



Stuyvesant High School Parents' Association Minutes of the General Meeting of April 21, 2020

Please note that due to situation with the COVID-19 epidemic, this meeting was held live remotely via Zoom and streamed via YouTube where participants tuned in.

The virtual meeting was called to order at 7:09pm.

Welcome:

Co-President Alex Shafran welcomed the parents. Susan Fennessey paved way with the agenda.

Principal's Report – Mr. Eric Contreras

Mr. Contreras expressed gratitude to all and wished families safe and well. Special thanks were given to Alex, Susan and entire PA, first responders and their family members, school staff also comprising of cafeteria and security workers. Ensured that Stuyvesant community will be rebuilding with strength and resiliency as we have gone through so many difficult events and pulled through.

Remote Learning:

Remote learning conversations started a week in advance before the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. Expectations for Remote Learning includes platforms of use to engage students in meaningful ways. DOE does not mandate live sessions. Most of teachers are using Google classrooms as there were only 3 days before schools closed which did not provide ample time to prepare, therefore using platform of greatest knowledge and strength.

Challenges of remote learning include the following factors: 1) not all resources were available as Stuyvesant is not a well financially positioned school; 2) access to devices – reaching out to help students that have limited device or only one device at home; 3) Wi-Fi availability - Working with families to get them set up; 4) family and health trauma; 5) financial/economic impact as a lot of families work in the service sector/industry or private businesses.

Need to start to look at what it is going to be like going forward. If we continue to have a modified remote situation, answer is to do the most in the curriculum as we can to prepare students for the next curriculum.

Addressing some parts of response:

- Modification to Talos were made to communicate updates (guidance and communication was increased)
- Student engagement to speak once a week and updates given to counselors to facilitate outreach (not mandated by the DOE)
- Work took place with PA and Alumni, to assist with modifications to remote learning schedule, focus on health, wellness and guidance.
- Continual weekly newsletters sent out by Dina, student opportunities by Harvey.
- Mr. Contreras also relayed that he has weekly meetings with the UFT.

Grading scales:

Several options to consider: Pass/Fail, Letter A-F, Number grades. Stuyvesant is utilizing ESNU grades thru 2nd marking period. 3rd marking period may be better suited for ESNU or P/F. Need a ruling from DOE for third marking period, however Stuyvesant may be recommending other methodology. ESNU are used with # ranges.

Senior graduation 2020:

Stuyvesant is going to set up PA committee to meet with senior caucus to determine a company that will be able to do a virtual graduation. Also considering a venue in the summer or possible in-person graduation later. Colleges have been working with the students to let them know that all is ok, that they will work with students on college admissions.

Director of Family Engagement – Ms. Dina Ingram

“Strength of Stuyvesant community is unmatched and getting stronger every day.”

- Before students left, Dr. Haber surveyed students on device needs. Survey on remote learning. PA had stepped up to help on funding. Waiting to receive devices and currently tracking.
- Do not have access to blue emergency contact card. Suggested parents to use the MyHealth link to enter this data (can find in Ms. Ingram's emails).

- Communication put in place to have streamlined (No switchboard to transfer to hundreds of employees):
- Collaborate to do "Office Hours w/ the Principal" – 1- 1 ½ hours
- Continue grade specific workshops – What to expect first year of college (partner with PA)
- Use blogs, social media websites to reach out.

Treasurer's Report – Ms. Belinda Leung

Ms. Leung gave an overview of the Treasurer's Report. Net income of \$159K – this is an increase of \$153K compared to the same period prior year. This was due to a strong annual appeal and matching gifts. Susan Fennessey thanked all parents who have donated as she also communicated that the DOE announced that the budget is going to be reduced for next year.

Committee Reports -

Appropriations – Ms. Geri Amara

Being launched for Fall 2020. Applications will be available and distributed to usual faculty this week via email (no paper submissions). Final approval will not happen until the fall in September GM. Depending what will happen within the fall the Appropriations Committee will adjust and work within those parameters.

College Committee – Isabelle Krishana

Virtual career week 5 straight days next week where professional panelists and Stuyvesant Alumni will be sharing their career journeys. Also working with IvyWise who reached out to offer their help to provide essay writing for Stuy Juniors. Additional updates are available by subscribing to the Stuyvesant PA newsletter.

Health and Safety – Joanne Giordano

Working as a committee to help share info with our community via a community newsletter. There are plans to hold several virtual community forums as outreach to help connect our community through the COVID-19 crisis.

Outreach – Mandy Wong

Outreach Meeting that was to be held back in February was postponed. Thursday, May 7th is next Chinese Outreach meeting. Cecilia Yang will talk about college and at different stages to support students. Will also reach out to our social media platform and Instagram account.

Spring Feast – Susan Fennessey

Unfortunately, had to cancel SF on April 3rd due to COVID-19, big loss of community to hold event. As a result, Spring Feast revenue is down. Emails have been circulated for the continuation for Spring Feast into next week. Raffle is closed, with about \$4K raised. Online auction closes midnight on 4/22. Giving tree will remain open until 4/26 to give to Stuyvesant departments (e.g.; Sports) or the option to donate to COVID-19 Relief Fund. Merchandise is available on the Stuyvesant eBay site. With respect to items that are part of the online auction, the PA will work hard to mail items to the purchaser. Shipping will be waived for purchases over \$50.

Announcements - Susan Fennessey

Elections for school year for Fall 2020 PA officers and SLT delegates:

PA elections may not be held due to restrictions imposed by COVID-19. This event must be held on-site under DOE regulations. Susan encouraged Stuyvesant parents to consider running for a position. Members are needed for Communication and Fundraising Committees. New committee is being formed to address senior events this year.

Raffle Drawing held live in the PA GM – Principal Mr. Contreras picked the winners:

Kelly Anson - Beats headphones
David Lau - \$500 Amazon card
David Uh – iPhone (grand prize)

Special Presentation

Topic: AP Presentations – Dr. Haber opened up the presentation

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:12pm

Submitted by Jimmy Hsu, Recording Secretary

