

## **Stuyvesant High School Parents' Association Minutes of the Meeting of January 24, 2017**

The meeting of the Stuyvesant PA General Membership was called to order at approximately 7:08 pm on Tuesday, January 24, 2017 by PA Co-President David Venderbush.

### **Welcome**

All attending parents were welcomed to the General Meeting.

### **Minutes**

The minutes of the December 13, 2016 PA General Meeting were approved without objection.

### **Remarks by Interim Acting Principal Contreras**

- Mr. Contreras updated the revamping of various research programs, including, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Math and also adding Social Science research.
- Stuyvesant will modernize the technology & engineering curriculum by adding CAD and Fabrication. This was approved at the recent PA Executive Board meeting.
- Mr. Contreras noted successes by the Robotics team which placed 1<sup>st</sup> in a "small bot" competition. He also noted successes by the Speech and Debate team.
- The school is looking to begin an in-house SAT program. Look for more information in upcoming newsletters sent by Parent Coordinator Dina Ingram.
- The new Freshman Seminar is gearing up to start soon.
- The annual SING! Production will take place on March 1, 3 and 4.

### **Remarks by Parent Coordinator Dina Ingram**

- Spring College trip for Juniors will take place on March 31. Schools to be visited are Princeton, Lehigh & Lafayette. There are 100 spots. Sign up is first come, first served.
- Priority will be given to those who did NOT go on fall trip – sign up for this group starts Feb.8, for everyone else, Feb. 13.
- ARISTA applications are due by February 27. 92 or higher GPA required. This is for sophomores. Visit [Apply.Arista.Org](http://Apply.Arista.Org)
- Parent Teacher conferences will take place on March 23 & 24.
- The next breakfast with the principal will take place on March 2.
- A Wellness workshop for parents will take place on March 7 in the evening. There will be Spin class, Yoga, Nutritionist. Also speaker Wendy Suzuki, and NYU professor of neuroscience who also has done several TED talks.
- Sophomore Parent night will take place on February 28 in the Cafeteria.
- If parents are not receiving Dina's email-newsletter, please sign up at the [Stuy.edu](http://Stuy.edu) website.

### **Financial Report**

- Treasurer Iris Lam gave a brief financial report.
- Copies of the financial report were made available to parents prior to the start of the meeting.

### **Special Appropriation Update**

- The PA Executive Board recently approved \$178,000 in funding for the proposed Innovation Lab project (which has a total cost of approximately \$500,000, most of which were sourced by grants).
- However, subsequent to approving this funding, Stuyvesant was successful in obtaining an additional \$300,000 grant from Council Member Chin (see SLT report which follows below).
- Therefore, the \$178,000 approved by the PA Executive Board is no longer needed for the Innovation Lab project, and there is no need to have a General Meeting vote on this item.
- The PA Executive Board will in the near future consider other potential projects to re-allocate those funds to, such as the Energy Lab and other projects that are being developed by Mr. Contreras, and by others.

### **SLT Report**

- Senior Parent SLT rep Julie Brown gave a brief report on the January 10 SLT meeting
- Julie noted the strong support Stuyvesant has received from elected officials in recent years, in particular grants totaling \$1.150 million during the past 3 years from City Council Member Margaret Chin, and from Borough President Gale Brewer.
- Great work by everyone involved on behalf of Stuyvesant, including parents Julie Brown and Joy Devries Heinze, and AP Scott Thomas.
- Parents are welcome to attend and observe SLT meetings. The next meeting will take place on February 7<sup>th</sup> at 3:45 pm.

### **Stuyvesant Phonathon (Fundraiser)**

- Parent Volunteers are needed for the phonathon, which will take place on March 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> from 6pm – 9pm at a location in midtown (West 42<sup>nd</sup> St.).
- Please check the Parent E-News emails for sign up information through “Sign Up Genius”.

### **Spring Feast**

- Andrew Cribb provided an update on Spring Feast which will take place at the Jing Fong restaurant in Chinatown on March 31, 2017.
- Goal is 1,000 attendees. In addition to parents, students are welcome to attend.
- There are various ways to purchase tickets. See E-News and/or the PA website.
- Additional information is available on the PA website.
- Parents that may be interested in volunteering for various PA events such as Spring Feast should send an email to [Volunteers@stuy-pa.org](mailto:Volunteers@stuy-pa.org).

### **Featured Speaker: Harvey Blumm, Stuyvesant Internship Coordinator**

- Mr. Blumm discussed how students could Identify, Locate and Secure Internship opportunities, which represent short term job experience.
- Some internships are paid; some are unpaid.
- It is not enough to be a top student. Extracurricular activities – both at Stuy, or outside, are important.
- Internship opportunities should align with a student’s interest.
- They are beneficial for college applications / admittance
- They help students to develop and grow.
- After completing an internship, students should make sure to get a letter evidencing their work (similar to a teach recommendation).
- The Guidance Office keeps a college folder for each student.

- Parents can & should help where they can:
  - Ask friends, colleagues, neighbors
  - Search the internet
  - Make cold calls
  - Use professional associations
  - Search colleges for opportunities
  - Ask Stuy department APs for help.
- When should you do this ? Now ...
- A couple of specific ideas that Mr. Blumm mentioned were:
  - AOL has a paid internship for 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> graders. 8-10 spots. See Mr. Blumm's next newsletter for details.
  - NYC has a Summer Youth Employment Page, which has opportunities available by lottery. Check for this in March & April.
- Parents in need of a Naviance account should go to Room 225 to get a password or other help. They can also go to the Naviance Family Connection online for additional information.

### **Upcoming Meetings / Other**

- The next General Meeting of the Parents Association will take place on February 15 at 7:00 pm. Refreshments will be available starting at 6:30 pm. Please note that this meeting will occur on a Wednesday, due to Valentine's Day falling on Tuesday the 14<sup>th</sup>.
- The Faculty Reception will take place on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, prior to the Parent Teacher conferences. Volunteers are needed, Please contact Sindi Kaplan to volunteer or ask questions.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:39 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by  
 Ross Weiner, Recording Secretary

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Note: The PA Website can be found at [www.Stuy-PA.org/welcome](http://www.Stuy-PA.org/welcome)