



**Stuyvesant High School Parents' Association
Minutes of the General Meeting of January 24, 2012**

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:07p.m.
2. Approval of Minutes of November 15, 2011 Meeting.
 - a. Co-President Barbara Reiser called for approval of the minutes from the November 15, 2011 General Meeting.
 - b. A motion was made to adopt the minutes.
 - c. The motion was seconded, voted on and approved.
3. Co-Presidents' Comments & Audience Q&A:
 - a. Barbara Reiser invited the audience to take the opportunity to ask questions.
 - i. One parent asked if the exterior construction on the school building is ongoing during the day. Principal Teitel explained that the work starts at 3:30 pm, after class hours. The exterior window sills are being replaced to address and prevent future leaks.
 - ii. Another parent referred to a comment in the PA's Sunday night e-blast and asked "Are arts classes diminishing? Will they be expanding?" Principal Teitel confirmed that the number of art classes offered would likely be diminishing. A new series of Applied Sciences courses will be added in the coming years to provide new class options to meet the revised graduation requirements that will start with the class of 2015. Courses that comply with the Applied Sciences requirement will be determined by the administration.
4. Message from the Principal:
 - a. Principal Teitel explained the "finals week" structure to Freshman parents.

The following exams will be given to Freshmen this week:

Global History	Art Appreciation
Math	Science

Students are only required to come to school on the days they have scheduled exams. There will be one exam per day. Principal Teitel explained that Regents exams are given in June except for students who were absent from last June's Regents exams or need to make up the exams for some other reasons.
 - b. Tuesday, January 31, 2012 is the first day of the spring semester. New programs and new Metrocards will be distributed.
 - c. The first two days of the new semester will be shortened days so that program changes can be made.
 - d. Students keep most books until June unless they have a class that only meets for one semester.
 - e. Principal Teitel spoke about SING! and encouraged Freshmen to get involved. He described it as "The best school spirit of the year." There are 3 SING!s, Freshman/Sophomore, Junior and Senior. SING! will take place on Friday, March 2 and Saturday March 3, 2012. Practice after school is everyday for 5 weeks.
5. Review of December Financial Reports:

Treasurer Bill Kaczmarek reviewed the December financial report.

 - a. Bill noted that the PA has 500k in the bank, currently, which is fairly typical because it includes the current year's expense budget and what we have raised for next year's expenses.
 - b. The PA received \$10,000 from the Baylin Trust in December, 2011, which is intended to partially cover the schools costs for converting a wood shop into a computer lab.
 - c. The audit for the year ended June 2011 is finished and is available for viewing online on the PA's website.
 - d. Income exceeded expenditures by \$5,000 in December because of year end donations from parents. Another round of appropriations will be reviewed in February, which will lead to a large outlay of cash in the spring.
6. College Committee Presentation:

Pam Lambert and Helen Van Rhy reported.

 - a. The committee is looking for volunteers for College Night which will take place on Thursday, April 26, 2012. Volunteers are needed to help serve food to the admissions officers who will be visiting, and to come earlier in the afternoon to help set up and decorate the school, and later to clean up.
 - b. Volunteers are needed Tuesday, February 7, 2012, from 7 to 9 pm, for a presentation by the Columbia Engineering School. The presentation will be for Stuyvesant Juniors as well as juniors from other schools.
 - c. The unofficial college process kickoff for juniors will take place on Wednesday, March 14, 2012 when college guidance counselor Pat Cleary will hold a meeting for junior parents. At this meeting, Ms. Cleary will explain the

procedure for setting up individual college advisement appointments with college guidance staff. An individual appointment offers the student and his/her parents an opportunity to ask questions one-on-one. Last year, approximately 400 families scheduled private advisements.

- d. Pam Lambert reminded parents that the second college tour trip, to Middle Atlantic Colleges, will take place from Friday, February 10 - Sunday, February 12, 2012.

7. Spring Feast Committee Presentation:

Sanja Popovic announced that:

- a. Tickets are on sale for the Feast.
- b. The deadline for placing ads in the Journal is Monday, February 27, 2012.
- c. Sanja asked parents to reach out to companies to place ads or sponsor the event. Online donations may be made at springfeast@stuy-PA.org. Journal ad reservations and artwork should be sent to stuyfeastjournal@stuy-PA.org.
- d. Co-President Wei Lam noted that the Spring Feast is on Friday, March 9, 2012.
- e. Donations are needed for the auction. Donation forms for the auction are available online on the PA's website.

8. Announcements:

- a. Co-President Wei Lam encouraged parents to reach out to the PA with questions and concerns.
- b. **Chinglish**, a Broadway play featuring a Stuyvesant alumnus Johnny Wu, will hold a question and answer session after the show on Friday, January 27, 2012 just for Stuy community members.
- c. The next issue of the PA *Bulletin* will arrive at home mailboxes approximately Wednesday, February 1, 2012.
- d. There will be no General Meeting in February because of the short month and mid winter break.
- e. Volunteers and desserts are needed for the Spring Faculty Reception that will take place on Thursday, March 29, 2012, which is the first of the two-day Parent/Teacher Conferences.
- f. Invited Speakers for upcoming Spring PA Meetings:
 - Stress management – Dr. Kimberly Williams
 - NYTimes Education writer Jacques Steinberg

9. Hold the Date:

Spring Feast	Friday, March 9, 2012
Junior Parents College Kick Off	Wednesday, March 14, 2012
College Night	Thursday, April 26, 2012

10. Kevin Heisler and Christine Ross, Co-Chairs of the Programming Committee, announced the evening's featured speakers.

- a. Jennifer Suri, AP of the Social Studies Department. Ms. Suri explained that the information in her presentation is available on the Social Studies website. She demonstrated a link that provides opportunities for students including contests, scholarships and internships. Ms. Suri highlighted several programs, including a few at the New York Historical Society, the Brooklyn Historical Society and the Museum of the City of New York.
- b. Mr. Daniel Tillman, a social studies teacher who was recently awarded a Fullbright Scholarship spoke about travel/study programs. He described a year long program in Germany which involves studying the German Congress. Other programs are available in the summer.
- c. Ms. Suri described a course which involves independent social science research. Papers written by the students taking this course are submitted to Intel and other competitions.
- d. Dr. Jonathan Gastel, the school's Research Coordinator, announced a new website about Stuyvesant research opportunities. www.Stuyresearch.org. The website will be up in March, 2012.
- e. Dr. Gastel spoke about improving the training provided at Stuy to nurture creative problem solvers. There are several paths to creative problem solving at the school including Math Team, speech and debate, robotics, and research class. Dr. Gastel spoke in detail about the research class, which he runs. This class is included in the category of "Project Based Education." In project based education, there is a 3-way relationship between students, teachers and mentors. The school's goal is to expand this program to accommodate 200 students by 2015.
- f. A question and answer period followed Dr. Gastel's presentation.
- g. Parent Coordinator, Harvey Blumm, gave a brief presentation on the larger picture of out-of-school opportunities and ways for students to find something fulfilling to do over the summer. Mr. Blumm discussed internships, travel programs, and academic programs at colleges or other institutions. Handouts were available that list organizations and opportunities. Harvey Blumm will also describe opportunities in his weekly newsletter most weeks.

11. Adjournment: Following Mr. Blumm's presentation, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made. The motion was seconded, voted up and the meeting as adjourned at 8:47 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Alta Indelman, Recording Secretary.