

## **High School Council Meeting Minutes February 11, 2020**

### **Darcy Kaye, HS Council Chair**

Darcy Kaye welcomed everyone to the meeting and made a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting on January 13, 2020. The minutes were approved.

### **SFL Day**

SFL Day will be held on Monday, February 24th after the break. This year, SFL is organizing a One World Day that will include a range of speakers and workshops. There will be no classes that day. Speakers will be educating students on issues of global importance, with a goal of raising overall awareness among BHS students. There will be two keynote speakers, including Joe Ferraro, the youngest baseball coach in NCAA history, and Bridget Griswold who will address environmental issues. The lineup will also include presentations by local politicians and representatives from One Love. Lunch will include food trucks and a panel will be held E/F block where students can present on issues in which they are involved.

### **Anne Meyer, High School Principal**

Construction: Construction continues in both the atrium and the cafeteria. The bidding process has officially opened for our new Design and Innovation Center and for our new curtain wall. The new Design and Innovation Center will be housed in our old boiler room, a discreet location, so it can be done during the school year with minimal disruption. The curtain wall, however, will be disruptive to the school day so it will begin after the start of final exams in June when disruption will be minimal.

2020/2021 School Calendar: The 2020/2021 school calendar was presented last night at the Board meeting and will remain under review until it will be voted on for approval. In order to have a two-week holiday break in December, the Administration negotiated with teachers to come back to work two days before Labor Day in exchange for time off during the December holiday break.

### Other High School:

- On May 19<sup>th</sup>, we will be hosting a Family-School partnership event focused on wellness. The District is working hard to figure out how to foster wellness within the Bronxville Promise and this event will provide an opportunity for parents and students to participate in the discussion.
- Keep your kids home if they're sick! There is both strep and the flu, among other illnesses, going around the school so be considerate of others and keep sick students at home.
- The girls' track team won the Class C Sectional Championship!
- The Bronxville School Foundation recently hosted a grant-writing workshop where students learned to write grants.
- Prom will be held on 5/29, a week later than normal, because we are hosting NYSMMA this year when we normally have prom.

### **Anne Abbatecola, High School Guidance**

Ann introduced Andrea Pellicane, the new guidance counselor who took over from Barbara Dhyne. The District ran ads and selectively recruited to find the best candidate possible. Andrea comes to us with extensive experience in guidance in both California and New York. She joined us on 1/22 to work side-by-side with Ms. Dhyne in getting to know students she will be working with. The Guidance Dept. also held two coffees to introduce Andrea to parents and she was involved in most of the planning meetings for her students. Before coming to BHS, Andrea spent 9 years in Southern California as a high school counselor in addition to reading applications for UCSD. Andrea moved back to her native Long Island just over 7 years ago, where she worked as the Guidance Director at a private high school.

12<sup>th</sup> Grade: Mid-year grades have gone out to schools where students still have active applications. Regular decisions are rolling in throughout this semester and many students have already gotten good news. Any students who need assistance in navigating wait lists should talk to their guidance counselors.

11<sup>th</sup> Grade: Course planning meetings are wrapping up and planning workshops continue. Over the next several planning sessions, juniors will meet with college counselors to learn about resumes and brag sheets, among other topics, required for their applications. In late May, our juniors will develop final drafts of their college essays with help from their English teachers. Our mission is to make sure seniors are ready to file a complete application when school starts in September. Additionally, if students have a solid plan for their college applications, it will help reduce stress and anxiety during the college process.

10<sup>th</sup> Grade: On January 16th we hosted a meeting with parents featuring a speaker from Bespoke who discussed the SAT versus ACT as well as a student panel that discussed their high school experiences. Additionally, counselors spoke about course selection for rising juniors with an emphasis on choosing wisely based on interest and achieving balance. Sophomore family meetings are beginning for course selection. Last Friday there was a grade-wide assembly on course planning and parents received a link to the presentation. One topic discussed was our affiliation with OC21 schools offering online courses next fall and spring. This is a wonderful opportunity to try out online learning. The courses are interesting, and include courses on anthropology, architecture, mindfulness (taught by our own Bill Meyer), the teenage brain, fake news, engineering, sports management, nutrition, and writing a novel. The first meeting will be held at BOCES and the rest of the courses will be taught on line. At the end of the semester, students will give a final presentation at Yorktown High School.

9<sup>th</sup> Grade: Counselors have been meeting one-on-one with all ninth graders.

### **Athletics Announcements:**

- Winter Sports Awards will be held at 7pm on February 25<sup>th</sup> (inclement weather 2/26).
- The Harlem Wizards event is sold out as of this morning.
- The annual Dodge Ball tournament in conjunction with the Youth Council will be 3/5.
- Spring sports signups are open now on Family ID.

**PTA, Leah Gravier**

The PTA is hosting a “Leap into March” arts celebration beginning on 2/27 with an open mic night at the library. On Friday, February 28<sup>th</sup> there will be a celebration for the opening of event and 30 stores in town will be displaying student artwork in their windows through March 5<sup>th</sup>. On Saturday, 2/29<sup>th</sup>, O’Silas Gallery is hosting an art workshop for children and there will also be a scavenger hunt for artwork throughout town.

**Other Announcements:**

- 9<sup>th</sup>: An additional Andrus party will be held on Valentine’s Day from 3:30-5pm.
- 10<sup>th</sup>: The sophomore class is still working on a grade wide social event.
- 11<sup>th</sup>: Hosting a Bespoke mock ACT on 3/20 and an SAT on 4/19 from 8:45am-12:30pm in MPR. Open to 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> grade students for \$35.
- 12<sup>th</sup>: Seniors are hosting a Faculty Appreciation Lunch and will need families to help donate food and refreshments. The Mom Prom will be on 4/14 and the Pop Hop will be on 4/20.
- Youth Council: Talent Night auditions will be held the week of 2/24 and need HS volunteers to help with auditions. The next Westhab event is 10:30-12:30 on 2/29 in the Reformed gym.
- BeWell: Working on the Family-School Partnership and are looking to show a film about anxiety for students and parents to view together. The Chris Herren event will be rebooked for March 2021.
- BOLD: There was a Coffee and Conversation held in the Fireplace Room on 2/12 and a 504 Plan information meeting will take place for parents on 2/13 at 7pm.

The next High School Council meeting will be held at 8:30 am on March 10<sup>th</sup> .