



SLT Minutes

April 3, 2008

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| ✓ R. Asher, Principal | ✓ D. Baldwin, UFT Chair | ✓ J. Ewing, PTA Co-President |
| ✗ D. Fanning, APO | ✓ D. Belmont, UFT | ✓ S. Goltser, PTA |
| ✗ M. Mandery, BTHS Foundation | ✓ J. Ludwig, SLT Chair | ✓ A. Grundman-Cooper, PTA |
| ✓ A. Ahmed | ✓ I. Yu, Student | ✓ J. Hertzberg, PTA |
| ✓ Marc Williams, COSA (GUEST) | | ✓ G. Hines, PTA |

A. CALL TO ORDER

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Minutes of February 14, 2008 approved by committee.

C. REPORT OF SUB COMMITTEE TO REVIEW COLLEGE OFFICE PRACTICES (SRCOP)

- Thanks were expressed to the SLT Subcommittee to Review College Office Practices (SRCOP) – Mr. Baldwin, Chairman; Ms. Goltser; Ms. Grundman-Cooper; Ms. Hertzberg; Mr. Saeed; Mr. Stein; Ms. Yu -- for its work and detailed report looking at Brooklyn Tech College Office procedures.
- Report from Dan Baldwin on SRCOP findings of College Office procedures including: staffing, use of Naviance, possible use of Alumni Foundation “Affinity” Groups, purchase of some equipment by the PA, purchase of new computers and furniture, and summer essay writing.
- Mr. Asher noted that the Subcommittee report is a good example of data-driven decision making. He suggested creating a committee of administrators and College Office staff to fine tune the Subcommittee’s College Office report, creating mechanisms for implementation and inclusion in school planning documents before we are ready to vote on approving the recommendations.
- Some discussion of Naviance tracking of BTHS student acceptances, and possibility that students will be given Naviance passwords so they can start using it earlier than their senior year.

D. NEW BUSINESS

1. Cross-Dressing Day opinions were shared. It is not an Administration sanctioned event. It was an event when Tech had a single week of senior pride events. Mr. Williams stressed that students feel it is done in fun and is a demonstration of school pride. Since we don’t sanction it, we should not draw attention to it by prohibiting it. The current dress code covers inappropriate dress regardless of what gender is wearing it. However, it was noted that even if it were an unofficial event, it may be seen as official, and might be seen as making fun of transgender people. However, the view of the SLT was that this unsanctioned day is a non-event. Mr. Ludwig expressed his dissent noting that this event will be perceived as offensive to a wide range of people from different backgrounds both gay and straight. No motion either banning or commending Cross-Dressing Day was proposed.
2. Valentine’s messages in *The Survey* also appeared on the agenda. Mr. Ludwig expressed concern that the language of those messages might be deemed lascivious or prurient and detracts from the dignity of the educational environment. Mr. Baldwin, Mr. Ewing, and others disagreed, and expressed the view that the Valentine’s messages were not lascivious, but were cute and age appropriate. There was almost unanimous agreement that the messages are a non-issue. Valentine ads are a fundraising device, although some inappropriate coded messages might get through. No motion was proposed regarding this matter.
3. Dress Code – The Principal proposed a revised Brooklyn Tech Dress code based largely on existing Dress Codes at Bronx High School for Science and Staten Island Technical High School. The Principal noted that the request to set a formal dress code came from the students. Various views were expressed. Should clothing have sleeves? Should strapless tops be allowed? Should skirts and shorts be a hand width above the knee? Motion was made and seconded to adopt a revised Dress Code. Another motion was made and seconded to amend the Dress Code to ban tank and halter tops. After discussion it was agreed that tank top underwear would come under the prohibition of underwear, and thus could be edited from the amendment. Mr. Ludwig, proposer of the amendment, agreed to the deletion of tank tops from the amendment. The SLT then agreed by consensus to add the prohibition on halter tops to the proposed Dress Code and to pass the Dress Code.

- *Clothing should not be distracting or offensive to other members of the Brooklyn Tech community.*
- *Clothing that degrades religion, race, or sexuality and clothing that promotes alcohol, drug use or offensive language prohibited.*
- *Undergarments must not be visible.*
- *Clothing may not be transparent (sheer) unless it is worn in combination with other garments that are not transparent.*
- *Tops and bottoms of outer garments must meet and should reasonably cover skin and not expose midriff or back. Strapless and halter tops are prohibited.*
- *Skirts, shorts or other garments covering the lower body must reach at least one hand width above the knee in length.*
- *Any headwear: hats, visors, do-rags, bandannas, etc. are prohibited (administrative exception for religious or medical reasons).*

The question came up whether faculty should be bound by the same Dress Code as the students. Is inappropriate dress considered “conduct unbecoming a professional educator?” Mr. Ludwig stated that a Dress Code cannot apply to the faculty as it is a violation of their First Amendment rights. The issue was tabled pending DOE legal feedback.

4. Principal’s Report

- a) Elevators – In the process of breaking the current contract. Meeting is planned soon with Mr. Asher, Mr. Fanning and possibly others in attendance.
- b) Auditorium – being brought up to professional status and possibly hosting Metropolitan Opera and Doo-Wop concert. The Administration is looking into rental of “external” auditorium equipment and paying for technicians. Looking for someone like PTA and student government to do concessions.
- c) Budget – Expect a minimum of 5% cut next year. Possible staff, supply, electives, teams and other class cuts. Right now the shape of the cuts will be contingent of the exact budget cuts. We don’t have high overload. Next week the alumni “21 for 21” campaign starts, aiming for \$21 million. A press conference is scheduled for 4/10/08 at 11 a.m. with notable alumni in attendance. Some pledges were already made.
- d) We were found “well developed” by the Quality Review
- e) The Parent Coordinator, Keisha Husbands, has resigned.
- f) Students, faculty and staff are invited to Alumni homecoming.

E. OUTSTANDING ITEMS FROM THE MINUTES TO BE COVERED AT NEXT MEETING: Graduation speaker, CEP goals.

F. ADJOURNED 6:50 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, April 17, 2008, 4:30 p.m., Room 1W26