

Agenda for General PTA Meeting January 20, 2011

6:00 Sign in and collect meeting packet

6:30 Call to order & PTA business:

- Approval of 11.18.2010 meeting minutes
- Co-presidents' report
- Fundraising update
- Upcoming events
- New business

7:00 How BHSEC Makes 21st Century Scientists: Panel on Science Curriculum at BHSEC

11/18/10 PTA General Meeting Minutes DRAFT

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm. There were approximately 80 people in attendance.

1. PTA Business

Linnae Hamilton, PTA co-president, welcomed members and said the business meeting would proceed quickly so the panel on international student programs could begin. A motion was made to approve the minutes of the October 21st general PTA meeting. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously by voice vote.

PTA co-president Abe Suleiman presented a motion that the PTA set up a savings account at the Flushing, Queens, branch of Capital One Bank (it will earn 1% interest) to supplement the PTA checking account. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously by voice vote.

Hamilton made a motion to approve the proposed amendments to the PTA bylaws based on the Chancellor's Regulation that were prepared by Maureen Marlow. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously by voice vote.

PTA member Becky Plattus reported on the success of the First Annual Marathon Stoop Sale that she organized in Park Slope near the marathon route on Sunday, November 7th. At the sale, BHSEC parents sold refreshments and used household items to benefit the BHSEC Manhattan PTA. They raised \$1023 and presented a check to the PTA for the full amount.

Hamilton thanked the organizers of the Faculty Appreciation Dinner, which was held on Tuesday, November 9th, before the evening parent-teacher conferences, especially the Fuchs, Orenstein, and Paritsy families, for their donations of time and food. She also thanked Tina Nelson, Judy Cohen, Ellen Strauss, Albert Sargenti, Christina Wright, Esther Allen, Elizabeth St. Clair, and Florence Nash for helping set up, serve and clean up.

She reported on the success of the Holiday Gift Fair, which was held in the auditorium on November 9th and 10th to coincide with the parent-teacher conferences. The fair grossed approximately \$3,700 in sales of Bardware and holiday items as well as fees for vendors, who sold their own products. A full report including expenses and net amount earned will be prepared by the event organizers. She thanked Jean Chan, Fabiana Carbo Chavez, Sherri Adler-Levine, Susan Hewitt, Sally Charnow, Dolly Lyon, Jill Fenichell, Carol Shuchman, Patrick Nash, Damon Brandt, and Jeffrey for all their help with the fair. The PTA also sold \$1,800 in Book Culture gift cards and books on consignment, thanks to the efforts of Jennifer Eltantawy, Evan Eisenberg, and Susan Yohn. With this total, we were able to meet the requirements of a challenge grant. As a result, BHSEC will receive a 40% discount for all books ordered for the BHSEC Manhattan Library for the remainder of the school year.

2. Program: BHSEC International Studies Program

The highlight of the meeting was an information session about the BHSEC International Studies Program, led by Dr. Siska Brutsaert, Associate Dean of Studies. Also participating were 10th-grader Liam Duffy and Tomm Duffy, speaking about the Spanish exchange; and Jackson Rogow, Christina Wright, and Tom Marlow, speaking about the Turkish exchange.

There are different eligibility criteria for each program, including class at BHSEC, grades, and interviews

Dr. Brutsaert described the new **Japanese Exchange Program** she has created to bring together students from BHSEC and Nagoya University Affiliated Upper and Lower Secondary Schools of Nagoya, Japan. She explained that the program was initiated when she contacted the Japan Society last school year. The Society helped her get in touch with the Nagoya University schools, which are similar to BHSEC. The Japanese Exchange Program is open to 9th- and 10th-graders who are in good academic standing. To publicize it to students, it was announced in advisories, and an informational meeting was held. Applications are due November 29th and are available outside the Deans' Office (room 407) and on the BHSEC International Studies blog. There will be homestays for the BHSEC students visiting Japan and the Japanese students visiting BHSEC. BHSEC students will travel to Japan March 11th–26th; the fee is \$1500. Students from both schools will work on a joint environmental research project.

She said the 5 or 6 BHSEC students will be participating in the **Chinese Program**, which is being organized by Packer Collegiate Institute. It may not be an exchange program this year. If it is an exchange, the Chinese students probably won't be visiting BHSEC until fall 2011. The program is open to 10th-graders, and Year 1 and Year 2 students. The contact person is Dr. Lerner. Applications are available from Whitney Bates.

Dr. Brutsaert said that the applications for the **Turkish Exchange Program** will be available in December. The program has a different theme each year, depending on which faculty member is organizing it; the faculty member for this year hasn't been named yet. Five BHSEC students will be accepted; their families will host five Turkish students in January. The BHSEC students will visit Turkey in the April, including the spring vacation week.

Spanish students in the **Spanish Exchange Program** have already visited New York and BHSEC. Participating BHSEC students will visit Spain in February. Because there are more Spanish families willing to host BHSEC students, more BHSEC students will be visiting Spain than who hosted Spanish students.

This general information about all of the international studies programs was shared:

- The goal of the homestays is for the visiting student to live the everyday life his or her host family lives.
- Many of the touring and cultural activities for the visiting students are planned by the faculty mentor and the school. Host families are responsible for meals, housing, and some transportation and activities.
- It is important for all visiting students to have contact information with them at all times in case they get lost (e.g., subways). Also, they must always be with their exchange partner.
- BHSEC students participating in the programs must plan on keeping up with their classes and assignments while hosting and visiting their exchange partners.
- Some Year 1 students who have participated in the programs have found it difficult to keep up with their SAT/ACT prep classes while hosting and visiting students. They also have experienced some stress about keeping up their grades while taking part in the programs. Despite this, they find the programs very rewarding.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

*minutes submitted by Susan Yohn, Recording Secretary

JANUARY 20, 2011 PTA GENERAL MEETING: CO-PRESIDENTS' REPORT

Dear Parents,

We welcome everyone back from the Holidays and wish you all a very Happy New Year. There has been a lot happening behind the scenes since our last meeting in November.

SLT report

There is exciting news from the Student Leadership Team meeting. As part of an ongoing effort to enhance communication within the community, there is a BHSEC Parent Handbook in the works. It will attempt to answer Frequently Asked Questions. If you have a question you'd like answered, please send it to Linnae at linnae7@gmail.com or Abe at ASuleiman@ambac.com

Updated Bylaws

We are pleased to announce that the PTA Bylaws have been amended and we are now compliant with the latest NYC DOE's regulations. The Bylaws will be posted on the PTA website at www.bhsec1pta.org on the bottom of the home page. Many thanks go to Maureen Marlow, our Corresponding Secretary, for her tireless work on this document. The DOE now offers a streamlined Bylaws template that simplifies the revision process in the future. We plan to form of a committee to undertake the task of transforming our bylaws to fit within that framework of the DOE template.

Executive Board Vacancies

There have been some changes on the Executive Board since our November meeting. Our Co-First Vice President, Florence Nash, has decided to leave her position for personal reasons, and Amar Dyal, the PTA Budget Officer, has resigned his position on the Board due to a busy work schedule. Both Florence and Amar served the PTA with dedication and we thank them for that. Their responsibilities are being handled by their alternates and partners on the Board until their positions are filled.

Nominating Committee for the 2011-2012 Slate

On the subject of PTA Executive Board Officers, and according to the Chancellor's Regulation A-660, a Nominating Committee for the 2011-2012 slate, consisting of at least five members, will be formed at the next PTA General meeting on Feb 17th. The Nominating Committee shall canvass the membership in writing, and at the April membership meeting, for nominations of eligible candidates for all Association officer and School Leadership Team positions. In performing this function, the Committee shall exercise diligence to recruit and present a list of candidates that is representative of the diverse population of the school, but may not exclude from the list of candidates any member of the Association who desires to run for office who is eligible for office. Elections will be held at the May 19th general meeting.

Volunteering for a leadership position in the PTA may be the highest level of involvement in your child's education at BHSEC, and we encourage qualified parents to visit the PTA website for more information about the Executive Board and contact officers who would be happy to answer any questions.

Phys Ed Girl's Changing Room

Thanks to the determination of 10th grade parent, Elisabeth Martin and the Architecture Committee, working with the BHSEC Administration and the Maintenance Department, female students will finally have a changing room for their gym classes. The facility has been cleared and cleaned and is ready to paint. Carpet for the floor has been very generously donated by InterfaceFLOR, 404 Park Avenue South. We thank Elisabeth again for soliciting the donation! Volunteers are welcome to help paint it next week – please contact linae7@gmail.com for more information.

Hand Sanitizers

Upon request from the PTA, and in coordination with the School administration, the Maintenance Department has installed eight touchless hand sanitizers outside the bathrooms throughout the school. The PTA funded this undertaking at a cost of \$300.

Office of Student Activities Blog

We would like to remind parents to visit the Office of Student Activities Blog for the latest updates on Summer Internship Opportunities. There will ALSO be a Spring/Summer Opportunities Fair at BHSEC from 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm on February 2nd and PARENTS are WELCOME! The best internships are taken fast, why not subscribe to the OSA blog and updates will be delivered directly to your email box? The blog address is: bhsecstudentactivities.edublogs.org and you may also reach the blog through a link on the RESOURCES page of the PTA website at www.bhsec1pta.org

Spring/Summer Opportunities Fair – PARENTS WELCOME!

Date: Wednesday, February 2, 2011

Start Time: 2:00 pm End Time: 3:30 pm

Where: BHSEC Auditorium

This annual fair is a great opportunity for students to get more information about a variety of spring and summer program opportunities!

Current attendees include:

All Stars Project

Baruch College

Columbia University

Exploring

Futures and Options

Learning Programs International

Mentoring in Medicine

READ

Sadie Nash Leadership Programs

The Experiment in International Living

VISIONS/Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired

Wave Hill

Willie Mae Rock C

World Horizons International

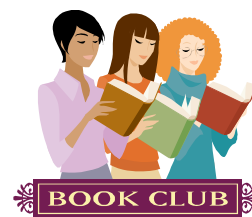
Writopia Lab

Contact: Ms. Bates

Email: bates@bard.edu

What is OSA in charge of?

- Student Clubs
- Extracurricular Activities
- International Exchange
- Year 2 Activities (graduation and commencement, Year 2 Formal, Year 2 Trip, Year 2 dues)



What can OSA do for YOU?

- ✓ Help you start or join a club
- ✓ Connect you to internships, volunteer opportunities, and extracurricular enrichment programs
- ✓ Assist you in paying your Year 2 Dues
- ✓ Send you **overseas** with BHSEC or through an outside program
- ✓ Advise you on planning a school-wide event or fundraising
- ✓ Give you information on culminating Year 2 events such as graduation and commencement

Where can I learn more?

The best way to stay informed is to regularly check the OSA blogs which are available online through Edublogs.



- The **OSA Blog** keeps you informed of events happening at BHSEC as well as in the BHSEC community. This is also the best place to stay informed of all things related to Year 2: <http://bhsecstudentactivities.edublogs.org/>
- **BHSEC Connect** is our opportunities portal connecting you to volunteer placements, enrichment programs, internships and work-site programs: <http://bhsecconnect.edublogs.org/>
- **BHSEC World** contains information about BHSEC's exchange programs to China, Spain and Turkey as well as a list of recommended travel programs outside of the school: <http://bhsecworld.edublogs.org/>

Don't have time to check every day? Each blog contains a link for **RSS subscription**. Enter your e-mail address and you'll receive an alert whenever there is a new post!

Who do I contact with questions?

Whitney Bates
Student Activities and International Program Coordinator
Bard High School Early College
Room 406
Phone: (212) 995-8479 x4062
Email: wbates@bhsec.bard.edu

KNOWLEDGE COLLEGE CALLING VOLUNTEERS!

As many of you know, the BHSEC/PTA is organizing an event at Bard High School Early College called Knowledge College 2011 on Saturday, February 5th from 1:00pm to 5:00pm. It is a fundraiser with 12 classes that will be offered to adults and young adults throughout the school as well as a cafe selling drinks and snacks. With that said, we need your help. It takes many families participating to make this a successful event.

First, we are seeking donations of food and refreshments that we can sell on the day of the event. If everyone would consider making a donation of a food or drink item for 8-10 people, we can have a great variety in selection. Note that we expect at least 200 people to attend Knowledge College this year. With all the budget cuts, it is more important than ever that we raise as much as we can for our children's education, so please, please consider a donation of:

- o Pastries
- o Cookies
- o Croissants
- o Muffins
- o Sandwiches
- o Fruit
- o Individual size bags of chips, pretzels, snacks
- o Juice
- o Soft drinks
- o Paper products (napkins, plates)

Second, we need Volunteers to assist with the overall event during that afternoon. If you are available to help out at BHSEC on Saturday afternoon, Feb 5, we would really appreciate it.

Any assistance would be much appreciated. If you can donate any item listed above and /or your time for the afternoon, please contact me at carol.shuchman@gmail.com.

Thank you in advance for whatever contribution you can make.

Carol Shuchman

carol.shuchman@gmail.com

917-589-8972

UPCOMING EVENTS: Please check the BHSEC academic Calendar for these listings or visit the PTA website: www.bhsec1pta.org

Office of Student Activities Spring / Summer Opportunities Fair

It's time to organize Summer Internships! PARENTS ARE WELCOME to this BHSEC event here in the auditorium at 2pm on **Wednesday February 2nd**

- This annual fair is a great opportunity to get more information about a variety of spring and summer program opportunities
- Take a look at the flyer included in your meeting package for more details.

Knowledge College

Don't miss this great event coming up on **Saturday February 5th** from 1-5pm here at BHSEC. Come and learn! Have fun and eat snacks! No homework or final exams!

- Seminars and workshops by BHSEC Faculty members and Special Guests.
- BUY tickets in advance at <http://www.bhsec1pta.org/kc2011/>
- **KC needs volunteers** – a call sheet is included in your meeting package.

March is TASTING MONTH!

There is a **Manhattan Wine** tasting party on **Thursday, March 10** and a **Brooklyn Beer and Cheese** tasting party on **Thursday, March 24th**.

- Please mark these events on your calendars and come! Support our school and enjoy yourself too!
- There are Save the Date flyers for both of these OFF-CAMPUS events on the back tables.

...and the next PTA meeting will be on Thursday February 17.