

Stuyvesant High School Parents' Association Minutes of the Meeting of March 22, 2016

The meeting of the Stuyvesant PA General Membership was called to order by Co-Presidents David Venderbush and Lynn Chen at 7:11 pm on Tuesday, March 22, 2016.

Opening Remarks

- Co-Presidents David Venderbush and Lynn Chen welcomed the membership to the meeting.

Minutes

- Without objection, the Minutes of the February 23, 2016 general PA meeting were approved.

Principal Zhang's Remarks

- Principal Zhang reported on the successful performances of SING! Two weeks ago; a full house at the March 3rd Breakfast with the Principal; and the Parent Teacher Conferences on March 17 and 18. Last night Open House for newly accepted students brought crowds of prospective students and their parents into the school. She reported that 950 offers were made to prospective incoming freshmen and 14 offers to current 9th graders to enter the school as sophomores.
- The school Survey is taking place now. Most were distributed to students in class to bring home and about 15% were mailed. Last year more than 50% of the surveys distributed were returned and the Principal hopes that record will be exceeded this year.
- A free performance of Mozart's *Requiem* by Stuyvesant students (reprising their Carnegie Hall appearance) will take place at the school on April 15, 6:00 pm.
- Principal Zhang has spoken with her Assistant Principals regarding testing following school breaks. Virtually all have agreed tests will not take place on the Monday following Easter weekend.

Financial Report

- Treasurer Iris Lam reported that approximately \$19,900 was raised during the month of February, with expenses of approximately \$4,078 for net income of \$15,838.

Appropriations

- Beth Bacon presented the recommendation for Spring cycle appropriations and described the process by which requests are made and considered.
- Without objection, the 2016 Spring appropriations were approved by the general PA membership at the Meeting.
- David thanked Beth and the entire Appropriations Committee for their dedicated efforts.

SLT Report

- Julie Brown reported on the most recent SLT meeting that took place two weeks ago. She said the team spent considerable time discussing homework policies throughout the school. The SLT is working toward collecting all the homework policies in one place and discussing how to enforce them, as well as how students can report violations.

- The SLT is also looking into a program for freshmen to help them adapt to the high school experience both academically and socially.
- Improvements continue to be made regarding facilities throughout the school. Students should report problems to a teacher, the AP of Organization or a custodian
- The next SLT meeting takes place at 3:45 pm on April 5. All are welcome.

Spring Elections

- Second Vice President Amanda Moretti announced that Spring elections will take place at the May general PA meeting for all Executive Board positions (excluding Parent-at-Large positions) and all SLT representatives (other than for the incoming freshmen class).
- The Spring elections will be run by a Nominating Committee of parent volunteers. Amanda asked the general PA membership to ratify the Nominating Committee, which will consist of: Carin Barbanel, Mei Zhou, Louise Stocker, George Lee, Amanda Moretti, and Abigail Bedrick. By show of hands, the vote carries and the composition of the Nominating Committee is ratified.

Phonathon

- First Vice President Maitland Jones reported that a fundraising Phonathon will take place on from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm on March 30 and 31, during which parent volunteers will call other parents for donations to the Annual Appeal. Details are on the PA's website and volunteers can sign up there.

Spring Feast

- Ticket sales for Spring Feast, which will take place on April 8, are going very well. Over 800 tickets have sold so far and they are expected to sell out, so interested parents should purchase their tickets soon.
- Sylvia Ramos, Co-Chair of Spring Feast, reported that the gala event will feature a silent auction and a live auction, as well as an online auction that will launch soon, and thanked her co-chairs Carol Meltzer and Tao Meng for their hard work and many hours spent in organizing all aspects of the event.
- David thanked the Spring Feast committee chairs for their efforts and showcased the four special items, all donated, that will be auctioned off by live auction during the event (Taylor Swift headband, Adele earrings, Carrie Underwood necklace, and gold coin).
- Co-president Lynn Chen reported that the updated number of tickets sold is 865 and there might be a need to cap the number of tickets sold at 900 in order to allow space in the restaurant for the silent auction, so interested parents should get their tickets asap. Ticket prices will increase on March 25.

Special Presentation

- **SAT vs ACT:** Robin Kaufman, Pre-College Programs Manager, and Cailin Papszycki, Regional Director, of Kaplan gave a presentation on aspects of the new SAT and the ACT.

Following the Special Presentation, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by
Patricia Ceruzzi, Recording Secretary

