

High School Council Meeting Minutes

March 10, 2020

Darcy Kaye, HS Council Chair

Darcy Kaye welcomed everyone to the meeting. A motion to approve the February 11th minutes was approved.

Roy Montesano, Superintendent

Construction: The cafeteria expansion will have cement poured today which is an exciting step forward. Thanks to the BSF for its financial support of the new Design and Innovation Center. We are awarding the bid at the next Board meeting on 3/19, and bids were in the price range we expected. Part of the plumbing and electrical work were included in the last bond issue so we were able to get a jump on that portion of the work. The heavier part of the job is raising the floor of the old boiler room from below grade to grade – which is about 6ft – and that work will start soon. The new center should be ready before the start of school but hopefully it will be even earlier. Coursework for next fall is already scheduled to take place in the new Design Center so we are doing our best to keep it on schedule.

Covid-19: There is a daily call with the NY State Health Department to get updates on what is happening. We received a 19-page document last night from the State with guidelines. If we have a confirmed Covid-19 case at some point, the County Board of Health is required to contact us directly. In that event, we will close school for a minimum of 24 hours while they retrace all contact to notify others that should be in quarantine. The State BOE can order us to close for up to two weeks. The State dictates all school closings due to Covid-19; it's not the District's decision. NY State hasn't announced if they will give waivers if schools have less than the minimum required school days in session due to Covid-19. If we have to close for a couple of days for deep cleaning, it won't jeopardize our required days in school because we still have four unused emergency closing days for this year. We are doing what we can internally to limit the spread of the virus. Field trips are being handled on an individual basis right now; there is no blanket policy. During spring break, there is girls lacrosse trip and a baseball trip to Florida so they are happening as long as parents agree given there is no CDC guideline saying otherwise. If parents keep their kids from going and we don't have enough participants then trips will be cancelled. We are debating in an extended closure if staff will come in after a deep clean and students will learn remotely, but we're still deciding. We will get Covid-19 results if any member of our school community is infected within 6-8 hours of confirmation and the information will be kept private.

Anne Meyer, High School Principal

Leap Into Arts: Thanks to the entire community for supporting the PTA's Leap Into March event. Our students were very proud of their artwork on display in town. It was the first time we've held this event and it will likely be held again in the future

given its tremendous success. Thanks to the PTA and to our merchants, students, and community members for helping to make it a success.

HS Musical: The high school musical was held early this year so we now have time for a second production. We are currently working on a student-produced play with minor faculty supervision and involvement. Auditions will be held soon, and students will be doing one of Mr. D'Allessandro's productions because he owns the rights to his own work. The production will take place in late April or May.

PISA OECD: Every four years we administer the PISA OECD test for schools. We did it last in 2012 and 2016, so it's our turn to do it again this year. The test is a good benchmark for how we're doing against international schools. It tests reading and scientific and mathematical ability, and we will randomly select 85 students who are age 15 to participate. We need 68 students to take the test in order to participate. Scores will be for our overall school, not individual scores, and it will give us direction on how we're doing against The Bronxville Promise. Parents of the students selected will be notified directly. The test is scheduled for 3/23 or 3/24.

Distance Learning: Scarsdale's Covid-19 situation arose over the weekend and they are just planning for distance learning to start next week. We want to work out kinks in advance in case we have to go remote in coming weeks. We will do a trial run of distance learning on Friday, Day 6, so all classes will meet with the exception of PE and non-AP arts. For now, we are focused on core course areas. Teachers will report to school to administer classes and our students will be at home. Students can check out Chrome Books if they don't have a remote learning device.

Classes will meet virtually for a subset of 80-minute blocks and we expect to have class for 20-30 minutes of each block. We will utilize Zoom because it's offered for free right now and doesn't require a login. Teachers will send an invite via an email link and it will automatically connect students to the classroom. This is an easy tool to use in the near term and our faculty is working on technical aspects now. There may be individual work submitted through Google Classroom. We will do a survey follow up afterward to assess how it goes. We don't expect perfection on the first try but we want to get ahead of the possibility of an extended closure. A webcam is not required because faculty will mute the webcam for privacy reasons. Class starts on the hour and half hour for simplicity. Teachers will be taking attendance.

Field Trips: A number of trips this week and next week in the Westchester area have been cancelled. We are waiting for a number of things to be decided on a case-by-case basis. The Model UN trip to Boston next weekend is still up in the air.

Aaron Kind, Guidance Department

The second college-planning workshop for juniors is today and Mrs. Abbatecola is running it so she can't be at today's Council meeting. Today, juniors will be doing an exploration of their interests and incorporating those interests into their college planning process. The goal is to have their resumes, Brag Sheets, and Common App

essays largely complete before we end school in June. A number of colleges are closing their guided tours on spring break in light of Covid-19, so please check with each school before you leave for spring break. A number of colleges are cancelling their accepted students events as well so please be aware of those closures. It was suggested by a member of the audience that parents get a recap of what is covered in the junior planning meetings to facilitate dialogue at home.

Sophomores are wrapping up course selection meetings so please reach out to your child's counselor if you haven't had your meeting yet. The mock SAT/ACT administered by Bespoke and sponsored by the junior class will be given in March/April.

The Guidance Department will be visiting 8th grade classrooms soon to start preparing them for high school.

Cindy Randall, Athletic Council

Spring sports have started so please make sure your registrations are in. The Harlem Wizards event was sold out and it was a great community event. The dodge ball event just happened and it was also a great success with a DJ in attendance for the first time. Please watch for upcoming emails regarding spring Fan Day events. The week of April 20th is spring Spirit Week that will include a lacrosse fest with food trucks.

Other Announcements

- 9th Grade: There will be a car wash in April.
- 10th Grade: The students are working on a social event.
- 11th Grade: Juniors are hosting a mock SAT/ACT with Bespoke Education.
- 12th Grade: Tuesday 3/17 is a meeting for senior parents to discuss Senior Shadowing, Senior Week, and graduation.
- The Orchestra went to Orlando and had great experience. There were three achievement levels and our orchestra came out with a middle-level award.
- PTA's Leap Into March was a success. Two more art events may occur this year.
- BOLD and BeWell are hosting Dr. Haddad who will address executive functioning in adolescents. The presentation will take place at 7pm next Wednesday. The BOLD social will be moved to Coals on April 15th with Dr. Kelly as guest speaker.
- Youth Council: Tonight will be SEC Sports in the Blue Gym. Talent Night auditions will be held in the auditorium on 3/19.
- Middle School parents did a book reading/discussion with Gillian Tomlin and Dr. Wilson and Dr. Kelly asked the high school to join. The book is *Unselfie*, so please read it and join us on 4/28 at 7pm for the discussion.

The next HS Council meeting will be held at 7pm on April 14th.

Due to effects of Covid-19 since these minutes were recorded, many of these dates and events are now TBD.