



Stuyvesant High School Parents' Association Minutes of the General Meeting of November 16, 2010

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. Approval of Minutes:
 - a. The Co-Presidents gave all members time to review the minutes of the October 19, 2010 General Membership Meeting. After a brief interval, a motion was made to adopt the minutes of the October meeting. The motion was seconded and the minutes were approved.
3. Co-Presidents' announcements:
 - a. The co-presidents introduced the new format for the Bulletin. The new layout is in color includes more graphics and photographs. General meeting minutes will no longer appear in the Bulletin but will be distributed at the next general meeting.
 - b. The co-presidents reported that the PA has raised approximately \$75,000 from fundraising activities since July 01, 2010. All members were encouraged to contribute to the annual appeal, if they have not already done so.
 - c. The co-presidents reported that the Department of Education (DOE) rescinded the Extended Hours Policy that required Stuyvesant to pay a fee to use the school building before 7:00am, after 6:00pm and on weekends.
 - d. The co-presidents thanked the general membership for returning enough completed lunch form questionnaires to tentatively qualify for 2011 – 2012 academic year Title 1 funding. These forms are an important tool to help Stuyvesant qualify for these funds. More than 40% of Stuyvesant families qualify for free or reduced lunch based on responses to these questionnaires.
 - i. Rong Cao, of membership outreach, received special thanks for her outreach efforts that helped the PA meet the required goal.
 - e. A date for the Spring Feast is set for April 1, 2011. All attendees were encouraged to attend.
4. Title 1 Meeting:
 - a. Principal Teitel addressed the general membership and thanked everyone who helped make open school night a success.
 - b. The Principal reported the following:
 - i. Title 1 funds are awarded by the Federal Government to specific schools based on financial need of the parents. The primary means of determining need in New York City are the questionnaires for free or reduced lunch (lunch forms). Last year's efforts by the PA helped the school collect enough forms to demonstrate that 42% of the school's population qualifies for free or reduced lunch. The school was awarded \$1.6 million as a result.
 - ii. This year's efforts concluded with more than 40% of students meeting the requirement. Stuyvesant should qualify for Title 1 funding next year.
 - iii. This year's funds were used for the following:
 1. Additional teachers and councilors were hired.
 2. \$10,000 was set aside for additional student guidance during December.
 3. AIS tutoring was restored.
 4. Special programs were established for incoming freshman to improve study habits, time management, and note taking.

5. English class size reduced for all freshman. The classes are writing intensive and all freshmen will have the same teacher for the entire year.
 6. Reduced English class size was extended to the sophomores, since they did not have this benefit due to last year's budget cuts.
 7. Most of the Title 1 funds are slated for paying direct salaries of new staff because it is the easiest to justify to State auditors.
 - iv. In response to a question, Principal Teitel explained that students switch teachers in January to gain greater exposure to staff and allow for greater flexibility to plan electives.
 - c. SLT representative, Loretta Au, reported that approximately \$15,000 of the Title 1 funding is intended to increase parent involvement and outreach. The PA distributed a list of typical uses for these funds to the membership. Attendees were encouraged to provide feedback on potential uses within the next two weeks to allow the PA to make some decisions by the December EB meeting.
5. Programming and Course Selection Overview:
- a. Sophia Liang, Program Chairperson, presented a PowerPoint presentation of the on-line student programming process. The overview included discussion of graduation requirements.
 - b. Online programming allows students to request classes but does not guarantee that a student will get the class.
 - i. Priority is given to graduating seniors.
 - ii. Required courses will take precedence over electives.
 - iii. Availability is based on demand and available budget.
 - c. The presentation also included a demonstration of the student tools available on the Stuyvesant website. These tools are available to all Stuy students via secure logon.
 - i. The programming form was explained and demonstrated. Parents were reminded that students must read the information on these pages because they contain information on course prerequisites, qualifying tests, etc.
 - d. Online registration begins Friday November 19.
6. Committee Reports:
- a. The co-presidents reported that the EB reviewed appropriations recommendations received from the appropriations committee. A motion to approve was requested. A PA member requested that a list be distributed identifying the activities and/or requests that will receive funding. Members were encouraged to attend the appropriations committee meetings for this information.
 - i. A motion was made to approve the appropriations request. The motion was seconded, voted on and approved.
 - b. Newly elected committee chairs were introduced.
 - i. Academic Affairs chairperson reported that the committee is looking into foreign language choices, evaluation of poorly performing teachers, and proposed changes to the graduation requirements.
7. Featured Speaker:
- a. The College Committee chairperson introduced the featured speaker Peter Johnson, senior associate director of admissions at Columbia University.
 - i. Mr. Johnson made an informative presentation on the college admissions process.
8. Following the presentation, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Paul Bauer, Recording Secretary