



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

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m.
2. Approval of Minutes:
 - a. Co-President Barbara Reiser called for approval of the minutes from the March 20, 2012 General Meeting.
 - b. A motion was made to adopt the minutes.
 - c. The motion was seconded, voted on and approved.
3. Review of Financial Reports:

Co-President Wei Lam reviewed the financial report from the end of March. Wei noted that we are about \$35,000 behind in our goal for raising money and an additional appeal notice will be going out to the parents shortly.
4. Message from the Principal:

Principal Teitel noted that we are about 2 weeks away from the AP exams. Mr. Teitel asked parents to show extra support to the kids who are under extreme stress. He reminded parents to understand that the students may be touchy. SAT II exams and Regents are coming up in June.
5. Review and Request for Approval of Appropriations Committee Recommendations:

Co-President Wei Lam introduced Francois Attal, Chair of the Appropriations Committee, to make the presentations. There were 28 requests for PA funding. Nineteen projects were approved by the Committee. A handout was available listing the various recommended requests. A total of \$47,324 in appropriations was recommended by the Committee. Co-President Barbara Reiser asked for a motion to approve the Appropriations Committee's recommended list of grants. The motion was made, seconded and voted up. Checks will be issued by the end of next week.
6. Message from the Parent Coordinator:
 - a. Parent Coordinator Harvey Blumm expressed his delight in seeing Guest Speaker Mr. Jacques Steinberg.
 - b. Harvey Blumm thanked the PA on behalf of the teachers for the generous support in the form of appropriations.
 - c. Harvey Blumm encourages students still looking for summer plans to come see him. He reaches out to parents to find out if anyone can use a student intern.
 - d. Harvey Blumm advised that many parents have received mailings from for-profit organizations offering summer experiences. Parents should understand that many other less expensive types of experiences are just as valuable.
 - e. A group of students are participating in a fundraiser for an orphanage in Ethiopia. A request for toys, books and other contributions was made.
7. Co-President Comments:

Co-President Barbara Reiser made the following announcements:

 - a. Friday, April 27, is the last day to book a private advisement consultation with a Stuy college counselor.
 - b. Thursday evening is College Night for Juniors and their parents. 189 Colleges will be represented. The event is scheduled from 5:50 – 8:30. College Committee Co-Chair Barbara Helen Van Rhyn asked for parent volunteers to help with the event from 3 pm to 8 pm.
 - c. Principal Teitel will be the guest speaker and will take questions at the PA's next General meeting on May 22, 2012. PA officers' elections will also take place at this meeting.
8. Message from the Nominating Committee:

2nd Vice President Bruce Hood asked for nominations for upcoming PA and SLT elections. Co-President Wei Lam announced that forms were available for pick up at the hand-outs table that night. There are many positions available and she encouraged everyone to think about running.
9. Committee Updates:

- a. Co-President Wei Lam said that the Spring Feast netted approximately \$18,000, a similar amount to last year. Part of this money will fund college advisements next year and the rest will go to appropriations.
- b. College Committee Co-Chair Helen Van Rhyn described the procedure at College Night. Up to 4 college presentation sessions can be attended by each family.

10. Announcements/Important Dates:

- a. Co-President Wei Lam described the 2 phases of online programming. Round 1 was completed in April. Round 2 will be in May.

11. SLT Meeting Report:

- a. Wei Lam reported on today's SLT meeting and Principal Teitel explained the 4 goals proposed for the CEP.
 1. Continue to incorporate writing assignments into curriculum to align with Common Core.
 2. Strengthen advisement to give students opportunities to learn about various professions.
 3. Elevate student research skills by expanding opportunities to participate in small group projects in the classroom. Examples:

BATS	Biology advanced topics
CATS	Chemistry advanced topics
PHATS	Physics advanced topics
 4. Improve skills associated with understanding non-fiction independent reading.
- b. There was a discussion at the SLT on how to improve guidance workshops by making them more interactive and including peer presentations.
- c. Electives: The SLT discussed electives in Stuy's curriculum. The following are a few of the many points made: A varied education is valued at Stuyvesant. Make sure that both arts and academic electives don't lose out. Electives availability is constrained by budget. To satisfy NYS graduation requirements, seniors' schedules must contain five and a half hours of instructional or supervised time, and Physical Education every other day. This may result in more elective seats distributed to senior, with fewer openings available to juniors and lower grade students. A committee of the SLT was formed to continue the discussion.

12. Guest Speaker:

College Committee Co-Chair Pam Lambert introduced the guest speaker, Mr. Jacques Steinberg, education reporter for the NY Times. He spoke about the college admissions process from two different perspectives: as the editor of the blog NYTimes.com/the-choice and as author of the book, The Gatekeepers.

13. Adjournment:

Following Mr. Steinberg's presentation, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made. The motion was seconded, voted on and the meeting was adjourned at 8:36 p.m.