

Stuyvesant High School Parents' Association Minutes of the Meeting of January 26, 2016

The meeting of the Stuyvesant PA General Membership was called to order by Co-Presidents David Venderbush and Lynn Chen at 7:02 pm on Tuesday, January 26, 2016.

Opening Remarks

- Co-President David Venderbush welcomed the membership and thanked the PA for its support of the new sound system in the auditorium.

Minutes

- Without objection, the Minutes of the December 15, 2015 general PA meeting were approved.

Principal Zhang's Remarks

- Principal Zhang also thanked the PA for its support of the new sound system in the auditorium, as well as the local politicians involved in obtaining grants. She noted that contractors are looking at the lighting in the auditorium next and that the school may be looking to upgrade the sound systems in three music rooms as well.
- Principal Zhang noted that this week is the last week of fall semester. Final exams are taking place and students will have no school on Friday and Monday; classes will resume on Tuesday, February 2. She noted that some parents have expressed concerns about student stress, and she will be talking with them about initiatives she is taking in that regard.
- On February 15, approximately 100 students and a few faculty members will perform Mozart's Requiem at Carnegie Hall. Parents interested in tickets should contact Principal Zhang's secretary. Another (free) performance will take place at the school in April.
- Principal Zhang wished everyone a Happy Lunar New Year, noting that for the first time NYC public schools will have the day off (this year, February 8).

Special Election

- Amanda Moretti announced that only one nomination for the vacant position of Treasurer had been received and therefore, according to the DOE regulations and PA By-Laws, the election of the nominee can be affirmed by voice vote.
- A voice vote was taken, and the election of Iris Lam, previously serving as Interim Acting Treasurer, was confirmed.

Financial Report

- Treasurer Iris Lam introduced herself and noted that she was a Co-chair of Spring Feast last year and has also served in the past as Treasurer of Brooklyn Tech High School.
- Iris gave an overview of the income statement as of December 15. Income was \$41,523 and expenses were approximately \$10,000. Spring Feast ticket sales are going very well; the ticket price will be going up at the end of the month.

SLT Report/Grant-Writing

- Julie Brown gave a brief description of the role of the SLT, which meets once a month to discuss curriculum and set goals that are filed with the DOE.

- Julie reported that the SLT reviewed the status of certain school facilities' items: A new custodian has been hired who has a long backlog of items to address. Half of the old ray tube TVs have been removed. A couple of students have volunteered to review the state of student bathrooms with the custodian to identify issues.
- Julie reported on security concerns in Battery Park City and surrounding areas and noted that the BPC Authority has changed the company it uses for security in the area. The new company has less power and the neighborhood is starting to see more incidents. Additionally, a teacher called to the SLT's attention a scam near the subway involving the sale of candy as a distraction for pickpocketing. Two parents have volunteered to meet with Mr. Moran in order to put together a plan of action to take to Principal Zhang and thereafter to the BPC Authority to address concerns about student and community safety.
- Julie noted that she also serves as chair of the Grant-writing Committee. New grant proposals are due in a couple of weeks and the Committee has been busy working with Principal Zhang on that. The top priority with respect to new grants are the science labs.

Spring Feast

- Sylvia Ramos, Co-Chair of Spring Feast, noted that last year 800 people attended Spring Feast; this year the hope is to sell 1,000 tickets. Already 40 tables (400 seats) have been sold.
- A Taylor Swift diamond headband will be the special item that will be auctioned off during Spring Feast at a live auction.
- Parents are asked to approach local businesses to ask for donations for the online auction, which will run from April 1 to April 15. More information is available on the SF Facebook page.
- Co-President Venderbush thanked Sylvia and the SF team for their hard work.

Special Presentations

- **Calvin Coolidge Presidential Foundation Scholarship:** Ms. Jen Buxton gave a presentation on the new Calvin Coolidge scholarship opportunity. The Coolidge Scholarship is open to all high school juniors who will attend college or university in the United States, and is a full scholarship covering tuition, fees, and room & board. Ms. Buxton gave an overview of the application process for the scholarship; the deadline to apply is March 18. More information can be found at www.coolidgescholars.org.
- **Summer Opportunities for Students:** Mr. Harvey Blumm, former Parent Coordinator and current Guidance Counselor, asked parents to remind their students to fill out Teacher Comment and Extracurricular Activities forms (available online) and submit them to their guidance counselors, who will use them when preparing SSRs during the college application process. Mr. Blumm then gave a presentation on summer internships and other opportunities for Stuyvesant students, and how students can find them. Handouts with information were available to parents at the Meeting and can also be found online. A video of the live presentation will be made available online.

Following the Special Presentations, the meeting was adjourned at 8:24 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by
Patricia Ceruzzi, Recording Secretary

