

High School Council Meeting
May 2, 2017

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

Guest Speakers – Mr D’Alessandro - HS English

Mr D’Alessandro and two members of the Bronxville Bards (Lyric Abbott and Vienna Pentikainen) brought the council up-to-date on activities of students involved in “ Playwrights in Performance”, a Foundation/PTA-funded independent study program recently launched in the High School. Through PIP, 8 students are writing and presenting original 10-minute, one-act plays that will be performed Broadway style on Monday, May 15 in the Auditorium. Since the plays are in various stages of production, presentations will likely take the form of either a performance or a reading.

Lyric and Anastosios spoke briefly about their individual projects. Lyric’s play is inspired by one of her favorite movies, *Zodiac*, and adds a unique twist on the original. Anastosios’ play is titled “Oswald” and is written from the perspective (and in the voice of) J. Harvey Oswald’s widow two days after the assassination of JFK. All productions are entirely student-created and led.

Denise Lutter – Faculty Liaison for Bronxville School Expo

The third annual Bronxville School Expo will be held the evening of May 16. As in years past, the EXPO is the same night as the Budget Vote so there’s no excuse to miss this terrific event. All of the workshops and presentations directly reflect the pursuit of the Bronxville Promise, i.e. student-led engagement within the context of innovation. The focus of the evening is to explore what it means to be a responsible, engaged citizen and truly effect change. For example, student involvement in the Bronx River Project highlights individual responsibility for addressing collective challenges and encourages students to understand relevant political and environmental influences.

A Shark Tank Panel is one of this year’s new Expo workshops. Organized by Mr. Cornish’s 9th grade English class, the audience will be asked to provide feedback on student-inspired proposals. If anyone knows of parents who would like to help staff the shark tank and stimulate discussion, please send your ideas to Ms. Lutter.

Beth Aherne – PTA Membership Chair and School Parent

Beth described and demonstrated the school’s new online directory tool, “My School Anywhere.” MSA was introduced by Jen Forsberg and will replace the current physical directory. See MSA Tutorials online to activate your account, confirm/edit family information and view a 3-minute demo. The change-over is not yet complete but will be

in the fall. Beth encouraged parents to take time now to familiarize themselves with this new tool and get back to her with any questions or comments.

David Quattrone – Superintendent of Schools

David began by addressing the status of the Library Commons project. The project, which is parent and BOE-funded, has been somewhat sidelined by artificial turf and flood mitigation priorities. It is now back on the docket and will result in an up-to-date library whose functionality will be greatly enhanced through the creation of collaboration-driven spaces. Detailed plans can be found on the school website.

David also gave a facilities update. As we all know the school's main building will soon be 100 years old and while far-reaching improvements have been made, there is still much to be done. Plans are in the works for an expanded cafeteria, a redesigned space over the Blue Gym for active research and independent study, guidance office restoration, and a refurbished and enhanced ES playground. The many projects in the pipeline will likely necessitate another bond referendum within the next twelve months.

The Hayes Field Project is scheduled for completion on August 1.

The Board-approved 2017-18 School Budget represents a 1.2% increase over the previous fiscal year.

Ann Meyer – Principal's and Guidance Department Reports

Ann began by announcing scheduled testing dates. State Tests in Math for grades 3-8 are underway and will continue throughout this week. As well, AP Exams began on Monday, May 1 and will continue through Friday, May 12. All available testing spaces will be in use during this time. Students taking AP exams need to be reminded that they should continue to attend all regularly scheduled classes throughout the testing period except on the day(s) of their exam(s).

Prom will be held Friday, May 12. There is a mandatory meeting on May 9 at 2:30 for all students planning to attend the event. Checks and permission slips are due this Friday, May 5.

The final exam schedule was emailed to families last week. Keep in mind that the Regents Exam schedule is state-mandated and, as such, is firm.

In the absence of Anne Abbatacola and Karen Peterson, Ann summarized Guidance Dept. and Athletic Council announcements.

Guidance Department

Progress reports will be available May 18.

Grade Reports

Grade 9 – No report

Grade 10 – No report

Grade 11- 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.

Grade 12 – Seniors should be reminded to update their college results and decisions on Naviance. This information is quite useful for the next wave of students beginning their college search/application process. Hence, accuracy is key.

High School Scholastic Achievement Reception is scheduled for June 5 at 7pm.

Subject Test registration deadline is May 5.

Senior Week begins May 22 and is followed by Senior Shadowing weeks (May 30-June 2; June 5-9). The Shadowing opportunities list has been made available to students.

Athletic Council

Spirit Week was a big success. Faculty-Student Volley Ball game a highlight.

ES Track Clinic was cancelled due to weather. Plans are in the works to reschedule.

Fall Sports “Start” dates confirmed.

Aug 14 – JV and Varsity Football

Aug 21 – All other sports

Homecoming – October 12-14

Playoffs will begin in two weeks.

Patsy Magnelli (formerly of Blind Brook) has been named our new varsity football head coach. The search committee included members of the HS Administration, Jr/Sr Varsity Players and parents.

Molly Hendick - B’Well

B’Well is holding a seminar on May 27 focusing on the growing number of “over-use” injuries experienced by athletes throughout the grade school years. This is just one of the

topics B'Well hopes to address through its school-wide progressive wellness programs. Other topics will likely include general fitness, safety and overall enjoyment of sport.

May is Mental Health Month and the statistics are sobering; 1 out of 5 Americans will face mental health issues in their lifetime. Roughly 40 million are currently dealing with anxiety related illnesses. The National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI) is a grassroots advocacy group representing families and individuals affected by mental disorders. Current hot-button mental health topics in our society include destigmatizing mental illness and preserving mental health insurance coverage in the U.S. To learn more and/or support the efforts of NAMI, visit its website at NAMI.org.

Liz Maze – SFL

SFL is in the process of revising its constitution. We are thinking hard 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.

Lisa Barr - Bronxville School Foundation

The Foundation will be voting on next year's grants on May 8.

Grade Reports

Grade 9 – Car Wash – Sunday, May 7, 10am-1pm

Grade 10 – No Report

Grade 11 – Prom – May 12 – Permission slip and \$100 gets you a seat on the bus. Be sure and get paperwork in by May 5.

Grade 12 – Last week of HS kicks off on May 15 with “Milk and Cookies Send-Off” at noon.

Angela Seminara - PTA President

On Wednesday, May 10, The BoE, The Bronxville School Foundation and the PTA invite the school community to meet our new Superintendent, Dr. Roy Montesano. The meeting will be held in the Auditorium Lobby from 6-8 pm.

Be on the lookout for information regarding the Memorial Day Weekend schedule of events. There's a lot to look forward to.

THE LAST HIGH SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY, JUNE 6, 2017 IN THE BOARD ROOM.