for meetings. The Newsletter Team needs 1-2 members. The current team is Jamileh-Sofia DiGuida, Roxana Cheng and Jeffrey Dowd. The time commitment varies for this team. The Nominating Committee for Spring and Fall 2024 elections needs 3-5 members. Members cannot be running for any PA positions. Email corecordingsecretary@bxsciencepa.org if interested; email president@bxsciencepa.org with questions. The Virtual District Parent Town Hall with Superintendent Fia Davis is tomorrow, Thursday, 18 January at 6 PM. All parents and guardians are invited. Put in the chat that you are from BxSci. We are the largest school in her district. Please log on; district leaders will notice.

7) Other Business: None.

8) Special Presentation: AP Andrew Nasser and a Professional Panel Discuss Teens and Mental Health: Drs. Heather Goodman and Jane Aronson and Jessica Yoon, LCSW answered parent questions submitted in advance as well as during the presentation.

Co-President Elizabeth Polkovitz adjourned the meeting at 8:51.

Upcoming Events/Dates:

February Meeting: **Tuesday**, 13 Feb at 7:00 PM (in-person). There will be 2 panels: Course Selection (for 9th graders especially) and What I Wish I Knew Before My Child Went to College (for seniors in particular).