



## Stuyvesant High School Parents' Association Minutes of the General Meeting of December 18, 2012

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:11 p.m. by Co-Presidents Chris Ross and Peter Galasinao.
2. Approval of Minutes: A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the November 20, 2012 meeting. A vote was taken and the minutes were approved.
3. Co-Presidents' Greetings:
  - a. Thank yous:
    - Many thanks to Julie Law and Jessica Berfond for tonight's tempting refreshments.
    - Many thanks to Haiying Ju, Dinah Zhang, James Du, Lixin Zhang, Wai Wah Chin, Aileen Zhong, and Julie Law for making our first Chinese Outreach Meeting of the Year (held on December 5) such a big success.
      - We look forward to holding our next Chinese Outreach meeting featuring College Counselor Jeremy Wang in late January or early February. (Exact date TBD.)
  - b. Announcements:
    - Annual Appeal – please check your mail: Annual Appeal letters should be in your mailbox. The annual appeal is very important and we are behind in our fundraising efforts.
      - i. Stuyvesant students depend on your support for enrichment programs (Research, Music, Theater, etc.) and extra-curriculars (clubs, publications and sports teams.)
      - ii. This year giving is down – we are well behind in our effort to reach this year's fundraising goal.
      - iii. Please give generously (your donation is fully tax-deductible and may be made by check or credit card.)
    - The second of three College Bus Tours for Juniors is being planned - look for details and updates.
    - Our inaugural Breakfast with the Principal last week was a big success - our huge thanks to Principal Zhang who graciously spent most of the morning speaking with attendees and answering their questions. The date for our February breakfast is TBA. These events will take place monthly or bi-monthly.
    - Teacher Comment forms: Students can ask one teacher per semester to write an evaluation, which is passed along to the guidance office for future use re: college applications.
  - c. Upcoming Events:
    - School resumes on Wednesday, January 2.
    - Regents and Finals week – students are required to come to school only on the days and at the times for which they have an exam scheduled.
    - Next PA General Meeting will be on Tuesday, January 22.
4. Brief Summary of Current Financial Position:

Treasurer Steven Bloom gave a quick overview of how we're doing. Income was just shy of \$9,000 in November compared to \$12,000 last year. This fiscal year, we have raised \$45,000 since July as compared to \$61,000 last year at this time. Steven noted that this year's fundraising will go to next year's budget. If the budget is down, it will impact next year's appropriations unless other fundraising efforts are implemented.
5. Presentation for Approval of Proposed Appropriations:

Appropriations Committee Chair Barbara Reiser presented the Fall 2012 Appropriations Docket that the EB approved at the December 4, 2012 meeting. Charts were handed out in the Lobby listing the requests and recommendations for funding made by the committee for the fall (first of two) cycle of appropriations.

  - a. There were 49 requests for funding. The committee recommended funding 33 of these requests. The total amount of the recommendations comprise approximately 50% of the appropriations budget for this academic year.
  - b. In response to a question from the floor, Barbara gave a brief overview of how the committee researched and deliberated on each request. Barbara explained the general guidelines for PA fundraising, which are also listed on the PA's website. Requests for funding should have one or more of the following goals:
    - Improve how students are educated.
    - Strengthen students physical, mental or emotional capacities and resiliency.
    - Improve and strengthen student's communication skills and social awareness.

The application forms are distributed to faculty and the COSA (Coordinator of Student Activities). Requests are divided among parent volunteers who assess each one for completeness and alignment with the above three goals. In response to an audience query, Barbara Reiser further explained how funding was awarded to sports teams.

- c. Additional appropriations will be made in the spring. A motion was made, seconded and voted upon to approve the grant recommendations. The motion was unanimously approved.

6. Principal's Announcements:

- a. Interim Acting Principal Zhang is now a candidate for the permanent position and has been interviewed.
- b. There was a very successful parents' breakfast with the Principal. The next breakfast will be in early February.
- c. During the breakfast the school held its first lock down drill. Principal Zhang asked that parents speak to their children about the drill and suggestions to improve safety.
- d. Principal Zhang talked about parent concerns regarding this year's college early admissions results. Some parents worried that last year's cheating incident may have influenced some decisions. The principal noted that there was a higher number of deferrals this year because of an increased number of early applications to a number of colleges.

7. Tonight's Topic: To what extent has your college experience so far matched (or not) your expectations? Co-President Chris Ross introduced a panel of recent Stuyvesant graduates.

- Willa Beckman (Wesleyan '15)
- Justyna Bujno (Cornell Engineering '16)
- Andrew Chow (Harvard '14)
- Jamie Oliver (Princeton '16)
- Amanda Pagul (UChicago '15)
- Tyler Ross (UChicago '16)
- Victor Zhao (Cornell '16)

8. Adjournment: After the presentation, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:37 pm.