



Stuyvesant High School Parents' Association Minutes of the General Meeting of September 21, 2010

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:09 p.m.
2. Approval of Minutes:
 - a. The Co-Presidents gave all members time to review the minutes of the June 8, 2010 General Membership Meeting. After a brief interval, a motion was made to adopt the minutes of the June meeting. The motion was seconded and the minutes were approved.
3. Co-Presidents' announcements:
 - a. The Co-Presidents introduced the current Executive Board (EB) to the membership. The EB members that were in the auditorium were asked to stand and introduce themselves to attendees.
 - b. The Co-Presidents presented an overview of the PA's role at Stuyvesant, how the PA functions, and encouraged attendees to get involved.
 - i. An informal poll of attendees revealed that 80% were freshman parents. Approximately 33% were from Brooklyn, 18% from Manhattan, and 25% from Queens. The Co-Presidents indicated that this closely parallels the student demographics – 33% from Brooklyn, 18% from Manhattan, and 43% from Queens.
 - ii. The Co-Presidents indicated that the Stuyvesant PA was founded in 1945. It is a 501c3 non-profit, which means all donations are tax deductible.
 - iii. The primary role of the PA is to bring parents into an active role in students' academic and non-academic activities and to help establish a strong relationship between the home and the school. The PA fosters communication between the parents and the school and provides financial support.
 - iv. Parent involvement through elected positions on the School Leadership Team (SLT), EB, and Member-at-Large was discussed and encouraged. Elections for Freshman SLT members and all Member-at-Large positions will be held at the October 19 General Meeting.
 - v. The roles and responsibilities of PA committees were discussed. The Co-Presidents introduced the committee Chairs and called on parents to get involved. The Co-Presidents indicated that they are looking for a Chair or Co-Chairs for the Communications committee.
 - vi. The Co-Presidents reminded parents that getting involved in the PA is a good way to know what is going on in your child's school.
4. Principal's Announcements:
 - a. The Co-Presidents introduced Principal Teitel.
 - b. The Principal welcomed parents and made the following announcements:
 - i. The Principal encouraged all parents to pick up a copy of the AIS tutoring workshop schedule before leaving. The workshops started on September 20. A writing center with trained staff is located in the library.
 - ii. Open School night is Thursday, October 28, from 5:30 to 8:00pm. Parents were warned to expect long lines. Open school continues on Friday, October 29, from 1p.m. to 3p.m. Parents can also attend their child's classes from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on October 29. The Principal encouraged parents to take advantage of this opportunity.
 - iii. The Principal encouraged all parents to sign up for Mr. Blum's weekly e-mail. The e-mail is sent on Friday and provides details of the upcoming week's events as well as brief announcements. Parents can sign up for the weekly e-mail via Parent Tools on the Stuyvesant website.
 - iv. The Principal reported on the new Department of Education (DOE) policy to charge schools for after hour's use of the school. Under the new Extended Use Time policy, the school must pay \$400 per hour to use the building after 6:00 p.m. or before 7:00 a.m. on school days. It was noted that this new

regulation may require cutting back or limiting afterschool activities. A \$131,000 budget for extended use was provided by DOE but it may not be sufficient to cover all that the school and students want to do. The Principal noted that last year's extended use time would have cost \$390,000.

5. Parent Coordinator Announcements:

- a. The Parent Coordinator, Mr. Harvey Blum, was introduced to the membership.
- b. The Parent Coordinator reminded parents to sign up on Parent Tools to gain access to their child's records and to receive his weekly e-mail. The e-mail will have information on upcoming tryouts, sports, meetings, etc.
 - i. He indicated that the e-mail contains "information that I would have liked" when his child was at Stuyvesant.
- c. A few of the upcoming events were announced
- d. The Parent Coordinator urged parents to reach out for help if their child is struggling with school. He recommended contacting the child's guidance counselor to let them know you are concerned. Counselors are currently conducting time management workshops with all freshmen. The parent coordinator indicated that he can be contacted at HBlumm@schools.nyc.gov.

6. Big Sibs Presentation:

- a. The Co-Presidents introduced four students from the Big Sibs program.
- b. The Big Sibs indicated that they are a resource for other students providing guidance and support from a student perspective. Following a discussion of the Big Sibs program the students responded to questions from the audience.
 - i. The Big Sibs were asked why honors classes are not offered to all students. They indicated that it may be difficult to get an honors class first semester freshman year but opportunities are available to all qualified students.
 - ii. The Big Sibs were asked when SAT II's should be taken. The Big Sibs recommended taking SAT II test for classes that your child is doing well in.
 - iii. The Big Sibs were asked about Stuyvesant's Social life. They recommended a balance between academics and extracurricular activities is best. They recommended that parents encourage their student to get involved in extracurricular activities such as sports, clubs, and pubs.
 - iv. The Big Sibs were asked how they avoid procrastinating. The Big Sibs reported that the school is conducting time management, study habits, and note taking seminars for all freshmen to help students establish good study habits. The Big Sibs recommend that students do all homework that requires a computer last since there is a greater opportunity for distraction.
 - v. "Where can students go during a free period?" The Big Sibs indicated that students can be on floors one, two, and five. The library is also popular but can be crowded.
 - vi. The Big Sibs reported that a club/pub fair will be held after school for all interested students.
 - vii. The Big Sibs were asked about lunch from a student's point of view. They reported that you gradually meet people forming a "lunch group." Students will typically venture off-campus when permitted.
 - viii. The Big Sibs were asked how often they meet with their guidance counselor. They indicated that there is a mandatory meeting but that a student can meet with a counselor for issues big and small. It was suggested that meeting your counselor on a regular basis will ensure that they know you.

7. Budget Report:

- a. The Co-Presidents presented the 2010-2011 PA budget to the membership. Proposed changes to the budget based on 2009-2010 actual expenses were discussed. The budget is approximately \$330,000. Over 70% of PA funds go directly to support school initiated expenses.

8. Other Business:

- a. The Co-Presidents recommended to membership that the deadline for nominations for Freshman SLT an Member-at-Large positions be extended to October 12, 2010 in order to provide sufficient notice to the membership and an opportunity to run for office. A motion to extend the nomination deadline to October 12 was made. The motion was seconded, voted upon and approved.
- b. The Co-Presidents requested that membership ratify the committees and proposed committee Chairs. A motion was made to ratify the following committees and committee Chairs. The motion was seconded, voted upon and approved:
 - i. Academic Affairs: Chaired by Alta Indelman.
 - ii. Appropriations: Co-chaired by Emily Shapiro and Beth Bacon.
 - iii. Audit Committee: Chaired by Monica Lercher.
 - iv. College Committee: Co-chaired by Pam Lambert and Andrea Fastenberg.
 - v. Extracurricular: Chaired by Julie Law.

- vi. Faculty Reception: Chaired by Jean Laopus.
- vii. Independent Research: Chaired by Theresa Jacob.
- viii. Member Outreach: Chinese outreach co-chaired by Rong Cao and Fion Tan. Korean outreach chaired by Ted Kang.
- ix. Fundraising: Chaired by Janet Rosenberg.
- x. Health and Safety: Chaired by Jennifer Freeman.
- xi. Integrity: Chaired by Bruce Hood.

9. Committee Reports:

- a. The Chair of the college committee reported that there will be a meeting for all senior parents to review the application process Thursday October 7. The Chair also reported that the October 19 General Meeting will feature a presentation by a noted expert in college financial planning.
 - b. The Bulletin Editor, Lee Levitt, reported that volunteers are needed to proof read and edit articles for the bulletin.
 - c. The academic affairs Chair reported that anyone interested in participating on the committee should attend the next meeting scheduled for October 17 at 5:45 p.m.
 - d. The Chair of the faculty reception committee requested volunteers for the upcoming October 28 open school night noting that it is a great opportunity to meet the teachers in an informal setting.
10. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made. The motion was seconded, voted upon and the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Paul Bauer, Recording Secretary