



Stuyvesant High School Parents' Association Minutes of the General Meeting of September 20, 2011

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:11 p.m.
2. Approval of Minutes of June 14, 2011 meeting.
 - a. The Co-Presidents asked for approval of the minutes.
 - b. A revision was made to the minutes correcting the number for last year's total revenue to \$340,000.
 - c. A motion was made to adopt the minutes of the June meeting.
 - d. The motion was seconded, voted on and approved.
3. Co-Presidents' Greetings and Introduction of Officers:
 - a. The Co-Presidents introduced the Executive Board officers.
 - b. Michelle Herman, Corresponding Secretary, asked if everyone was receiving her weekly e-mail message. She encouraged everyone to sign up for the listserv on the PA website.
 - c. The Co-Presidents introduced Lisa Handorff, editor of the *Bulletin*. Parents who wish to volunteer should email Lisa to help produce the seasonal newsletter.
4. Principal Teitel's Greetings:
 - a. Principal Teitel greeted the parents and thanked all for coming.
 - b. He described the start of school and the beginning of tryouts for various teams. He extended a special gesture to Freshman parents. Mr. Teitel encouraged parents to urge their kids to get involved in extra-curricular activities at Stuyvesant.
 - c. Mr. Teitel noted that he's stopped into various classes and mentioned some program concerns, but otherwise the year has started smoothly.
 - d. Mr. Teitel talked about the importance of time management for students.
 - e. He also mentioned the importance of contacting guidance counselors if there are issues.
 - f. Question from a parent: "Is the NY Times available at school?" Answer: No, except for 60 free copies distributed to the government classes.
 - g. A parent asked about the need to carry heavy textbooks. Mr. Teitel clarified that textbooks are not available on e-readers at this time, but that textbook copies are in the Library. Books should stay home.
 - h. Mr. Teitel announced that a new dress code is in effect, with details on school website. Students had a three day grace period to adjust to it.
 - i. A parent asked if the school can standardize contracts distributed by teachers to students and families to sign. Mr. Teitel said not every teacher has a contract, but he would look into it.
5. Parent Coordinator Harvey Blumm's Greetings:
 - a. Harvey Blumm encouraged all parents to reach out to him for help. "Parents of teenagers need help! Don't hesitate to call."
6. Ratification of PA Committee Chairs:
 - a. The Co-Presidents introduced the committee chairs and announced several vacancies and the functions of those committees.
 - b. A motion was made and seconded, and a vote was taken to ratify the committee chairs. (A full list of committees and committee chairs is on the PA website at stuy-pa.org.)
7. Committee Structure and call for Volunteers:
 - a. The Co-Presidents encouraged parents to join a committee by signing up on the forms in back of the theatre or emailing their interest to contactpa@stuy-pa.org.
8. Presentation of Upcoming Elections Process:
 - a. 2nd Vice President Bruce Hood described the elections that will take place at the October 18th general membership meeting.

The following positions are open:

Class representatives in all grades.

Freshman delegate to SLT. The runner up will be the alternate.

- b. Bruce asked for a motion to extend the nomination period to October 11, which is one week before the election date. A motion was made and seconded. A vote was taken and the motion was approved.
Bruce Hood and the Co-Presidents encouraged parents to make nominations or nominate themselves.

9. Financial Review:

- a. 1st Vice President Dave Venderbush introduced himself and encouraged parents to participate in the PA. He emphasized how important it is for students to have their parents participate and to help make the school a better place. Dave, who is also the Chair of the Programs Committee, talked about special programs and speakers for future PA General Meetings. He reached out to the parents to recommend possible speakers and topics.
- b. Dave continued with a discussion about fundraising and budget. He noted that limited funding is available in a public school and that the PA “fills the gaps in little places.” He explained that the PA spends in this year’s budget the money that was raised the year before.
- c. Copies of the proposed budget were available for review.
- d. Last year the PA raised more than was budgeted and spent less than was budgeted. Some expenses have been rolled over to this year, and the remaining revenues were added to our reserve fund. Projected revenue for this year’s fund raising is \$328,220. Projected expenses are \$359,062.
- e. A parent questioned why money is raised for the following year instead of implementing a current use practice. Dave Venderbush explained that a buffer is maintained in case of DOE budget cuts. Co-President Wei Lam added that by knowing what is available, it is easier to spend more and earlier. Dave Venderbush noted that Title I money, which gave us a one-time cushion last year, is not available this year.
- f. A motion was made and seconded to approve the budget. A vote was taken and the budget was approved.

10. Upcoming Events:

The Co-Presidents gave a brief description of upcoming events.

- a. Elections are to be held at the October 18, 2011 General PA Meeting.
- b. Faculty Reception is to be held the afternoon of evening Parent Teacher Conferences, Oct. 27, 2011. Volunteers are needed for this event.
- c. Parent Teacher Conferences will be the evening of Thursday, Oct. 27 and afternoon of Friday, Oct 28. They encouraged parents to observe classes at the open house on the morning of Friday, Oct. 28.
- d. Pam Lambert, Co-Chair of the College Committee, announced that Kal Chany, an expert in college financing, will speak at the Oct. 18, 2011 General PA Meeting. All parents are encouraged to attend.

11. Presentation on Time Management:

Social Studies teacher Anthony Valentin gave a presentation, including a slide show, about teenagers’ time management skills (or lack thereof) and how parents can help. He made the following points:

- a. Students are bombarded by information.
- b. Are students getting enough sleep? Teenagers need sleep!
- c. Are students handing in assignments on time?
- d. Are students involved in too many extracurricular activities to get school work done?
- e. Note taking skills and penmanship are important. Can students read their own notes?
- f. Study habits at home: Is multi-tasking a problem?
- g. Internet use and social networking can disrupt study time.
- h. Parents can get information to help students on the school and PA websites.
- i. Strategy for parent/teacher conferences: Target teachers you need to see. Have questions ready before each conference. Make alternate meeting plans if necessary.
- j. Contact teachers directly to resolve issues.
- k. Encourage teachers to post homework in advance so students can adjust their schedules accordingly.
- l. Encourage students to study with “student mentors;” others who don’t have the same difficulty.

12. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made. The motion was seconded, voted upon and the meeting was adjourned at 8:31 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Alta Indelman, Recording Secretary