

High School Council Meeting May 3, 2016

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

Helen opened the meeting with a reminder that the PTA Faculty Recognition Tea is scheduled for May 25th. This long-standing tradition recognizes Bronxville School Faculty members for their multiple years of service as well as honoring those teachers who will be retiring at the end of the school year. Similar to last year, seniors will prepare speeches describing the impact these educators have had on their academic and personal growth. The Tea is one of our school's most treasured celebrations.

David Quattrone – Superintendent of Schools

On May 17, the Bronxville community will be voting (Blue Gym) to approve next year's school budget. As well, three new members of the BOE are expected to be officially endorsed.

The 2016-2017 budget increased .25% over current year budget, essentially tracking the CPI. While next year's budget is a tight one, some flexibility was achieved as a result of staff retirements. David indicated that next year's negotiations regarding the 2017-18 budget will likely be challenging.

The Tri-State Consortium recently concluded their visit to the Bronxville School. The Consortium comes to Bronxville once every three years to provide an outside perspective on the progress of our school's stated direction and programs. This year, we requested that the Consortium focus on assessing how well our school is fulfilling the Bronxville Promise. A total of twelve educators, including three principals made up the Consortium team. Over the course of two weeks, they observed classes in progress and interviewed numerous faculty, students and parents. David was glad to report that the Consortium left with a "strong sense that the district is pulling together as a single entity" rather than as a conglomeration of three separate schools as it had in the past. They stated that there was a palpable sense of energy throughout the campus. David will be presenting an Executive Summary of the Consortium's findings at the May 17 BOE meeting.

Flood mitigation begins this week with the installation of an underground pump which will act as a "containment mechanism" for excess water. The project is being funded by FEMA with the Village acting as the lead entity. The schedule has been posted to the school website. It is important to understand that while the project is underway, we will experience a variety of temporary dislocations, including the presence of a construction trailer behind the bleachers as well as the elimination of some faculty parking spots. As well, our athletic teams will have fewer home games next fall as playable field space will be reduced.

Ann Meyer – Principal

Ann's comments focused primarily on exciting events taking place at the Bronxville School later this month.

May 11th – Screening/panel discussion of the original film, “Most Likely to Succeed” will be held in the auditorium (6:30 -9:00 pm). Tickets are free and available on the school website. A more detailed description of the film is provided in the minutes of the April 5th High School Council Meeting.

May 17th – Spring Innovation Expo (known previously as the Family/School Partnership (FSP)). 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. Students spent a great deal of time developing workshop content, presenting that content to faculty for feedback and then incorporating that feedback in the finished product. The complete brochure of workshops can be found on the PTA website. Registration for specific workshops can be done on the website or through Constant Contact. While not mandatory, preregistration helps Ann to plan the evening's schedule and to best accommodate attendees' interests. Both parents and students are enthusiastically encouraged to attend. Ann is working on making the evening a “homework free night” in order to facilitate maximum participation.

May 23rd - 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, which will be held in the cafeteria and Blue Gym, will be organized in “booth” format, enabling attendees to focus on their particular area(s) of interest. There will be many “hands-on” learning opportunities. For example, students will be able to perform intubations on dummy patients and study viruses in a laboratory environment. As mentioned in earlier meetings, 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.

Weeks of May 23 and 30th – Senior Shadowing. Over 98 seniors are participating in the Senior Shadowing program this year, representing nearly twice the number of students that participated last year. Ann expressed the school's gratitude to the parent community for helping to develop and sponsor the many opportunities afforded our seniors through the program. Mary Gay and Larry Bettino are the parent point-persons for the program.

Anne Abbatacola - Guidance Report

In Anne's absence, Ann Meyer summarized the report.

AP Exams are underway. Over 500 AP exams are being taken by 230 students during this week and next. While the results of this testing period determine AP credit for colleges, students should be reminded that **LEARNING CONTINUES** in these and all other classes until end-of-school in June.

Other items of note:

During the later part of the quarter, Juniors will be participating in college essay workshops conducted by an outside host.

Counselors are finalizing course selection for all high school students. Students must be sure to submit all requests ASAP as Ann M. is in process of building next year's final schedule.

In two weeks, progress reports will be available.

The final exam schedule has been posted. If your child has a conflict, they need to resolve it with Mr. Lessane.

Finally, the Thomas Jakelich Memorial Soccer Tournament held during Spirit Week was a tremendously successful and moving event. Over 200 students from the Bronxville, Loyola and Tuckahoe communities participated. The winning team was a Loyola/Bronxville combination. We look forward to continuing this heart-felt remembrance.

Lisa Rao – PTA President

The primary events for this year's Memorial Day celebration incorporate a Spring Socials Evening for Parents on May 20th from 7-9 pm* and a Family Country Fair and Art Show on the front lawn on Friday, May 27 from 5-8pm. The Country Fair is being advertised through the Chamber of Commerce and is open to the entire Bronxville community. Tickets for both events can be purchased on the PTA website.

The PTA is continuing to solicit donations for the Dollar Raffle. Donated items can be dropped off at Laura Pettee's house on Midland Avenue.

* The Youth Council Talent Show is scheduled for the same evening as the Spring Socials. Efforts are underway to manage the conflict.

Grade Reports

Grade 12 - Graduation packets are going out this week. Parents should fill out permission slips and any other necessary documentation. The Mother's Day plant sale ends Monday, 5/9. This event helps fund Andrus, senior center and Haze activities.

Grade 11- Prom is scheduled for Friday, May 13. Over 261 students will be attending, the most in school history. A mandatory meeting for ALL prom attendees will be held on Thursday, May 5 at 2:30 pm.

Grade 10- The grade's recent car wash raised over \$1,300. This year, the grade has raised a total of \$12,000 through a variety of activities and services.

Grade 9 – 9th grade car wash is scheduled for this Saturday, 5/7.

Sarah Kraemer – Be Well

Sarah began her comments by stating that surprisingly, 70% of concussions sustained by adolescents are caused by the kids diving into a couch as opposed to getting knocked around during athletic events. In any case, Sarah described an App that you can download onto your phone that allows you to do a quick assessment if a concussion is suspected. Findings can then be emailed to parents and/or physicians. There is also a 911 feature if you need an emergency response. The name of the App is Concussion Recognition & Response. It is free on the App Store.

Sarah said that in light of recent tragedies surrounding drug overdoses, it's important for parents to recognize that drugs such as heroine ARE available and in demand in lower Westchester communities. It is most definitely OUR problem.

Rose Crawford – Athletic Council

Rose reiterated the great success of Spirit Week. Community events such as the Track and Field Fun Clinic for elementary school students was attended by over 200 of our children. In addition, "Fan" days raised over \$20,000 in the names of Thomas Jakelich and Zoe Klimley.

Looking ahead, the nominating and election processes for next year's Athletic Council positions will take place towards the end of the year.

SFL – Annette Adamiyatt

The final SFL event of this year will be held for the Elizabeth Seton Pediatric Long-Term Care Facility. SFL is helping to plan a prom for its residents. The theme is to be “An Evening in Paris”. SFL is sponsoring a drive to help collect dresses for the girls. Many of our seniors will be participating.

Nominating and election processes for next year’s SFL student leadership positions will be held prior to year-end.

**THE NEXT AND FINAL HIGH SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING OF THE YEAR
WILL BE HELD TUESDAY, JUNE 7.**