

High School Council Meeting April 5, 2016

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

Angela Seminara opened the meeting. The annual Hearts-to-Home phonathon is scheduled for April 20. Families not wishing to receive a fund-raising call that evening can opt out by completing the appropriate form. The Hearts-to-Home Bike Build which provides bikes to the families of veterans, will be held on April 30. This is a very popular event among middle and high school students.

Ann Meyer – Principal

On April 4th and 5th, Hope's Door will be conducting 40 minute workshops for the 10th and 11th grades. The Hope's Door organization "seeks to end domestic violence and to empower victims to achieve safety, independence and healing from the trauma of abuse." The focus of the workshop is to provide students with an understanding of what constitutes an unhealthy relationship. In particular, the workshops will provide information on detecting the signs of a controlling relationship and how/where to seek help. Boys and girls will attend separate break-out sessions. A summary of the discussion points of the workshops is attached in these minutes. In addition, Hope's Door will work with seniors as they prepare for college. Relationship violence has reached epidemic proportions on college campuses across the country; statistics suggest that 1 in 3 of all college women are victims of sexual assault.

Ann will be sending out an email shortly providing the details of this year's prom which is scheduled for Friday, 5/13. Permission slips will be attached. In addition, all attendees will be required to attend a meeting outlining rules of conduct and specific itinerary.

On May 23, the Bronxville School, in conjunction with Lawrence/ Columbia Presbyterian Hospital, will host an informational job forum highlighting "Careers in Medicine." The event will be open to students from numerous high schools in the area. Over 35 Lawrence Hospital medical professionals have signed up to participate, including physicians, nurse practitioners, pharmacists, nutritionists and medical students. The forum will likely be organized in "booth" format, enabling attendees to focus on their particular area(s) of interest. This forum represents an excellent opportunity for the school to forge an ongoing relationship with one of our community's largest employers and could open up future internship and WISE opportunities for Bronxville students.

The second annual Spring Innovation Expo is scheduled for May 17. The program will begin with an Art Show in the Auditorium and Atrium Lobbies, followed by an introduction to the evening's program and two consecutive 45 minute workshops of each attendees' choosing. High School students will be hosting innovation workshops highlighting their experiences in classes, school clubs (e.g. Incubator Club) and independent studies. A detailed listing of the workshops being showcased will be available closer to the date of the event.

On April 6, the Senior Shadowing parent meeting will be held in the MPR at 2:30 pm. The meeting will describe the process and logistics of the two-week program beginning May 23.

Baccalaureate will be held at 4:30 pm on Sunday, June 12 at Concordia. As the organizers of Baccalaureate considered the auditorium, it became clear that seating might be an issue. At Concordia, students sit on the stage so there is a full amount of seating available for the audience. If we were to hold the ceremony in our auditorium, however, we would likely have to sit our students in the 'audience' which would reduce the number of seats available to parents and friends by approximately 120 seats. Also, the auditorium lobby cannot accommodate a 500-person reception after the ceremony. At Concordia, the reception space is larger.

Students interested in performing at the ceremony are encouraged to access the link previously provided by Ann.

Jen Forsberg – Director of Technology

Jen provided an update on the evolution of technology in the Bronxville High School. Parents can view the full range of initiatives by accessing the link to her presentation, “Snapshot of Technology” at:

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1i9j4AK4PdHG7-HAyLHLrpim-t9Z5aaCDIQ7F8d86deI/edit#slide=id.g122bf25cc4_0_24

One of this year’s successes has been the creation of the Student Help Desk. The Help Desk, launched in the fall, began with six HS students as an independent study. These students work in concert with the school tech team to provide additional support services to K-12 teachers and their students. The Help Desk is the first such initiative of its kind in the area, and will be presenting at the Innovation Expo in May. Ann Meyer noted that in addition to facilitating the use and understanding of technology within our school community, the Help Desk provides its volunteers with valuable skills such as “how to communicate effectively with those who know less than you” and “how to enhance problem-solving by drilling down to what is really going on.”

The introduction of E-portfolios in the ninth grade is another example of how technology can promote collaboration and reflection among our teachers and students. The portfolios, introduced through the joint efforts of Guidance and 9th grade English teachers provide a vehicle for students to document, reflect on and direct their growth throughout their high school experience. The next step is to look for ways to expand the initiative beyond the 9th grade.

Digital Citizenship which refers to the “norms of appropriate, responsible technology use” is receiving particular emphasis within the school community. The Digital Citizenship umbrella provides information and guidance in understanding issues such as

privacy and security, relationships and communication, cyberbullying, digital footprints and internet safety. “Common Sense Media” is an excellent reference tool for parents and educators of K-12 students concerned about making healthy and helpful use of today’s technology. See www.commonsensemedia.org for more information.

Finally, “Infinite Campus” will replace Rediker Portals as the Bronxville School’s student/parent information system. The new system will launch in January, 2017. Data transfer will begin this summer and all constituencies (faculty, students and parents) will be educated prior to launch. (The mid-year start date was chosen because it allows for the time and training necessary to ensure smooth implementation.) The Edgemont District (previous home of Ann Meyer) has been using Infinite Campus for years with great success.

Mara Koetke – Director of Curriculum and Instruction
Mirella Tronco – ES/MS Parent

Mirella announced that the documentary film, “Most Likely to Succeed” will be shown in the BS Auditorium on 5/11 from 6:30 – 8 pm. The documentary, which was screened at Sundance, follows a group of 9th grade students at High Tech High in San Diego, CA who are immersed in project-based learning and strives to answer the question of how we can best help our children develop the critical thinking, collaborative and communication skills necessary for engaged learning in the 21st century.

Mara will lead a panel discussion (which will include students) after the screening to discuss how best we can prepare our students for the innovation era.

More information will be forthcoming.

Tickets are free and available on the PTA Website.

David Quattrone - Superintendent’s Report

Rather than repeat much of what had already been discussed, David sought to reflect on the progress our faculty, administrators and parents have made in fulfilling the Bronxville Promise to each of our students. The long-stated goal is fast becoming a reality. David referenced the Winter, 2016 issue of “Across the Bronxville Schools” as a testament to how the school’s dual commitment to investments in technology and project-based learning are enhancing our children’s current educational experience and preparing them for an engaged future.

Lastly, members of the Tri-State Consortium will be visiting Bronxville School in late April to observe classrooms in progress and determine how well we are living up to the Promise.

Anne Abbatacola – Guidance Report

Grade 8 – Course selection for upcoming freshman will begin as soon as 9th grade discussions are complete.

Two information sessions are being planned for presentation during 8th grade Advisory. High school upperclassmen will discuss their freshman experience and offer tips for successful transition. As well, curriculum requirements for graduation will be discussed.

Applications are in from high school juniors interested in assisting with freshman transition next fall.

Orientation for Parents of rising freshmen will be held in the MPR on April 6 at 7pm in the MPR.

Grade 9 – Students and counselors are currently in process of completing course selection for upcoming year.

Grade 10 – Sophomores are beginning the process of assessing which college standardized test (SAT or ACT) will most positively highlight their individual strengths. Parents and students are encouraged to visit the Kaplan website for guidance.

Grade 11 – Parents and students need to get their “Brag Sheets” in to counselors this spring. Writing substantive, compelling college recommendations hinges on detailed input and insight from both parents and students. As well, students must secure individual teacher commitments to provide college recommendations on their behalf.

Grade 12 – Anne reiterated that Guidance must know where students are going to college. Continued scholastic effort is a “must” for a strong finish and is closely monitored by colleges. The final transcript is very important.

The two-week AP Exam period begins Monday, May 2.

Third Quarter ends April 11. Report cards will be posted the following week.

Scholastic Achievement Awards will be held Monday of Senior Week.

Karen Peterson – Athletic Report

Spring Spirit Week begins Friday, April 15.

Recurring annual activities include:

Track and Field Fun Clinic, sponsored by the Varsity Track Teams and offered to Grades 1-5

HS Pep Rally Senior/Faculty Volleyball Game

In addition, this year's Spirit Week reflects the school's growing desire to combine charitable/memorial events with athletic activities across all three schools (ES, MS and HS).

Such events include:

Baseball Fan Game in support of the Zoe Klimley Scholarship Fund

Thomas Jakelich Memorial Soccer Tournament

Girls and Boys Lacrosse Fan Game sponsored by the One Love Foundation

Hearts-to-Home Bike Build

Much more planned. Please visit the school website for details and schedule.

SFL – Annette Adamiyatt

Thomas Jakelich Memorial Soccer Tournament

SFL is co-hosting the Thomas Jakelich Soccer Tournament with the Athletic Council on Saturday, 4/16. SFL donated \$2,000 for the purchase of T-shirts for the event. The entrance fee for the tournament will be \$10 per head. All proceeds will be designated for the Thomas Jakelich scholarship fund at Loyola.

Elizabeth Seton Pediatric Long-Term Care Facility

Elizabeth Seton is planning a prom for its residents later this spring. The theme will be "An Evening in Paris". SFL is sponsoring a drive to help collect dresses for the girls and has allocated \$2,500 to the effort.

The SFL has donated \$10,000 in total to a variety of charities including Elizabeth's Hope and the Zoe Klimley Scholarship Fund.

Youth Council Talent Night

Date has yet to be determined. Auditions will take place shortly.

THE NEXT HIGH SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE HELD TUESDAY, MAY 3.

