Call to Order
The meeting was called to order at 6:45 pm.

Co-President’s Report
The March, 2012 minutes were presented and approved. Attendees were informed that while accounting is not yet completed, it looks like the 2nd Annual Auction and International Food Festival had matched the amount raised in 2011. Photos from the event can be viewed at www.brooklyntechpta.org. The PTA would like to thank all of those who volunteered, performed and attended.

Ms. Borovilas – College Office
Ms. Borovilas highlighted upcoming dates and events that the College Office will be sponsoring. Chief among these dates are:

- College Fair – Saturday, May 5th 1:00pm to 4:00pm in the student cafeteria
  - 100 colleges are confirmed
  - Fair is not open only to Tech students
  - Volunteers needed for translation (Chinese, Spanish, Russian, et al) and to serve lunch to college representatives. Volunteer shifts will run approximately 1 ½ to 2 hours.
  - Anyone wishing to volunteer can email presidents@brooklyntechpta.org with COLLEGE FAIR in the subject line

- Panel Presentations that will be taking place in the Teacher’s Cafeteria from 3:15pm to 4:30pm
  - Wednesday, April 18 – Architecture Programs
  - Wednesday, April 25 – Engineering & Aerospace Programs
  - Wednesday, May 2 – Media & Design
  - Wednesday, May 9 – Science Programs
  - Wednesday, May 16 – Liberal Arts Programs
  - STUDENTS MUST SIGN UP FOR PANEL DISCUSSIONS

- May 3rd PTA meeting: Mrs. Mazzone, Director of College Office, will moderate panel of Seniors who will discuss time at Tech and the college application process.

- May 10th: Dr. Cheryl Paradis, co-author of “Tackling College Admission – Sanity + Strategy = Success” will speak about the college admission process from the parent perspective.

- Spring College Visits: Check COLLEGE OFFICE tab on bths.edu website for more information
  - May 31st: SUNY New Paltz, Marist and Vassar
  - June 7th: U Conn, Wesslyan, and Quinnipiac

Ms. Grandison & Ms. Ho – Nomination Committee
Ms. Grandison and Ms. Ho are the co-chairs of the PTA Nomination Committee. Ms. Grandison is asking for two (2) parent volunteers to assist with the election process. This will include presenting the nominees at the May 3rd meeting and run elections at the June 7th meeting. Senior parents are strongly encouraged to assist as current PTA members who hold office cannot assist in these duties. If you are interested in helping, please email presidents@brooklyntechpta.org with the subject line NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Iris Lam - Treasurer’s Report
Iris Lam distributed and reviewed the budget for approval. The income included $15,613 from the Auction and $6,178 from the Annual Fund drive. Ms. Lam explained that more income from the Auction may come in April and some Auction expenses may not be included until the April budget.

Mr. Asher – Principal’s Report
Mr. Asher began by congratulating the Wrestling program for their achievements. Two members just missed being nationally ranked, while the Senior captain has been named an All American and is ranked 4th in the nation. The Senior Class Trip to DisneyWorld was chaperoned by Mr. Kaelin, Mr. Torres and two (2) parents. The trip to Spain was scheduled for departure on April 6th. The Administration is contemplating trips to France and China in the future.

Mr. Asher also spoke about upcoming events being hosted by the Alumni Foundation. The first is Alumni Homecoming the weekend of April 27th. The weekend will include classroom visits, attending the spring musical Grease and a presentation on April 28th at the school. The Alumni Foundation’s Gala will be held on June 7th at Cipriani Wall Street. Individual tickets are $500 per person and parents are encouraged to approach their employees to buy tables to either attend or sponsor current students to attend. Students are invited and encouraged to attend these events as the Alumni Association is a 50,000 member strong organization and this offers them the opportunity to see where they’ll be in a few short years.

In terms of academics, Mr. Asher implored parents to continue to monitor Skedula in order to stay abreast of their student’s grades. Students taking AP exams may exhibit signs of stress, so be on the lookout for these signs from mid-April through the end of May. Elective courses can be selected on Daedalus through April 17th. Students are put on a list of courses they select. Whether or not they are programmed for their choices depends on eligibility and the number of sections of the course being offered. Current freshman have the option of selecting honors courses as well as AP World or European History. Current sophomores and juniors have more choices as far as AP courses are concerned. As far as course load is concerned, a student can be programmed for three (3) AP classes without needing special permission. If a student would like to take four (4) AP classes they must meet with their guidance counselor. Any student wishing to take five (5) or more AP classes will have to speak directly with Mr. Asher for approval. Once a student is registered for an AP class it CANNOT BE DROPPED. Students should carefully consider which classes they choose. Mr. Asher did mention that AP Studio Art would no longer be a course offered at Tech as the rigors of the test gives an advantage to those who have a four year portfolio. Instead Media Majors will be certified in college-level software courses.

Tech will have 1,400 students incoming for Fall 2012. This is the same as the incoming class of 2011 and about 200 more students incoming than outgoing. The school is preparing and updating as many rooms as possible to accommodate the extra students. The auditorium will also get a $2 million upgrade that is being managed by a senior parent. The light bulbs, lighting and sound systems will be renovated and air conditioning will be installed thanks in part to a donation of $1.5 million from the City Council.

Mr. Appelrouth – Appelrouth Tutoring “Stress, Boundaries and Expectations: A Conversation to Help Your Kids”

Mr. Appelrouth spoke to the issue of stress in student’s lives. Students today face more pressure than their parents generation and these pressures affect performance. His strategy in dealing with these pressures is to intervene early, be empathetic and validate their student’s experiences so they are more open to suggestions of how to alleviate the stress. Then parents can share their strategies of dealing with stress.

Other comments of note from Mr. Appelrouth included:

- Help students manage time by having them prioritize their tasks.
- Eliminate non-essential activities, but keep one or two the student is most passionate about.
- Marathon study sessions result in less retained knowledge that study sessions that are capped at three hours.
- Sleep and diet are key to academic achievement. 7.5 hours of sleep a night is NECESSARY
- Parents need to be vigilant of their student’s internet & phone use.
The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm

***TRANSLATION SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE FOR ALL PTA MEETINGS IN MADARIN, CANTONESE & RUSSIAN***