



Stuyvesant High School Parents' Association Minutes of the General Meeting of May 19, 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 7:00pm.

Welcome:

Co-President Alex Shafran welcomed the parents.

Susan Fennessey announced the agenda.

Principal's Report - Mr. Eric Contreras

- Wished families are safe and well
- Remote learning - thanked staff for accommodating the challenges and filling in tremendous gaps during the COVID-19 crisis, while managing their own responsibilities, including demands at home.
 - o Should crisis happen again, create guidance for remote learning with 4 areas and to focus on improvements:
 1. Remote learning instructional expectations
 - Deliver content, lessons and relevant resources
 - Platform to assign work
 - Engage in some recorded sessions (DOE does not mandate live sessions)
 2. Systems communications – achieved continuous communication during the COVID-19 crisis
 3. Guidance support – conversations with counselors, instructional support and guidance on Talos
 4. Expectations of course scoping sequence – Had to make decision to strive to teach the entire curriculum. Aim is to prepare students for subsequent courses.
- June 12th would have been the last day of school. Classes will continue but no new work. From June 12th to June 26th, students will be presenting projects, giving students the time to make up work. This is not really a change to the calendar, but minor modifications.
- In SLT meeting talked about forming a budget committee should the budget be affected with Dr. Haber. Will take feedback from all constituents. Be ready for September to get ahead of the ball.
- If we are to come back in September, a committee will be formed to maximize the safety of the staff and students.
- Working with seniors on rites-of-passage: prom, graduation. Working with the PA to explore companies that support remote events “Earth Jones”. Adjustment of costs and refunds for seniors. Music, performance, speeches, short statement by each student.

Director of Family Engagement – Ms. Dina Ingram

- Thursday, May 21st @ 9am – first of the series of “Office Hours with the Principal”, Eric Contreras (for Freshman parents only)
- Thursday, May 28th @ 6pm – “What to expect your first year of college” alumni panel. This year we welcome back 2019 graduates and parents. Talk about adjustments that needed to be made. This will be held via Livestream with help of PA and students.
- Two letters received – look for alerts on blog posts
 - o Summer learning grading and policies
 - o Health advisory
- DOE has been very quick in sending out devices to students have been addressed
- Virtual Camp Stuy for incoming parents and students to be held in June. Sending out communications in June.

Treasurer's Report:

Belinda Leung announced that prior data not updated due to system issue, but was shared on the Zoom screen. YTD net income \$171K, mainly driven by strong annual appeal. YTD expense \$322K.

PA Announcements:

Susan Fennessey announced that:

- the PA is working on proposed budget for next year. Getting input from school. Trying to update to remove some things that are outdated. Address some of the expected budget shortfalls the school to have. Expect to be lower than usual and will ask the PA to address what can't be covered.
- within the May executive board meeting, a couple of extra planned expenditures were approved:
 1. PA to cover up to \$10K to help pay for senior events
 2. \$2K expenditure each month for Talos support was approved. PA General Membership to formally approve when we meet in person October, as permitting
 3. Approved 5K expenditure for health information including blue cards
- no decision was made yet by DOE to allow elections this school year. Thinking about June, but may not be possible. Positions will be held with current until the next election. There are currently 8 officers: 3 officers have graduating seniors, and 5 officers with non-graduating students will continue their positions until we are able to hold elections.

Alex Shafran announced:

- that Appropriations Committee was polling submissions for grants. Received roughly the same numbers as the usual time. Recommendation expected to be made in June. PA vote in September for funds to be released.
- that volunteers needed for mock interviews offered to Stuy students. Train and practice for college interview and/or jobs.
- that planning is starting for establishing summer essay writing seminars for juniors. Last year over 130 Stuy students went through that experience. Want to expand this year, so need volunteers.
- that parents should have received links to 2 PA events:
 1. College Rubrik session today
 2. Thursday, May 21 – COVID-19 and how selective colleges are making decisions these days. This event is being held in partnership with IvyWise.
- a special "shout-out" to a local sponsoring party, Brookville Mall, who offered their help to fund headphones and additional laptops.
- that on May 26 – Health and Safety Committee partnering with Dina worked with Ross Institute on presenting how to cope at a time with COVID-19.
- the Stuy shopping event gearing for Father's Day - use Amazon link on Stuy website, discount, proceeds going to Stuy PA. Use Stuy e-bay as well.
- For PA Elections, need to hear from people to take part in PA Committees. Volunteer form on Stuy website.

PA General Meeting Topic covered for this month's PA General Meeting:

"Do Students Still Need to Take the SAT?"

Co-Chair of Stuy PA Program Committee Mr. Richard Bernstein introduced Mr. Alagappan, speaker of the event.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:07pm

Submitted by Jimmy Hsu, Recording Secretary