



**BTHS PA Virtual General Meeting
December Meeting Minutes**

Date: Thursday, December 17, 2020

Location: Zoom

Meeting Start Time: 6:04 P.M.

PA Co-Recording Secretaries: Michelle Cheung and Lincoln Favors

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I. Treasury Report: Debbie Grillos

- The November Treasury report was posted on the Tech PA website; PA received approximately \$19,000 through donations/annual funds.
- Paid the Math Honor Society fee.
- Upcoming expenses include gifts as a token of appreciation to teachers and school staff, in addition to contribution to the faculty grant.

II. Diversity Committee Report: Kim Jalet & Jasmin Shao

- First Diversity Meeting was held on Friday, December 11th at 6:30 P.M.; the Committee will email the details for upcoming events including the virtual celebration of Lunar New Year and Book Club.
- The Committee is working on setting up a *YouTube* channel which will be used to accommodate more parents and students to attend the virtual events hosted by BTHS PA..
- Jasmin Shao spoke in Mandarin to recruit volunteers for the Lunar New Year Celebration. All inquiries should be addressed to: **papresident@bths.edu**

III. Events and Volunteers Report: Hillary Solomon

- The second series of PA Parent Workshops was held last Saturday, December 12th. Four workshops were given on the following topics: Naviance, DDP, Navigating BTHS and College Readiness- Year by Year, Grade 9 to 12.
- They are planning to schedule more workshops to help parents and students get a better understanding of different topics, such as the college process and college essay writing. The workshops will be open for parents of all grade levels.



IV. Communication Report: Kancy Davie & Mia Lu

- If parents still have not received PA TechTalk weekly emails, they can sign up at the PA's website [here](#).
- All workshop materials were included in the weekly PA TechTalk Newsletter.
- BTHS PA is on other social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.
- Welcomes volunteers for translating information from the school and PA into languages other than Chinese.

V. Guest Speakers:

- Mr. Johnny Ventura
- Ms. Chanelle Knights
- Ms. Christina Martini
- Ms. Kathryn Lyng

A Social Work Team led by Mr. Johnny Ventura, the AP of Guidance, Special Education, Freshmen Advisory, and Work Based Learning; team members include Ms. Chanelle Knights, Ms. Christina Martini, and Ms. Kathryn Lyng.

- The focus includes the effect of Covid-19 to students' mental health and academic success. The services include one-on-one chats, case conferencing related to trauma and facilitating workshops.
- In partnership with the Parent Association, the Social Work Team at Brooklyn Tech has created a parent survey for Social-Emotional Support; the team has received 400+ responses from the survey (circulated via email) which has been closed.
- The survey was used to gather information from both students' and parents' perspective to identify needs and support both socially and emotionally.
- The survey has been reopened upon request by the attendees of this meeting. The survey will remain open until 12/31/2020.
- The team will share the detailed information with school and PA after circulating the collected data with teachers, school social workers and school administration.
- Based on the initial review of the responses, initiatives are needed for several major aspects. The initiatives will focus on social emotional and isolation concerns, motivation through encouragement, connection through one-on-one communication, and promotion of time management in the hope of helping the students succeed in school.
- The team is expected to deliver a short-term and a long-term plan. A short-term plan is expected to be ready for implementation by the end of the first term - February 2021.



- In the interim, the school has scheduled a built-in session of 1.5 hour dedicated to Social Emotional Learning for Wednesday, Dec. 23. While the teacher facilitates the session, students will be the key players in the discussion.
- PA Co-Presidents and parents requested to consider incorporating Advisory Courses into the school schedule and advised that the PA will support financially, as needed.

VI. Principal Newman:

- The schedule for the 1.5-hour session for Social Emotional Learning (SEL) on December 23rd. These sessions are geared toward students so they can freely express their feelings and concerns while building a connection with a school adult to whom students can go to if needed.
- SEL could be incorporated into every lesson of every class (i.e. check in) that can be monitored closely for the program's effectiveness.
- Final week is noted on the school website. Details will be emailed shortly.
- We are still waiting for the directives from DOE for Instructional Day, but this has no impact on the Final Schedule.
- The PSAT for juniors is tentatively currently scheduled for January 26, 2021. If students are not allowed into the building, then the PSAT will be cancelled.
- There is a push to have high school students back in school before the Spring Term.
- No clear direction from DOE about opt-in timeframe for the Blended Learning Format.
- Tech is planning to change from 3 cohorts to 2 cohorts beginning in the Spring Term.
- No information on High School Admissions yet.
- There are still challenges (i.e. possible equity issues) to mandate having cameras turned on during virtual classes.
- There was a logistical issue to have an Advisory built-in schedule in the beginning of the year because the lab and gym are scheduled as asynchronous classes. However, Principal Newman will consider having Advisory classes scheduled for the Spring Term while changing from three cohorts into two cohorts.

VII. Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 7:56 P.M.