

High School Council Meeting
February 7, 2017

The minutes from the December 6, 2016 High School Council meeting were approved.

Director of Technology - Jennifer Forsberg

Jen opened the meeting with the announcement that Infinite Campus, the new parent/student information system, is in the process of going live. All middle and high school students received their passwords last week. The Student Help Desk will hold drop-in sessions this Friday during lunch for those who have questions or need assistance. Additional support is provided through Google Docs screen shots and a free portable App, both of which have already received favorable student feedback. Parents will receive an email with the IC link and activation code on Thursday, Feb 9. There are three hands-on meetings scheduled to help parents get up to speed: day sessions on 2/14 and 2/17 and an evening session on 2/15. Note that Q1 and Q2 grades will remain on Rediker for the time being, but will ultimately be transferred over to IC.

National History Day - Christina Reidel

Bronxville School held its third NHD competition last week. The intent of the program is to offer 6-12th graders the opportunity to “compete around historical research”. The program permits lots of choice in terms of topic selection and project format. Projects may take the form of an essay (conducted individually) or an exhibit, performance, documentary or website (all of which may be performed individually or in a group). Specific parameters guide the research; 9th graders focus on the period prior to the 16th century while 10th graders focus on the 16th century to present. Every year, a different theme is highlighted. This year’s theme is “Taking a Stand.” The primary objective of NHD is to inject greater depth and meaning into curriculum by shifting the learning emphasis from mastery of content to the incorporation of critical thinking skills (e.g. documentation, analysis and synthesis of findings as well as the recognition of the role of perspective in historical sources.)

Preparation for NHD begins each year in September. The in-school competition is held in February. The top three selections from each category move on to the Lower Hudson Valley competition and then possibly to the state and national competitions. The entire social studies department is enthusiastically supporting and providing feedback to students throughout the multi-stage process of the competition.

Next year’s NHD theme is “Conflict and Compromise”.

The school plans to pilot NHD in the middle school as well.

District Report – David Quattrone

Work with parents and students has been a critical input to the school's 5-year Facilities Plan.

Specific proposals include replacing the playground and Chambers Field as well as enlarging the health suite and cafeteria. Projects will be "tax neutral" in that they will be financed through the replacement of old debt with new issuance.

Longer-term capital projects will address the creation of learning spaces that support our students' increasing involvement in the WISE program, Independent Studies and On-Line courses.

This year's Operating Budget is coming in at the tax cap of 1.2% without program cuts.

The sink hole on Midland Avenue is being addressed. The elementary school has adopted temporary pick-up and drop-off schedules and fire drill procedures have been altered. The Fire Department is in the process of inspecting gas lines to ensure no leakages. Please note that the Hayes Field replacement project is NOT at risk as a result of these activities.

The Board of Education continues to interview candidates for the next Superintendent of Schools. An appointment is expected to be made in March or April.

Ann Meyer – Principal's Report

Many new courses, in both content and format, are being offered in the High School.

On-line courses offered through the OC21 Consortium are one-semester electives that Bronxville is currently unable to offer internally (e.g. anthropology, architecture, sports marketing). These on-line courses provide students with the opportunity to broaden their academic exposure as well as collaborate with students from other schools, both on-line and in person. Currently, there slots for 25 Bronxville students. Courses for next year will be announced in March.

Fundamentals of Engineering (a new one-semester course) is now being offered at the school. As well, the Bronx River Research Project, originally constructed as an Independent Study, is now being offered as a regular course.

The Fielding Nair International (FNI) study, focusing on where and how new modes of learning can be supported through our physical plant, has concluded and a discovery report has been compiled. The report identifies a variety of options for a Third Floor Learning Community in the C-Wing of the High School. All options emphasize flexible learning configurations, natural light and enhanced interdisciplinary work. Approved recommendations will be folded into the 5-year Facilities Plan.

To view the FNI Discovery Report, go to <https://fni.atavist.com/bronxvillediscovery>.

PISA (Program for International Student Assessment) results are in and the findings provide powerful evidence that the Bronxville Promise is working. Significant gains were made across all disciplines: math, reading and science. As a reminder, PISA is an internationally benchmarked test administered to 15 year-old students to assess higher order thinking skills. The 2012 test was used to benchmark this year's results.

Anne Abbatacola – Guidance Report

Grade 12

Mid-year reports have been sent to colleges.

Registration materials for AP exams were sent home in early February and must be completed and submitted by 2/17. Exams are scheduled for 5/1-5/12.

Forty-four seniors are participating in the WISE program this year. This represents a marked increase from previous years and reflects students' desire to develop the 'life skills' necessary to succeed beyond the classroom. For a full description of the WISE program, please refer to the Bronxville School Course Catalog which is available on the school website. As well, a complete list of this year's WISE opportunities is attached to these minutes. Rising seniors have until the end of this academic year to decide if they wish to participate in the program.

Our guidance intern, Laney Meyer, has been a terrific addition to our team. Please contact her regarding the many summer volunteer opportunities available to students.

Grade 11

Family conferences and senior-year course selections have been completed. Students have started to compile perspective college lists and both parents and students are beginning to work on their respective Brag Sheets. After the break, students should begin thinking about which teachers to ask for college recommendations.

Grade 10

Family meetings are getting underway. Tenth grade English classes are continuing to focus on their electronic portfolios. Students are being encouraged to select one piece from their work and upload it to their portfolio. Looking ahead, work from all disciplines should be represented in the portfolios.

Grade 9

Electronic Portfolios will be introduced to the 9th grade next week and students will begin work on their “About Me” projects.

Next Wednesday, 2/15, marks the end of this year’s Freshman Transition Program. Leaders will meet with their assigned groups to conclude the program and freshman will be asked to complete a survey on the effectiveness of the experience.

Athletic Department – Rose Crawford

Fan Days for Boys/Girls Basketball teams were a great success. Increased participation by lower school students had a positive impact on both attendance and enthusiasm.

Girls and Boys Basketball teams each raised more than \$1000 for their respective causes, “Hoops for Hearts” (Girls) and “Hoops for Heroes” (Boys).

Bronco Bonanza 2017 was held on February 4 and featured the Boys/Girls Varsity and Junior Varsity Basketball teams vs. rivals Rye Neck (Girls) and Edgemont (Boys).

BB ’17 was dedicated to the memory of Elizabeth Minter, who with her family and the Weil Cornell Children’s Brain Tumor Project, founded “Elizabeth’s Hope” in 2011.

Ten out of twelve members of the 1982 Boys Varsity Basketball team (Class C Section Champions) returned after 35 years to inspire and support the 2017 teams.

Hockey Fan Night is scheduled for tonight.

Winter Sports Awards will be held on 2/28.

The Harlem Wizards will make their annual appearance in early March.

Spring sports begin 3/13.

Grade Reports

12th Grade – The Senior class will sponsor the annual Faculty Appreciation Lunch on 2/14 in the MPR.

SFL

The next SFL Dance is scheduled for Friday, 3/3. The theme is “America.”

THE NEXT HIGH SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE HELD TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 2017.

Summary of 2017 Senior WISE Opportunities

Special Education	Ms. Coons
Music Production	Dr. Lutter
Guiding Eyes	Guiding Eyes for the Blind
Law Enforcement	Tuckahoe Police Department
Pediatrics	Elizabeth Seton Pediatric Center
Media & Marketing	Museum of Natural History
Art History Education	Ms. Alan
Nursing	Lawrence Hospital
Medical Data Analysis	Columbia Dr. Demoraes
Horse Riding Instruction	Boulder Brook
Elementary Education	Ms. Cramer
Publishing	Foundry Publishing
Musical Production	Ms. Simpson
Theater Production	Ars Nova
Veterinary Medicine	Tuckahoe Animal Hospital
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Business Information Technology	Winmill Software
Architecture	Antonelli Architects
Elementary Education	Ms. Aronson
Special Education	Ms. Stewart
Non-Profit	Harlem Lacrosse
Guiding Eyes	Guiding Eyes for the Blind
Language Education & ELL	Ms. Brosnahan
Medicine	Dr. Davidson
Elementary Education	Ms. Kolhoff
Physical Therapy	Raeven Steele
Pediatrics	Elizabeth Seton Pediatric Center
Adoption	Gladney Adoption Agency
Musical Production	Ms. Simpson
Alternative Energy	Light Beam
Finance	Dichotomy Capital
Computer Programming	edX/ Dr. Merriweather
Insurance	Navigator's Insurance
Special Education	Ms. Vafeades
Domestic Violence	One Love
Entrepreneurship	Soleil Toujours
Law	Mrs. Cacace
Hospitality	LW Hospitality Advisors

Computers	Mr. Ashley
AFYA	AFYA
Dance	Ballet Academy East