

Meeting 11/18/2015

In Attendance:

Rachel Berger
Elyse Shuster
Sarah Wang
John Bowe
Lauren Lombardi
Dongping Xie
M. Mohumed (sp?)
Heather Baiany
Jing Lin
James Booth
Madeline Cronin
Rekha Paleyanda (sp?)
Michael Tymmm
Ming Zhong

1) Business Meeting:

Program Chairs Update:

College Fair (Heather Baiany): A big success with 110 colleges with great volunteers helping to do the fastest breakdown of the gym ever.

Class Connector (Chris Doyle, submitted in written form): “The Program took place on Thurs. August 27. Approximately 275 freshmen attended and about 90 upperclassmen volunteered. The students and their parents attended a panel with staff and students in the auditorium. The students then went on a rotation of tours, guidance meetings, and pizza dinner with upperclassmen over the course of about 2.5 hours. On Friday August 28 upper class transfer students were invited to a small lunch with several BHS upperclassmen. Many thanks to Mr. Brown, Ms. Melnikoff, Heidi Swayer, Melina Jacovides, Gail Gorman, and John Bowe for their work in making the event a success.”

Non-Fund-Raiser (Madeline Cronin): Raised \$10,000 so far, another mailing just went out. Suggestions made to publicize on 3 sandwich boards, especially for big parent events such as the College Financial Aid Night and the Fall Sports Awards. (Mike Tymmm to take care of the boards).

School Directory (Lauren Lombardi): produced in time for parent teacher conferences, however distribution is not ideal as it is difficult to pick up at the main office. Advise to drop the print run in the future, maybe for just the freshmen in the future. It would cut costs and we would not have to do advertising. However, it is not clear that with parent advertising, that it costs any more with higher runs. Also raised was the idea of charging for the directory. Lauren also mentioned that she liked Belmont Printing better than Staples, one reason for which is the price. She would work to distribute at parent events and publicize the directory on the website.

Fundraising wishlist questions: can we 1) get fans for the rooms as it is very hot in Sept.-Oct. and May, and 2) an intercom/notification system in case of emergency. The wishlist is generally generated by the Principal in consultation with the faculty. Perhaps this could be a targeted fundraiser as with the benches.

Minutes were approved with corrections.

Budget approved.

Speaker Events (Mike Tymmm): Principal has a speaker series with McClean Hospital: 1/27 “College Transition”; 4/27: “Stress and Teens”; the Guidance Counselors speakers series: 11/19 “Financial Aid Night”; 12/9 “Junior Future Planning Night”. The PTO hopes to bring admissions officers in to speak. Last year officers from Harvard and Tufts came. This year, options include Bentley, Northeastern and Wentworth.

2) Speakers:

Principal Dan Richards spoke on ongoing work on

1) Social-emotional learning: All adults students come into contact with at school are undergoing training.

2) helping students develop the “4 c's” (collaboration, critical thinking, creativity, communication)--skills students need to be successful when they graduate from BHS. Currently they are working on developing ways to measure these skills.

3) McClean Hospital collaboration to bring speakers to BHS

4) changing the school class schedule. Faculty committee are researching different forms. They would like to complete the process to change over for fall 2017.

Liz Baker, Director of Science, Health & Technology Engineering, BPS, spoke on

1) Science Team. Invited 3 members to ask for funding for buses (\$300+ a bus) plus materials. Club has 90 members, with about half attending each meet. Currently BHS is in first place, ahead of perennial favorite Acton-Boxboro.

2) The New Massachusetts Science, Technology, and Engineering Standards, which are up for a vote for adoption in 1/2016. This is a version of new national standards which shifts away from learning facts toward explaining phenomena in coherent content storylines across disciplines.