Parent Teacher Association
General Meeting
March 6, 2012
Minutes

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

Co-President’s Report
The February, 2012 minutes were presented and approved. Attendees were reminded of the date for the 2nd Annual Auction and International Food Festival and told that tickets can be purchased online at brooklyntechpta.org OR at the March PTA meeting as well as Major Selection night and College Information Night.

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

- College Information Night – Wednesday, March 14th 6:30pm to 9:00pm in the auditorium
- College Fair – Saturday, May 5th 1:00pm to 4:00pm in the student cafeteria
- 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 THE PANEL DISCUSSIONS THEY WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND***

- Spring College Visits:
  - May 31st: SUNY New Paltz, Marist and Vassar
  - June 7th: U Conn, Wesslyan, and Quinnipiac

*** Check COLLEGE OFFICE tab on bths.edu website for more information***

Ms. Grandison & Ms. Ho – Nomination Committee
Ms. Grandison and Ms. Ho are the co-chairs of the PTA Nomination Committee. They highlighted the responsibilities of the PTA Co-Presidents for those who would like to run for the position. The responsibilities include but are not limited to: planning PTA meetings, creating PTA newsletter, heading the Executive Board of the PTA and coordinating speaker for PTA meetings.

Mr. Asher – Principal’s Report
Mr. Asher spoke about the Major Selection process for sophomore students. The Major Selection information sessions are to be held on March 7th and March 8th. The only major to undergo significant changes is the College Prep major where the students will be given the most flexibility in terms of elective classes. However, College Prep major students will be required to take a 4th year of math or science class.

Another topic covered by Mr. Asher was changes made to the Fee Schedule for AP examinations. Due to cuts by the federal government, the fee schedule for free and reduced lunch students will be as follows:

1st exam - $15; 2nd exam - $30; 3rd exam - $45; 4th exam - $98; 5th exam - $151; 6th exam - $204

Lastly, Mr. Asher spoke of the passing of senior class member Keanu van der Horst. He reported that as of the meeting date no cause of death had been designated but that there was no evidence of suicide; the child simply
Mr. Asher encouraged parents to be aware of mood swings and changes of behavior in their own students and to talk to their children about this event.

Ms. Marquez - AP of Student & Parent Engagement Report

Ms. Marquez informed the attendees that Learning Environment Surveys would soon be going out and highlighted why the survey is important to fill out and return. She also reminded parents and guardians that any updates to a child’s information can be made in her office, room 1W2.

Iris Lam - Treasurer’s Report

Iris Lam distributed and reviewed the budget for approval. The budget was approved. A motion was made, seconded and approved to change the budget item from Senior Scholarships to Junior SAT Prep.

Ms. Glickman – Grief & Bereavement Counselor

Ms. Glickman gave a presentation on how to handle the grief and bereavement process in young people. Her presentation included the following points:

- **Teenagers Response to Death**
  - Similar to adult response
  - Can show strong emotions or few emotions
  - May experience anger, sadness, anxiety, numbness, guilt, shame, or fear

- **What Parent Should Watch For**
  - Depression and/or withdrawal for extended periods of time
  - Prolonged inability to focus
  - Decline in grades
  - Regression
  - Physical ailments
  - Irritability
  - Behavioral changes
  - Changes in appetite and/or loss of energy
  - Sleep disturbances
  - Persistent pattern of negative thinking

- **Death of a Peer vs. Death of an Older Person**
  - Student may question whether or not they are next
  - Student may feel abandoned by their friend
  - Student may start to question “higher power”
  - Student may feel survivor’s guilt

- **Talking To Young People About Death**
  - Topic cannot be ignored, but don’t force the child to talk about their feelings if they are not ready
  - Avoid saying “I know how you feel”
  - It’s alright to say that you do not know why this happened

Overall, Ms. Glickman stressed the importance of being observant of the children and noting any prolonged changes to their behavior, mood and habits.
The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm

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