

Stuyvesant High School Parents' Association
Minutes of the Meeting of 9/29/15

The first meeting of the Stuyvesant PA General Membership for the 2015-2016 year was called to order by Co-Presidents David Venderbush and Lynn Chen at 7:08 pm on Tuesday, September 29, 2015.

Welcome Remarks

- The Co-Presidents introduced themselves and invited the membership to make suggestions during the year for further programming/activities.
- Sylvia Ramos, Corresponding Secretary, reminded parents to sign up for the PA's Listserv, and to visit the newly updated PA Website. She also requested volunteers for the Stuy Open House, which will take place on October 5-6.

Minutes

- President Venderbush explained that as a non-profit organization, at each PA General Meeting the membership will be presented with minutes from the prior meeting for approval.
- Without objection, the Minutes of the 5/26/2015 were approved.

SLT/Grants

Julie Brown, SLT chair and chair of the Grant Writing Committee, discussed the SLT and grant writing opportunities:

- Student Leadership Team (SLT):
 - Julie gave a description of the SLT, and noted further information about the SLT can be found on the PA's website. SLT meetings are held once a month, generally at 3:45 PM on a Tuesday. Julie reported on the first SLT meeting of the year, which took place earlier today, at which Principal Zhang updated the SLT on beginning of the year matters.
 - Julie noted that elections for a Freshman and a Junior parent SLT representative (plus alternates) will take place at the October PA General Meeting.
- Grants:
 - Julie reported on the use of past grants from Borough President Gale Brewer's office and Councilwoman Margaret Chin's office as sources of funding for the theater flooring and seating upgrades which have taken place; and that an additional \$150,000 and \$100,000 new grants have been awarded from Ms. Brewer's and Ms. Chin's offices, respectively, which will be directed towards upgrading the theater's sound and lighting systems.
 - Julie solicited volunteers for the small but growing Grant Writing Committee. Training will be provided to new volunteers.

- Going forward, the Grant Writing Committee will be seeking grants that may be used toward upgrading the science labs and robotics programs, among other things.

Co-President Venderbush thanked the Grant Writing Committee, which last year raised funds that almost doubled Annual Fund contributions. He pointed out that all donations help, including in making appropriations to Stuy students' extensive publication and club activities.

Elections

- Elections for parent-at-large positions for each grade will take place at the next PA General Meeting in October, as well as elections for one Freshman and one Junior parent representative (plus alternates) to the SLT.

Financial Report

- Treasurer Ella Zhou presented the financial report and reiterated that all donations, however small, make a difference.
- Over the summer, the first installment of \$137,000 was paid towards the theater upgrades.
- Balance sheet is very robust.

Call for Volunteers/Spring Feast Preview/Upcoming Events

- Sylvia Ramos highlighted important volunteer opportunities and encouraged parents to join the PA's efforts to fundraise.
- Spring Feast will take place on April 1, 2016. The theme is "Our Future's So Bright, We've Gotta Wear Shades". Ms. Ramos pointed out that Spring Feast is the one time each year that the entire Stuy community (parents, students, faculty, administration) gathers to raise money.
- The first meeting of the Spring Feast Committee will take place on November 5, 2015, at 5:00 pm at the Tribeca Whole Foods. All are welcome.
- There will be a Sophomore-Freshman parent meetup on October 14, 2015, at 6 pm at the Tribeca Whole Foods.
- Co-President Venderbush encouraged all to attend the Breakfast with the Principal on October 2, 2015.

Principal Zhang's Remarks

- Principal Zhang reported on the opening of school year. She also reported on the status of the various theater upgrades, noting that it is hoped that the sound and lighting upgrades will be completed by December, and thanked the PA for its support in this project.
- Principal Zhang discussed communications between parents and the school, noting that it is a large school with 3,323 students as of this date.
 - DOE Chancellor Farina decided to replace ARIS (purchased under former chancellor Joe Klein) with a new citywide system, My Account. Information on the new system will be provided to students in homerooms. System is under development; over time it will be populated with additional information (as of now it contains Regents scores and Attendance information).
 - In addition, Freshman and their parents have now been given access to Student and Parent Tools, but the Daedelus system used for these functions will be terminated by the vendor in two weeks. Thereafter, a new system will be in place; information regarding the

transition will be provided. All freshmen have been given access to Student Tools. The plan is that if parents are registered with the old Daedelus system, there will be an automatic transfer of data (although initial registration will still be required). Therefore, Principal Zhang urged any parents not yet registered with Parent Tools to do so. This system provides more information (e.g., report cards, transcripts, etc.) than is found on the DOE's old ARIS/new MyAccount system.

Communications

Casey Pedrick, Interim Acting Assistant Principal of Guidance, also reported on communications between parents and the schools.

- Students stay with their homeroom and guidance counselor all four years.
- Parent Coordinator position is currently not filled; in the meantime, parents should reach out to the Guidance Department, Assistant Principals or Casey's office with questions normally directed to the Parent Coordinator.
- Time management workshops for freshmen by Guidance Counselors have begun.
- New initiative to provide all students with a stuy.edu email address is rolling out.
- Ms. Pedrick took many questions from the floor concerning communications with teachers, parent teacher conference protocols, guidance counselor communications, college counselor workloads, clubs/pubs, first marking period grading protocols, etc.
- Club/Pub Fair for students scheduled for October 1-2.
- Big Sib/Little Sib dance scheduled for October 9.

Upcoming Events

- October 2 - Breakfast with the Principal
- October 13 - PA Executive Board Meeting
- October 27 - PA General Meeting, including Elections and Programming Department presentation
- November 19-20 - Parent Teacher Conferences
- November 19 - Faculty Reception

The Meeting was Adjourned at 8:29 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by
Patricia Ceruzzi,
Recording Secretary