Call to order
The meeting was called to order at 6:50 PM. The September 2011 minutes were presented and amended minutes were approved. Elliot Greene and Carrie Ho discussed the 2nd Annual Gala which is scheduled for March 24, 2012. A solicitation of parents to volunteer for the event was made and a volunteer sheet was passed around to the meeting attendees. Planning meeting of October 17 at 6:00pm for the Gala was announced and volunteers were invited to attend.

Principal’s Report
Mr. Asher alerted parents that Brooklyn Tech is scheduled for a Quality Review on October 17th, 18th and 19th. During the Quality Review the school will be evaluated on how practices and protocols are implemented at Tech. Mr. Asher instructed any parent available to speak to the review team on Tuesday, October 18th to leave their contact information and further details would be made available to them.

Mr. Asher spoke to the issue of lockers and security of belongings. He stated that any student who does not have a locker needs to make sure they carry their belongings with them throughout the day. Students should not expect to leave belongings in a classroom during the day and retrieve them at the end of the day. It was noted that students have been known to share lockers in the past and if a child does not yet have a locker, sharing a locker with a friend is an option.

Mr. Asher then discussed Brooklyn Tech’s rating in US News & World Report as a top 50 STEM school in the nation. The rankings are based on two key components – how many students are enrolled in AP courses and how many students receive a grade of 3 or higher on AP exams for said courses. While Tech does offer many AP courses and the students routinely do well, Mr. Asher explained that after a student takes an AP course at Tech instead of offering another course in a particular subject (for example AP Calculus followed by and additional AP math course) the student is offered a college level course going deeper into the study of a particular area of study. While this method better prepares the student for higher learning it is unfortunately not recognized by the US News & World Report rankings.

Mr. Asher also informed the parents that Tech had been recognized as a finalist in the Intel School of Distinction for 2011. The honor, which recognizes Tech as one of the top 3 schools for science instruction in the country, includes a $5,000 prize that Tech plans to use by funding a bridge program with junior high schools to get middle school students interested in and aware of what Brooklyn Tech has to offer.

Lastly, Mr. Asher made an announcement regarding an Alumni event being held at Giondo on the Water on November 9, 2011. He directed anyone interested in attending or providing personal or corporate sponsorships for the event could find information on the bths.edu website under the ALUMNI tab.

Treasurer’s Report
Iris Lam distributed and reviewed the budget for approval. The budget was approved.
Ms. Sullivan – AP of Student and Parent Engagement

Ms. Sullivan reminded parents of upcoming important dates including October 21st (end of the first marking period), November 2nd (report card distribution) and November 3rd & 4th (Parent – Teacher Conferences; evening and afternoon, respectively).

Ms. Sullivan also reminded parents that if they want the daily announcements emailed to them, they can request this service by emailing bths_cosa@bths.edu. Daily announcements can also be found on the bths.edu website.

Skedula login requests can be handled by placing a phone call to Ms. Sullivan at (718) 804-6442 or to the Parent Coordinator, Ms. Chan, at (718) 804-6441. In addition, students can go to room 1W2 to get a copy of the login information.

Jason Horowitz - Faculty/Staff Appreciation Dinner Co-Chair

Mr. Horowitz invited parents to help with this year’s Faculty/Staff Appreciation dinner before the evening Parent - Teacher Conference on Thursday, November 3rd. Volunteers are needed to help decorate, purchase food and beverage items, set-up, serve and clean up for the event. There are two shifts that need to be staffed – SET UP from 1:30 to 4:30 and CLEAN UP from 4:30 to 6:30. Any parent who volunteers will receive an EXPRESS PASS that lets them go to the head of the line to speak with all of their child’s teachers.

Mrs. Carole Kelly – Corresponding Secretary
Mrs. Kelly spoke to the parents about the ongoing fundraisers - Flower Power and Amazon.com - that could be accessed via the website.

Rosemarie Mazzone – Director of College Services

Mrs. Mazzone gave a thorough presentation regarding the college application process that is being done online via the Naviance system. She explained that Seniors MUST have their list of schools they are applying to listed on Naviance by Thursday, November 17th.

Mrs. Mazzone spoke to the importance of the college interview process mentioning that students should research the schools in order to be able to answer questions thoughtfully and intelligently. She informed parents that to date Tech has held several “college panels” where representatives from schools such as Yale, Brown, U Penn, Princeton, Notre Dame and University of Chicago were available to talk about their respective institutions and answer student questions.

Mrs. Mazzone announced a college trip to the DC area on November 7th and 8th. Colleges being visited include Johns Hopkins, Georgetown, American and the University of Delaware. Cost is $160/per person.

Mrs. Mazzone then opened the floor to questions.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.