



Stuyvesant High School Parents' Association
Minutes of the General Meeting of November 15, 2011

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m.
2. Approval of Minutes of October 18, 2011 General Meeting:
 - a. Co-President Barbara Reiser called for approval of the minutes from the October 18, 2011 General Meeting.
 - b. A motion was made to adopt the minutes.
 - c. The motion was seconded, voted on and approved.
3. Co-Presidents' announcements:
 - a. Co-President Barbara Reiser thanked Meredith Flomenbaum and Julie Law for the well-run faculty reception held just before Parent Teacher conferences last month and tonight's excellent refreshments.
 - b. There was a good turnout at the computer class for parents.
 - c. Barbara asked for ideas for presentations at the General Meetings.
4. Principal's Announcements:
 - a. Principal Teitel wished everyone a happy and healthy holiday season. Mr. Teitel reviewed the school schedule around the holidays.
 - b. Final exams will take place during the 3rd week of January, 2012. Mr. Teitel explained that the percentage of a student's grade represented by the final exam varies from department to department. He encouraged parents to check the school website for each department's grading policy.

Note: The following departments list the final exam as a specific component of the student's grade:

Chemistry 20%	Mathematics 20%
Physics 20%	World Language – Final Exam counts as 2 tests
 - c. Common Core State Standards:

Principal Teitel described the standards to inform parents:

 - i. NYC spends \$23 billion per year on public education.
 - ii. Each state has to decide on its own requirements for a HS diploma and the expenditure per student. (This is not in the US Constitution.)
 - iii. President Obama instituted "Race to the Top." Money is distributed to any state that agrees to adopt the Common Core Standards.
 - iv. Two major standards exist:
 - o ELA (English Language Arts)
 - o Mathematics

The DOE website gives additional information on these standards.
 - v. Principal Teitel says that the Stuyvesant curriculum exceeds the Common Core Standards.
 - vi. Every student in the US is expected to graduate with "College Readiness." Many schools in a number of states, however, have minimum standards that do not produce "college ready" students.
 - vii. Some skills required by the Common Core Standards:
 - o Analyze graphs
 - o Read for content and meaning
 - o Think creatively
 - o Solve real world problems
 - o Make clear arguments
 - o Engage in debate
 - viii. Literacy tasks have been incorporated into each department. Writing Across the Curriculum has been a school-wide CEP (Comprehensive Educational Plan) goal for two years. The year-long freshman English classes emphasize writing and this emphasis has been extended to the sophomore classes.
5. Parent Coordinator Harvey Blumm greeted the parents and encouraged them to reach out to him with questions/concerns.
 - a. Harvey indicated that online selection of spring semester elective courses will be open before Thanksgiving.
 - b. Harvey announced that several school offices can use student monitors, such as the College Office and Social Studies office.

- c. After school news: Teen entrepreneur Boot camp meets Thursdays. Some openings available.
 - d. Also, "Poetry Café" meets Thursdays.
 - e. A parent chaperone is needed for Friday's field trip to the Queens College Math Conference.
 - f. Late addition to this week's visits from college representatives: NYU Poly (Polytech campus in Brooklyn) will be here on Friday, November 18.
 - g. Many top campuses have ROTC programs. ROTC offers free tuition in exchange for 4 years' military service.
6. Approval of Appropriation Recommendations:
Co-President Wei Lam discussed importance of appropriations and introduced Appropriations Committee Chair, Francois Attal. Francois Attal reviewed the fall cycle appropriations. Thirty-one requests were received. The Committee recommended funding for 27 of the requests, which were listed on the back of tonight's agenda, for \$80,268.50. A motion was made and seconded. The recommendation was approved.
7. Budget Report:
Co-President Wei Lam reviewed the October Financial Report.
October revenues totaled approximately \$19K and expenses totaled about \$10K.
8. Other Business:
Ratification of new PA Committee chairs:
Fundraising: Bonnie Beacher, sophomore.
Spring Feast: Sanja Popovic, freshman. (she joins co-chair Alice Fung)
Independent Research: Sanja Popovic (she joins co-chair Theresa Jacob)
Programming: Chris Ross and Kevin Heisler
A motion was made and seconded, voted on and approved to ratify the committee chairs.
9. Election:
Uncontested nominations require approval by Acclamation. Co-President Wei Lam read the slate which included the following new members:
Senior parent-at-large: Christina Ross
Junior parent-at-large: Steven Bloom
Freshman parents-at-large: Keumju Bang, Susanne Fischer; Kevin Heisler, Katherine Mastrota, and Sanja Popovic
The motion was made and seconded. A vote was taken and the slate of new members was approved.
10. Announcements:
The Co-Presidents made a series of announcements.
- a. Workshops are being held for seniors to learn how to conduct themselves at interviews. There are a limited number of slots. Interested seniors should see the guidance office.
 - b. Co-President Barbara Reiser asked for reports on particular rooms in the school building that are either too hot or too cold. Comments should be sent to the Health and Safety Committee. E-mail address: healthandsafety@stuy-pa.org.
 - c. The Chinese Outreach Committee meeting will take place Thursday, December 1, 2011.
 - d. Please support the Barnes and Noble book fair, December 9 – 12th. A percentage of sales goes to Stuyvesant PA.
 - e. Next PA General meeting is January 24, 2012. (No December meeting.) The featured program will address summer opportunities for students.
11. Hold the Date
- a. Spring Feast will take place on Friday, March 9, 2012.
 - b. College Night, open to junior students and their parents, will take place on Thursday, April 26, 2011.
12. Co-President Barbara Reiser introduced guest speaker Peter V. Johnson, Director of Undergraduate Admissions, Columbia University. Mr. Johnson made a highly informative presentation about college admissions, and admission to Columbia University in particular. (Note: Please see the upcoming February Stuyvesant Parents' Association *Bulletin* for coverage of his remarks.)
13. Adjournment: Following Peter Johnson's presentation, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made. The motion was seconded, voted upon and the meeting was adjourned at 8:56 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Alta Indelman, Recording Secretary