

## **High School Council Meeting November 1, 2016**

The minutes from the October 11, 2016 High School Council meeting were approved.

Jane Scotti began the meeting by acknowledging and thanking all PTA, Hospitality and Youth Council volunteers who contributed to the success of the Apparel Sale, Back-to-School Night and Halloween festivities (Parade, Haunted House, All-School Assembly).

Ann Meyer turned the meeting over to Tracee Worley of Fielding Nair International (FNI). FNI is “an award-winning, global planning and architectural design firm whose professionals help clients define the future of education in their communities and then provide the services to successfully implement Change Management Strategies.” Thanks to a grant provided by the Bronxville School Foundation, FNI will be spending two days on campus speaking to students, faculty and administrators about reimagining and planning for the learning spaces of our school. The focus of the discussions will be on the physical spaces themselves as well as the faculty training necessary to optimally use those spaces.

FNI has consulted in over 45 countries globally and has received 11 international awards for excellence in architectural design and improved educational outcomes. Based on the premise that teacher collaboration is the mediating force in improving efficacy of teaching, FNI designs are built on a model of “learning communities”. These learning communities consist of expansive common spaces surrounded by smaller studios where teachers introduce subject matter and provide resources. Common spaces incorporate a variety of characteristics: elimination of solid walls and use of glass doors/partitions to facilitate continuous site lines for teachers and encourage flow of ideas, varied seating clusters for small group work and enhanced discussion, lots of natural light, carpeted floors and soft seating.

In response to questions about the feasibility of implementing sweeping changes to our building, Ann Meyer acknowledged that while the Bronxville School faces numerous constraints regarding physical site and budget, it is always useful to see what’s possible. As well, FNI architects specialize in “working with the space they have.” Often, they will introduce a pilot program in a small wing or area of a school as a “fire starter” that guides future development plans.

## **Anne Abbatacola – Guidance Department**

Recent Events and Upcoming Calendar:

October 15 - Approximately 120 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> graders took the PSAT. Results will be available December 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup>

November 4 - Freshman class will be treated to Bill Meyers' Study Skills Workshop. The workshop is held annually and has received excellent reviews from students and teachers alike.

November 9 - End of first Quarter. Grades will be posted on November 17.

November 16 - Post-High School Planning Meeting for Juniors and their Parents\*  
7pm in the Cafeteria

\*At least one parent should attend with their child.

As of November 1, 2/3rds of the senior class is ready to submit college applications.

## **Karen Peterson – Athletic Department**

The Fall Sports season is winding down and sectionals are underway.

Girls Soccer team won the sectional championship in Johnson City  
Girls Field hockey team goes to sectional championship this Saturday, 11/5  
Swimmers and Cross Country athletes have final meets this week as well

Winter Sports season begins 11/14 with the exception of Ice Hockey which begins 11/7

Squash tryouts are 11/14

The floor in the Blue Gym is in process of being redone. Completion expected 11/14.

The floor in the Main Gym was completed over the past weekend.

## **Lisa Barr – Bronxville School Foundation**

Fund raising efforts have begun. Members of the school community will be receiving annual Foundation solicitation materials in the mail shortly.

Grants "in process" include:

Playwrights in Performance  
Plans for the redesign of the art room  
Training for teachers on how to most effectively use new learning spaces

Now, more than ever, community donations are essential to continuing the valuable work of the Foundation. In today's era of rising costs and limited revenue sources, district funding alone will not suffice.

### **David Katz – President, Bronxville Teachers' Association**

This year's presidential election is providing teachers with a potent tool to support the Bronxville Promise through civic engagement. The commitment to vote is among the most powerful demonstrations of that engagement. A "Pledge to Vote" banner has been created and signed by students, faculty and administrators and is being used across the school to spark discussion and understanding of our democratic tenets. The banner has been taken into ES classrooms to introduce younger students to the electoral process. As well, the MS will be staging a mock election incorporating today's most compelling political and social issues. Parents, please keep the discussion going at home. Encourage your kids to think hard about what compels us as individuals and as a society to "pull the lever".

### **Grade Reports**

Grade 9 – Thanksgiving Desert Sale is underway. Order deadline is 11/15.  
Annual Andrus Children's Christmas Party will be held on 12/7 in the cafeteria.

Grade 10 – Fruit Sale in force until 11/11.

Grade 11 – Car Wash scheduled for this Saturday, 11/5 from 11-2.  
Poinsettia Sale will be launched shortly. Order deadline is 11/22.  
Delivery on 12/3.

Grade 12 – Halloween luncheon and parade was a huge success.

### **In Other News**

"Be Well" – "Partnership for Drug-Free Kids"  
Wed. 11/30 at 7pm in MPR

SFL - This year's topic for SFL Day is "The Well-Balanced Student".  
Details to follow.

**THE NEXT HIGH SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE HELD TUESDAY,  
DECEMBER 6.**