

High School Council Meeting

April 4, 2017

The minutes from the March, 2017 High School Council meeting were approved.

Guest Speakers – Seniors Lucy Hanrahan and Ellie Walsh

Lucy and Ellie announced and described the upcoming Art Show/Silent Auction being held Wednesday, April 19 in support of the JBFC Orphanage for girls in Africa. The hope is that the event will raise \$2500 to tile a classroom floor at the Joseph and St Mary School. Currently, the school's floors are made of concrete and are very uncomfortable. The upgrade to tile will provide students with an inviting space for story time and other collective learning experiences.

The art show will be held in the auditorium from 6:30 to 8pm and will showcase the work of Bronxville AP Art students. Both JBFC founder (Chris Gates) and two residents of the orphanage will be in attendance.

Tom Curran – Bronxville School Board of Education

Dr. Roy Montesano has been named the next superintendent of the Bronxville Schools. He will assume the post upon the retirement of David Quattrone at the end of the 2017 school year.

The search process, conducted over the past year was both thoughtful and rigorous. The BoE was aided in its efforts by search firm, School Leadership (SL). SL helped the board create a desired profile for the next leader of our schools. In total 63 candidates from around the country applied for the position. The field was narrowed down to 22 candidates, 8 of which were ultimately interviewed by the BoE.

Roy emerged almost immediately as the frontrunner. His career in education spans 37 years during which time he established himself as an inquisitive consensus builder who is committed to technology and attuned to the challenges and opportunities inherent in 21st century education. His most recent position was as Superintendent of Schools at Hastings on Hudson.

David Quattrone – Superintendent of Schools

The efforts of our students in supporting JBFC exemplify the ideals of the Bronxville Promise through “engagement” (student commitment to causes outside of our immediate community), “creativity” (employing the artistic works of our students to broaden awareness and involvement in JBFC) and “leadership” (harnessing/directing the

combined efforts of our student artists, photographers and community service activists in pursuit of a common goal).

Results of the most recent PISA test will be presented to the Board on April 25th.

The Board has completed the budget process for the 2017-18 academic year. The Budget Hearing will be held on May 4 at the next regular BOE meeting.

Flood mitigation is proceeding as scheduled.

Ann Meyer – Principal’s Report

Ann began by summarizing the Athletic Dept and B’Well reports.

Athletic Dept. - Spring Spirit Week begins immediately after the break. Each team will choose a specific charity to support.

Upcoming Dates – Fall ‘17

Varsity/JV Football Start Date - August 14

All other sports – August 21

Homecoming – October 14/15

B’Well – B’Well is sponsoring a seminar on May 27 addressing “overuse injuries” affecting today’s athletes.

Dr. Mike Nerney visited the school March 31 to address students and faculty on the latest findings regarding how alcohol and drugs affect the teenage brain. He presented first to 9th and 10th graders and later met with faculty at lunch.

As announced at the December, 2016 HS Council Meeting, Bronxville middle and high school students are participating in the Stanford Survey of Adolescent School Experiences administered by Challenge Success. The survey is conducted online and measures students’ perspectives on homework, extracurricular activities, sleep, physical health, stress and parental/community expectations. Survey findings will be used to provide information on which of our school’s policies and practices may be effective and which are in need of improvement. The survey is in process of being administered in the middle school. It has already been administered in the high school. It is expected that it will take 5 weeks to process the data.

On April 3, senior Sam Arcano presented his original opera “Don Trump” to parents and students in the auditorium. Impressively, Sam wrote both the music and lyrics in Italian and conducted the student-led orchestra throughout.

Students on the Student Help Desk have been working to become “Google Certified”. Traditionally, only faculty members have become certified. However, with the help of Brad Ashley’s study sessions, 11 of 13 Bronxville students passed the certification exam. (Brad noted that student training took only ½ the time of faculty training.) Certified students are scheduled to present at the Regional Tech Expo and as such, are models for other schools in the area.

The New York State Court of Appeals will be holding sessions in White Plains at the end of April. Junior and Senior Social Studies students are invited to sit in an extended jury box and be briefed by attorneys on relevant aspects of criminal cases including jury selection and other procedural activities.

Seniors are preparing for “Senior Shadowing” weeks scheduled for late May/early June.

Guidance Department - Anne Abbatacola

Family meetings for grades 9-12 will conclude this month. Thereafter, Guidance will meet with parents of rising 9th graders.

Counselors have visited 8th grade advisory classes to introduce students to the high school. Later this week, counselors will return with Freshman Transition leaders.

The SAT/ACT Mock Test was administered to 69 students to help assess how best to highlight individual strengths. A representative from Kaplan was available to describe the format and emphasis of both tests. Students received immediate feedback on performance.

AP Exams are scheduled for the first two weeks in May. It is expected that 256 students will sit for the tests.

On April 19, John Nesbitt of Vanderbilt University will address interested parents and students on the college application process, i.e. what colleges look for in applicants as well as what parents should be looking for in an undergraduate institution.

On May 16, Juniors will meet with Harry Bald of Horace Mann to better understand how to construct effective college application essays. Students will then work with English teachers to develop their Personal Statements. The goal is for each student to have completed a draft by year-end.

Subject Tests are scheduled for the first Saturday in May and June. Subject Tests are one-hour College Board assessments that offer evidence of progress in a given academic discipline. If students have already taken the AP exam in a given area of study, they are well prepared for the Subject Test. It is suggested that students register for the June sitting.

Guidance is continuing to work with seniors in making final college decisions and communicating those decisions with schools.

Bronxville School Foundation – Lisa Barr

As of early April, the Foundation has made 40 grants (totaling \$650k) supporting class offerings, professional development, academic materials and student wellness. Every grant request was assigned to a member of the grant committee who dug into the budgetary, implementation and due diligence implications of the proposal. School administrators provided crucial input regarding the priorities of the district. Voting on all proposals will take place in May and will receive final approval by the BoE.

Grade Reports

Grade 12 – Photos for the Senior Video are due the Tuesday after break.

Grade 11 – Plans for Jr/Sr Prom (5/12) are now underway.

Grade 10 – No report

Grade 9 – On Wed. 4/5, freshmen will host the spring Andrus party. We are looking for volunteers to supply baked goods for the event.

SFL

SFL is in the process of revising its constitution. We are thinking a lot about future path/priorities and doing a lot of soul searching regarding the need to continue SFL's role as a philanthropic arm of the high school. More details to follow.

THE NEXT HIGH SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY, May 2, 2017 IN THE BOARD ROOM.