



**Stuyvesant High School Parents' Association
Minutes of the General Meeting of March 20, 2012**

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:12 p.m.
2. Approval of Minutes of January 24, 2012 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' announcements:
 - a. Co-President Barbara Reiser announced that the Spring Feast was a great success and that it brought in a little more money than last year. She asked for comments about the feast and thanked the various hardworking parent volunteers.
 - b. Comments: One parent suggested that more vegetarian options should be offered on the menu at future feasts.
4. Principal's Announcements:
 - a. Principal Teitel noted that the environmental survey for parents was sent home in a green envelope in the students' backpacks. Students received their forms in school today. The parent surveys can also be filled out online. Last year 90% of students fill out forms, 91% of teachers filled out the forms and only 27% of parents filled out forms! He asked for a better parent response this year.
 - b. Principal Teitel reminded parents that report cards will be distributed next week and that Parent/Teacher Conferences and open school will follow.
 - c. The state Education Department proposes that it will start grading Regents exams centrally starting in June 2013. The school will not be able to review their own tests. As part of a pilot program, two of Stuyvesant's Regents exams will be graded by the State this June.
 - d. The State Department of Education recently reviewed high school performance against an existing academic policy handbook. Per these standards, all students must receive a minimum 5½ hours of school – in supervised or instructional time. Some seniors currently may have fewer hours in their programs. The school is developing a strategy to make sure enough courses are available to allow all seniors to meet this requirement next year.
5. Message from Parent Coordinator:
 - a. Harvey Blumm made a few announcements. On Tuesday, April 17, 2012, Ms. Archie will hold a pre-college meeting for freshman and sophomore parents to give them a general overview of College Board tests and other preparatory steps towards the future college application process. He encouraged parents to have their children take SAT 2 subject tests in the classes which they are doing very well.
 - b. March 21, tomorrow, Phase 1 of online programming starts for September. The second phase of online programming will be in May.
6. Review of February Financial Reports:
 - a. 1st Vice President Dave Venderbush presented the February financial report.
 - b. He reported that we are slightly ahead of last year's revenue at this time.
 - c. A motion was made, seconded and voted on to approve the report.
7. Committee Updates:
 - a. Co-President Wei Lam spoke briefly about Spring Feast.
 - b. Wei reminded parents about the Barnes & Noble Book Fair which is still up, online, tonight.
 - c. The Faculty Reception will take place before Parent-Teacher Conferences on Thursday, May 29, 2012. Co-President Wei Lam asked for desserts to be contributed and for volunteers to help serve food to teachers and clean up at the event.
 - d. College Committee

- i. Co-President Barbara Reiser reported on behalf of the College Committee. College Night, for junior families, will take place on Thursday, April 26, 2012 with representatives from numerous colleges who will visit the school and be available for questions.
 - ii. The next, and final, group college trip will take place on Friday, April 20, 2012. Skidmore, Binghamton, Cornell, Hamilton, Vassar, Union and others are on the itinerary.
 - iii. Co-president Barbara Reiser reminded junior parents to go in to Parent Tools on the Stuyvesant website and book a college advisement appointment as soon as possible.

- 8. Announcements/Important Dates:
 - a. Round 1 of Fall online programming is this month.
 - b. Parent-Teacher Conferences is Thursday, March 29 and Friday, March 30, and Open School is Friday, March 30, 8am to noon.
 - c. Next General Meeting – Tuesday, April 24.
 - i. Bruce Hood, 2nd Vice President, noted that a nominating committee is being formed.
 - ii. Nominations for Executive Board will begin in April.
 - iii. Guest speaker Jacques Steinberg, author of *The Gatekeepers*, will make a presentation about college admissions.
 - d. SLT Updates:

Michele Herman reported on today's SLT meeting.

 - i. The administration proposed that only one major leadership position be held by any individual student.
 - ii. The students find "Writing Across the Curriculum" to be generally successful.
 - iii. The Tone Subcommittee looked at sources of student stress. The Committee reported that some teachers hand back only Scantron answer sheets with the grade, not the test, so grades are emphasized, not learning. Some teachers are reluctant to reveal the test because they are reused from year to year. Other teachers do review their tests.
 - iv. Some teachers don't return graded papers on time.
 - v. There was a proposal to move Health Class to Sophomore year to relieve the course load of Junior year.
 - vi. A discussion followed as to the importance of seeing test papers and learning from mistakes.
 - vii. One parent, who is a professor, compromises and allows about 5 minutes of test review and then asks students to come see him in his office if they have further questions.
 - viii. Next SLT meeting will focus on offerings of electives in the school. Michele Herman, Corresponding Secretary and Junior SLT Rep, encouraged parents interested in electives to attend the SLT meeting. Some art electives and 5 and 10 tech offerings are diminishing.
 - ix. One parent suggested that an actual handbook be printed with elective offerings.

- 9. Guest Speaker:

Chris Ross, Chair of the Programs Committee, introduced tonight's speaker, Dr. Kimberly Williams, a pediatric psychologist and neurophysiologist. Dr. Williams made a presentation about adolescent stress, particularly in high achieving teens, and measures that can be taken to help with these issues. Also present, to answer questions about school resources, were Assistant Principal Eleanor Archie, Parent Coordinator Harvey Blumm, SPARK Coordinator Angel Colon and Phong Nguyen, Stuyvesant's Social Worker.

- 10. Adjournment: Following Dr. Williams' presentation, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made. The motion was seconded, voted on and the meeting was adjourned at 8:53 pm.