BSI PTO General Meeting Minutes
May 23, 2016

- The General PTO meeting was called to order by the PTO President David Orsolino at 6:35 PM. There were 33 members in attendance. The minutes for the April 2016 meeting were read by James Ng and unanimously approved by the attending parents.

- President's report was presented by David Orsolino:
  - The Gala was a great success. A lot of hard work that had paid off.
  - Continue the STEM lab fundraising push headed by Celeste, Rosemary and Mai.

- Treasurer's report was presented by Mark Caserta:
  - $465+K in the bank.
  - The gala brought in a net profit of $95+K.
  - The Friday night date for the gala probably hurt the attendance numbers.

- Fundraising report was presented by Alison Offerman-Celentano and Jim Buksikares:
  - Gala was very successful, however, next year we should probably move the date back to Saturday. That should improve the number of attendees.
  - DA push continues. We encourage families to donate $1500 per child.
  - Donna is still formulating the TA plan for next year. We definitely need clarity from her for our messaging.

- Nomination committee of Dionne, Marcia and Sorrel hosted the election for next year’s executive board. The following people were nominated for each of the offices:
  - President: Mikhail Ratner
  - Executive VP: Allyssa Yuan
  - Treasurer: Daniel Rakitin
    - Assistant Treasurers: Yulianna Shamayev, Mark Caserta
  - Secretary: Leslie Aptekar
Parliamentarian: Cathy Joseph
VP Communication: Rosemary Titeivsky and Chrissy Persico
VP Parent Involvement: May Li and Oksana Londorenko
VP Fundraising: Open
Vote was taken and all nominees were elected unanimously by the attending members.
We still need to fill co-president, co-secretary, co-parliamentarian (Cathy will be out after next year, need someone to transition with), and VPs of Fundraising

New SLT members: Kiran Chhapra and Cathy Campbell
Vote was taken and all nominees were elected unanimously by the attending members.

Mr. Zimmerman’s presentation on SHSAT test preparation:
Heard a lot of good things about this school. Understand that BSI’s parents are fully engaged with their children’s education.
Teached math at Brooklyn Technical HS for 40 years. Still deeply involved with the NYC Math Circle.
I am not going into the details of the test but will open for questions. The DOE has a wonderful test hand book. You should be able to get it at the guidance counselor’s office or at the DOE website.
Here are some tips I have for you. The test has two parts, verbal and math. The verbal section has a logical part, it is a lot of fun. And a reading comprehension part.
Do you have any formula for success?
Some parents said lots of practice or learn from failure.
Mr. Zimmerman said that the 1st requirement is to have the sincere desire to do this. If you have the desire then you’ll have the will to do the work that is necessary to achieve success.
Do 5 problem from a HS textbook per day.
For parents, you need to be tough, but compassionate. You need to be supportive. You need to make sure you kids follow through with their study plan.
Something to do right to get ready for the test. It’s a tough test and worth the work. They should have no TV time, electronics and no calculator. The test doesn’t allow calculator so practice without it.
Quality practice, not just work on practice sheets. Don’t be sloppy. Try to be neat and organized. Organized thoughts and on work sheet.
If you want to give your kid after school help then get enrichment not just tutoring.
○ An hour a day to work on practice questions. Cramping would not work.
○ Try to get to all the digits after the decimal for 1/7. Try to practice under some kind of stress. Try to practice it like you would be doing on the test day. Try to improve your test taking time to under the time limit for the test.
○ Read besides what you’re comfortable with.
○ Write a lot. Practice scramble.
○ Test prep are really unnecessary, however, most of you will not do what it take on your own. Much like musicians or athletes having coaches, they help to make sure we do the practice and practice more efficiently. Even if you didn’t make it to the school of your choice, you’ve learned a lot of study skills through this process.
○ You should do preparation as early as possible, focus on enrichment, such as math Olympiad.
○ The NY Math Circle has enrichment courses at NYU.
○ The test is scored on a sliding scale based on combined verbal and math. You should try to improve on your weakest area.
○ Students can prepare themselves, but it will need dedication and time management.
○ 70 minutes per section. You could do math first then verbal, verbal first then math or any way you desire. Try to lower your time to make it easier. Try to eliminate careless mistakes. Try to be organize, skip steps and mental neatness.
○ Sequence of steps, step 1 - do all the questions; step 2 - back track to make sure your answers are reasonable.
○ Go back and check your original work. When you’re checking your work, try to use a different methods to come up with the answer.
○ The first step to answer a question is to determine what’s precisely call for in the question. The figure out what to do. And finally, ask if the answer is reasonable. There are many ways to solve a problem.
○ At the end Mr. Zimmerman work with the audience on three fun math problems. The kids that was there had a lot of fun.
○ Mr. Zimmerman said he could come back another day to go over some more fun problems with the kids if we like.

- PACE report:
  - No report.

- SLT report:
  - No report.

- Meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM