Parent Teacher Association
General Meeting
September 15, 2011
Minutes

Call to Order
The meeting was called to order at 6:40 pm. The June 2011 minutes were presented and approved. Carrie Ho and Elliot Greene presented the goals for the PTA for the 2011 – 2012 school year which are to build a tight community among parents, teachers, staff and students; engage the Asian families in the PTA and to receive a minimum donation of $25 from every Brooklyn Tech family. After stating the goals, the 2011 - 2012 Executive Board was introduced and there was a call for parents to volunteer for the Gala Auction.

Mr. Randy Asher - Principal’s Report
Mr. Asher began by welcoming the parents and stated that Brooklyn Tech had a very smooth opening. He spoke about the need for parents to stay involved in their child's academic life and to monitor their progress via email with teachers, the soon to be unveiled Skedula online grade book and the Tech website. He addressed the parents of freshman specifically about the challenges of Tech and encouraged them to make sure their students were getting to bed at a reasonable hour, keeping up with work and eating breakfast. Mr. Asher assured parents that the tutoring schedule would be on the bths.edu site within a few days and encouraged parents to encourage their children to take advantage of the tutoring that is offered at school. Lastly, Mr. Asher discussed the issue of program changes. He outlined what could and could not be changed and warned that any requests needed to be made by Sept. 16, 2011.

Ms. Jennifer Sullivan – Assistant Principal for Student and Parent Engagement
Ms. Sullivan spoke about the two areas that her office handles. The first of these being non academic school issues and services (such as clubs/activities and service hours that the students have to complete in order to receive a Tech diploma). The second area being parent contact (including but not limited to the returning of lunch forms, parent portion of the DOE Learning Environment Survey and Daedalus). Ms. Sullivan encouraged all parents to return lunch forms to the school rather than completing form online so that any errors could be handled by the school.
Ms. Sullivan encouraged parents to reach out to her at any time by email at jsullivan@bths.edu or phone (718) 804-6442.

Ms. S. Mei Chan – Parent Coordinator
Ms. Chan introduced herself and gave her contact information. Email schan19@schools.nyc.gov and phone (718) 804-6441. Encouraged parents to make sure information on blue card was updated and that all blue cards be returned as soon as possible.

Ms. Gina Paulson – Guidance Department
Ms. Paulson gave an overview of the way guidance counselors will access their students. In 9th and 10th grades, students are assigned to counselors via their technology classes so that when the counselor needs to address a general issue, it can be done via the technology class. Students in 11th and 12th grades are assigned to a counselor via their major.
**Nominations and Elections**
Candidates for each open position came forward to introduce themselves and spoke for 2 minutes about their qualifications. Ballots were distributed, collected and counted. The results were as follows:
- Junior VP – Richard Schaedle
- Freshman VP – Yvette Bentham-Edwards
- Sergeant-at-Arms – Simon Yhap
- Assistant Recording Secretary – Sharon Goldzweig

**Treasurer’s Report**
Iris Lam distributed and reviewed the budget for approval. The budget was approved.

**Mr. Randall Barclay – Assistant Principal of Physics**
Mr. Barclay discussed and demonstrated the advantages of the University of Texas homework system. He also discussed the results of students who take Physics as freshman vs those who take the course as juniors. He relayed that the biggest concerns in all Physics classes were homework and lab report completion.

**Ms. Nicole Culella – Assistant Principal of Engineering**
Ms. Culella spoke to the parent’s about the credits students can receive from Rochester Institute of Technology by completing their DDP, DE and other engineering classes that they take while at Brooklyn Tech. She explained that the credits placed on transcript, therefore may be applied to various schools – not just RIT. Letters will go out in October to all students who took the exams for their engineering classes and received the necessary score to receive credit from RIT. Ms. Culella did warn that the window for payment this year was smaller than in previous years. All information regarding payment dates and amounts will appear in letter to students and parents.

**Mrs. Carole Kelly – Corresponding Secretary**
Mrs. Kelly spoke to the parents about the PTA website – brooklyntechpta.org – and all of the ways it can be used. She discussed ongoing fundraisers that could be accessed via the website as well as the volunteer form.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm