



STUYVESANT HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
July 9th, 2014

The Meeting of the Board of Directors was held in the Principal's Conference Room at Stuyvesant High School, located at 345 Chambers Street, New York, NY, on Wednesday, July 9, 2014.

Directors Present: Shakil Ahmed '98 (phone) Christina Alfonso '02, Richard Braun '72, Robert Ayzin '00, Daniel Egers '03, Carl Hendricks '75, Jukay Hsu '02, Evelyn Krejci '76, Soo Kim '93, Vanessa Liu '92, Harry Malakoff '62, Serphin Maltese '51, Lawrence Marshall '61 Robert Sherwood '68.

Directors Absent: Marianna Moliver '98

Trustees Present: Raymond Fong '73, Neil Grabois '53, Jeffrey Kestler '64.

Guests Present: Principal Jie Zhang, Carole Brown-Kelly '81, Wai Wai Chin, Adina David '04, Joe Dorinson '54, Fred Ge, Jeff Golland '57, Henry Grossberg '82, Mike Han, Elena Hecht '04, YanJie Hou '06, Jason Hu '97, Jasmin Hume '02, HaiYing Ju, Beth Knobel '80, Chris Kwok '92, John Kwok '78, Thomas Mallios '80, Flora Ng '06, Liz Sciabara, Eleonora Srugo '04, David Venderbush (PA).

Staff Present: Lisa Cangro Tepperberg '88, Susannah Maltz

President's Welcome

Mr. Soo Kim welcomed the guests and apprised those presents of the results of the elections held during the executive session. The newly elected executive board is as follows:

Mr. Soo Kim, President

Dr. Lawrence Marshall, 1st Vice President

Mr. Robert Ayzin, 2nd Vice President

Vanessa Liu, Treasurer

Evelyn Krejci, Secretary

Motion: by Ms. Krejci, to approve the May 2014 meeting minutes.

Seconded: Mr. Kim

The motion passed with 14 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

All in favor: Shakil Ahmed '98 (phone) Christina Alfonso '02, Richard Braun '72, Robert Ayzin '00, Daniel Egers '03, Carl Hendricks '75, Jukay Hsu '02, Evelyn Krejci '76, Soo Kim '93, Vanessa Lui '92, Harry Malakoff '62, Serphin Maltese '51, Lawrence Marshall '61 Robert Sherwood '68.

Principal's Welcome

Principal Zhang welcomed the guests and commended the organization on its recent accomplishments. She reported on the success of graduation and the first part of new student orientation ("Camp Stuy").

Mr. Hsu noted that the Alumni Association is interested in contributing to the second part of Camp Stuy, to be held in August. He stressed the importance of the role of the Alumni Association in welcoming students to the school.

Principal Zhang introduced the guest presenter, Ms. Liz Sciabara, the Executive Director of Brooklyn Technical High School ('Brooklyn Tech').

Ms. Sciabara discussed the recent bill introduced in the New York State Senate intended to change the admissions procedures of specialized high schools. She noted that the Brooklyn Tech Alumni Association had begun to prepare a white paper prior to the bill's introduction, at the time of the complaint filed against specialized schools by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. She announced the intention of the Brooklyn Tech Alumni Foundation to support lobbying done at the state level.

Ms. Sciabara discussed the failure of the bill to make it out of committee in the New York State Senate, and the potential of its reintroduction in a fall session. She proposed a coalition of the top three New York City specialized high schools: Brooklyn Technical High School, Bronx High School of Science, and Stuyvesant High School. She noted that the bill was created with these three schools, and Laguardia High School, in mind. She discussed the importance of a unified coalition representing all three specialized schools.

Ms. Sciabara noted that a meeting of the coalition is to take place on July 21st to discuss strategy. She invited Stuyvesant to send representatives to this meeting.

Mr. Kim thanked Ms. Sciabara for presenting and noted that the position taken by the Brooklyn Tech Alumni Foundation resonated with many in the Stuyvesant community and that her insights were appreciated.

Mr. Thomas Malios requested the location of the meeting, and inquired as to whether or not it was open to any interested party.

Ms. Sciabara responded that the meeting is to take place at 1350 Broadway, at the offices of the President of the Brooklyn Tech Alumni Foundation. She noted that the

meeting was not fully open but that she hoped that representatives of the community would attend.

Dr. Marshall noted *Allan J. Favish vs. the Regents of the University of California*, in which the University of California schools of Law and Medicine used racial criteria in their admissions decisions. He noted that any criterion based explicitly in race would be ill-advised.

Ms. Sciabara noted that the issue had changed, from an issue of diversity to an issue of the Specialized High School Admissions Test ('SHSAT'). She expressed the need for a data-driven, research-based defense.

Executive Director's Report

Ms. Tepperberg gave an update on the Alumni Weekend, held on June 7th. Approximately four hundred people were in attendance. She noted that the Photobooth and certain events were very well received. She noted that the SHSAA office staff was working on strategy regarding how to improve the event in the future, and noted in particular that the office intends to begin outreach at an earlier stage and invite alumni with a paper mailing.

Ms. Tepperberg discussed a feature of the recent email blast, which made clear to constituents when they had last paid their dues. She noted that since that messaging had been introduced on July 3rd, the SHSAA has received approximately \$15,000.

Ms. Tepperberg discussed a new initiative by the office to provide value for memberships. She noted an emergent partnership between the SHSAA and the Jewish Museum. The SHSAA is working with the Jewish Museum and similar organizations, as well as alumni businesses and vendors, on providing a discount for members of the SHSAA. She also noted a new initiative to make the 'Class Notes' feature of *the Alumni Spectator* Newsletter into a collectible booklet, to be made available to members of the SHSAA.

Ms. Tepperberg discussed the email blast recently sent out by the office which included survey questions regarding the SHSAT. She announced that the survey had four hundred respondents and was still open and still garnering responses. She noted the four straightforward questions put forth in the survey:

- (1) Should the SHSAT remain as the sole criterion for admission to Stuyvesant?
- (2) The recent United Federation of Teachers measure would add attendance and grades in other state-wide exams to the criteria for admission. Would you support the inclusion of other objective measures as criteria for admissions?
- (3) Do you support the addition of other subjective measures, such as essays, as additional admissions criteria for Stuyvesant?

(4) There exists on the books a Discovery Program that promotes the admission of certain candidates that just fall short of the SHSAT score hurdle. Do you support the continued application of this program?

Ms. Tepperberg noted that about 75% of respondents expressed that the SHSAT should remain the sole criterion for admission.

Ms. Tepperberg reported on the SHSAA website and database migration projects currently underway. She mentioned challenges regarding merging the SHSAA database with the Campaign for Stuyvesant database, but announced an August 15th launch date for the alumni profile pages and lifetime forwarding addresses that will allow alumni to contact and communicate with one another through the website.

Ms. Tepperberg noted that an annual report will be made available by the office in the near future.

Mr. Kim announced that, regarding the merger, the Friends of Stuyvesant ('Friends') has begun its dissolution. He noted that Friends has put their remaining monies, in the amount of \$500,000, into a "challenge grant." The objective of the challenge grant is to incite the SHSAA to match the amount in one year, raising an additional \$500,000. If the amount is matched, the resultant monies will serve as the beginning of the corpus of a long-term savings endowment. If the SHSAA is ultimately unable to match the amount, the \$500,000 will be awarded to the Department of Education.

Mr. Kim noted that the organization intends to announce this challenge grant and the actions of Friends openly, and noted that this instance was the first time that it had been announced.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Kim gave the Treasurer's Report, noting that prior to the evening's election, he was the treasurer of the organization.

Mr. Kim directed attendees to the balance statement. He noted a total of \$291,123 in unrestricted revenue, and a total of \$338,826 in restricted revenue for the Fiscal Year 2014. He noted that the income statement suggested that revenues are down and restricted revenues are down, but controlling for recent deaths of donors, revenues are consistent with previous years.

Mr. Kim noted that staff compensation was increasing from historical levels. He noted the imminent creation of an Employee Handbook and emphasized the need for a professional staff, consistent with the continued expansion in capabilities of the organization.

Mr. Kim reiterated that the organization ended the fiscal year with a slight deficit. He noted the importance of Fiscal Year 2015 in regards to fundraising and matching the amount put forth by Friends in the challenge grant.

Elena Hecht asked for clarification regarding the new policy for restricted donations and new restricted funds.

Mr. Kim noted the administrative burden of scholarship donations and other restricted funds. He noted that historically, the SHSAA has lost money on scholarships and reunions, and in other restricted areas. He noted that in order to be an effective organization, the SHSAA could not lose in all restricted areas.

Ms. Tepperberg noted in regards to Ms. Hecht's specific question that a meeting of the Scholarship Committee had been conducted on July 2nd, and the new policy had just been specifically defined.

Mr. Hsu noted that shortly the explicit policy would be made available on the website. He noted that the initial amount to contribute was \$1,000 and contributions of any amount could be made following that.

Mr. Kim noted that, in regards to scholarships, the Committee had resolved to give away no less than \$500 every year, and the \$1,000 threshold necessitated a two-year minimum commitment.

Dr. Jeff Golland asked whether the administrative fee would be applied to extant scholarships.

Mr. Kim responded that the administrative fee applies to all restricted gifts, no matter their designation, as is standard nonprofit practice.

Mr. Hsu reiterated that this information would be made available on the website.

Mr. Neil Grabois noted that as the organization advances, it is best to think of best practices and efficiency not in terms of small, current donations, but large, future donations.

Committee Reports

Mr. Kim noted that Committees are intended to meet prior to each Board meeting, and that the Executive Board will enforce this going forward. He also noted that Committee meetings are open to all alumni, and that any dues-paying member interested in serving on a Committee is welcome to. He noted further that the Committees are in need of more volunteers and interested parties may reach out to Ms. Lisa Tepperberg. He noted that all dues-paying alumni are eligible for leadership positions within Committees and may serve as Committee chairs.

Scholarships Committee

Mr. Daniel Egers updated the attendees on the winners of the six highest scholarship awards, who had not yet been selected at the time of the last Board Meeting. They are as follows:

Marie Frolich, Eiger Family Scholarship
Andy Zhang, Eiger Family Scholarship
Tahmid Ali, Tallman Award
Alice Li, Tallman Award
Eunice Kim, Hechinger Award

Mr. Egers also noted that as per the recent Scholarship Committee meeting, the organization will hold an Awards Ceremony specific to the Alumni Association, distinct from the ceremony conducted by the school, in which hundreds of awards, some monetary, are presented to students.

Motion: By Mr. Daniel Egers, to ratify the list of scholarship attendees.

Seconded: Mr. Richard Braun

The motion passed with 14 in favor, 0 abstentions, and 0 opposed.

All in favor: Shakil Ahmed '98 (phone) Christina Alfonso '02, Richard Braun '72, Robert Ayzin '00, Daniel Egers '03, Carl Hendricks '75, Jukay Hsu '02, Evelyn Krejci '76, Soo Kim '93, Vanessa Lui '92, Harry Malakoff '62, Serphin Maltese '51, Lawrence Marshall '61 Robert Sherwood '68.

Fundraising Committee

Ms. Vanessa Liu noted that she was chairperson of the Fundraising Committee prior to the evening's elections.

Ms. Liu offered a report to contextualize the state of the fundraising committee, noting that the current amount retained by the SHSAA was \$768,000, excluding the \$500,000 challenge grant, which brought the total to nearly \$1.3 million. She noted that Bronx Science has an endowment of \$8 million and Brooklyn Tech an endowment of \$21 million.

Ms. Liu noted further that the SHSAA is only able to grant Stuyvesant High School approximately \$400,000 per year, and stressed the importance of fundraising in the new fiscal year. She noted that with the new appointment of a Development Director, the organization can move forward with outreach. She implored Board members and alumni to reach out to their personal networks and ask for contributions.

Ms. Lui announced that Eleonora Srugo had volunteered to be the co-chairperson of the Fundraising Committee, and welcomed others to be involved as well.

Communications Committee

Mr. Kim noted that the Communications Committee needs a chairperson.

Employment Committee

Mr. Kim noted that the Employment Committee is tasked with the creation of the Employee Handbook and with hiring a professional staff.

Events Committee

Mr. Kim noted that the Events Committee was tasked with planning SHSAA involvement in the second part of Camp Stuy; planning Alumni Weekend 2015; and planning an evening Gala Event in the fall. He noted that anyone interested in joining the Events Committee could speak with Mr. Robert Sherwood.

Ms. Tepperberg noted that there is an Events Committee meeting scheduled for Tuesday, August 5th at 6:30pm in the SHSAA Office. She reiterated that all are welcome to attend, and should RSVP to the SHSAA.

Diversity Committee

Ms. Christina Alfonso noted that the Diversity Committee has put together a proposal to hire a full-time Diversity Coordinator, who would visit New York City middle schools with current Stuyvesant students to promote the school and educate students about the admissions process.

Ms. Alfonso noted that the Diversity Committee had hosted two open houses at Stuyvesant High School. Information was provided to parents about the SHSAT.

Ms. Alfonso noted initiatives in place to help middle schoolers prep for the SHSAT, and an ongoing program within the school pairing minority students with mentors. She invited interested alumni to volunteer to participate in the mentorship program and in additional Diversity Committee affairs.

Ms. Carole Brown-Kelly noted that twenty-five students were currently enrolled in Kaplan Test Prep courses facilitated by the Diversity Committee.

Nominating Committee

Mr. Richard Braun noted that at this meeting the Board was committed to appointing a Nominating Committee.

Mr. Kim called for three volunteers from the Board. The following Directors volunteered: Dr. Lawrence Marshall, Mr. Jukay Hsu, and Mr. Richard Braun.

Motion: By Mr. Braun, to ratify the appointees.

Seconded: Ms. Krejci

The motion passed with 14 in favor, 0 abstentions, and 0 opposed.

All in favor: Shakil Ahmed '98 (phone) Christina Alfonso '02, Richard Braun '72, Robert Ayzin '00, Daniel Egers '03, Carl Hendricks '75, Jukay Hsu '02, Evelyn Krejci

'76, Soo Kim '93, Vanessa Lui '92, Harry Malakoff '62, Serphin Maltese '51, Lawrence Marshall '61 Robert Sherwood '68.

Discussion of the SHSAT

Mr. Kim reiterated that Ms. Sciabara, the Executive Director of the Brooklyn Tech Alumni Foundation, had asked for the SHSAA's support. He noted that the SHSAA has been slow in its response to the bill introduced into the New York State Senate for two reasons: (1) The SHSAA intended to wait to see the results of the survey put out in the recent email blast, so as to understand the wants of the constituency. (2) The merging of the SHSAA and the Campaign for Stuyvesant, and the dissolution of Friends of Stuyvesant, made it difficult to speak as one organization.

Mr. Kim stated that now that the survey results are robust enough to see a clear trend, and the merger has been completed, the organization can choose whether or not to take a position on the SHSAT issue.

Dr. Marshall noted that mere opposition to the bill was not enough, alternative methods to promote diversity must be considered.

Mr. Joe Dorinson expressed that he did not support the test and that the diversity of the current Stuyvesant community was suffering as a result of a single test admissions criterion.

Mr. Kim noted that support for the test and support for diversity are not mutually exclusive.

Ms. Tepperberg discussed the intention of the Brooklyn Tech Alumni Foundation to spend \$250,000 on a lobbyist, as they anticipate the bill to be reintroduced in a November special session.

Mr. Grabois stressed the need for an active stance on the part of the SHSAA. He noted that it is the responsibility of the organization to educate the City of New York on the purpose of an institution like Stuyvesant High School.

Mr. Serphin Maltese noted that there was no need to come up with a new proposal, as the alumni organizations at Brooklyn Tech and Bronx Science had already developed very specific messaging. He stated that the issue at hand was whether to take a stance at all.

Mr. Kim suggested that someone motion that the SHSAA make a decision to participate in the debate, and to defend a single test admissions policy.

Dr. Marshall iterated that the goal of the Board is to defend the continuing excellence and objective criteria for admission.

Mr. Kim noted that objectivity was not specific to the SHSAT and that messaging around a 'single criterion' would be necessary to defend the admissions standard.

Mr. Maltese suggested a motion to defend the single test admissions standard.

Mr. Fred Ge suggested that adopting a position would create a rift in the alumni base.

Mr. Chris Kwok noted that Brooklyn Tech is still running the Diversity Program, and that the former Principal Stanley Teitel had ended the program to prevent the admission of applicants who scored not only below Stuyvesant's admissions cut-off but below the admissions threshold scores for all eight specialized high schools, many of which were well below Stuyvesant's.

Dr. Beth Knobel suggested that, given the complexity of the issue, there was no rush to do anything but to join in the effort of Brooklyn Tech and Bronx Science. She proposed returning in a few months with a proposal to share with membership.

Mr. David Venderbush, Co-President of the Parents' Association ('PA'), noted that any positioning regarding the issue should come from the SHSAA, rather than the PA.

Mr. Kim expressed confusion regarding the ultimate task of the SHSAA. He noted a distinction between joining the debate and joining the coalition.

Ms. Brown-Kelly noted that the Discovery Program is income-based and doesn't have to do with the race of applicants.

Mr. Maltese suggested a motion to join the other organizations to defend the single test admissions standard, while promoting diversity.

Mr. Braun proposed that the motion language be amended.

Mr. Maltese, amended by Mr. Braun, proposed to join the other organizations to defend the single test admissions standard, where doing so does not impinge on the SHSAA's 501(c)(3) status.

Mr. Braun noted that lobbying the State Senate was outside the realm of appropriate non-profit action.

Dr. Marshall proposed that the motion adopt more general language: 'to go forward with the other schools.'

Mr. Kim responded that a definitive yes or no regarding defending the admissions standard seemed necessary and appropriate. He noted that he encouraged anyone with misgivings of any kind to vote no, and reiterated that the issue could be revisited.

Mr. Kim suggested that the motion be broken into two:

(1) Motion, by Mr. Maltese, that the SHSAA join the other organizations to defend a single test admissions standard, while promoting diversity.

(1a) Motion, by Mr. Braun, that actions taken as a result of joining the other organizations to defend a single test admissions standard, while promoting diversity, not impinge on the SHSAA's 501(c)(3) status.

Mr. Ahmed was disconnected from the teleconference line due to very loud line interference at 9:12pm.

Mr. Kim suggested that the second motion **(1a)** be stricken, or revisited at a later date.

Motion, by Mr. Maltese, that the SHSAA join the other organizations to defend a single test admissions standard, while promoting diversity.

Seconded: Ms. Krejci

The motion passed with 10 in favor, 0 abstentions, and 3 opposed.

All in favor: Christina Alfonso '02, Robert Ayzin '00, Daniel Egers '03, Evelyn Krejci '76, Soo Kim '93, Vanessa Lui '92, Harry Malakoff '62, Serphin Maltese '51, Lawrence Marshall '61 Robert Sherwood '68.

All opposed: Richard Braun '72, Carl Hendricks '75, Jukay Hsu '02

Mr. Kim reiterated that there is room for movement and change

Motion: by Mr. Braun, that the dues schedule remain the same in Fiscal Year 2014 as in the prior Fiscal Year 2015, and that the Allocations Committee be able to approve or disapprove requests of up to \$3,000 without bringing the requests before the Board.

Seconded: Mr. Egers

The motion passed with 13 in favor, 0 abstentions, and 0 opposed.

All in favor: Christina Alfonso '02, Richard Braun '72, Robert Ayzin '00, Daniel Egers '03, Carl Hendricks '75, Jukay Hsu '02, Evelyn Krejci '76, Soo Kim '93, Vanessa Lui '92, Harry Malakoff '62, Serphin Maltese '51, Lawrence Marshall '61 Robert Sherwood '68.

Motion: by Mr. Maltese, to adjourn the meeting.

Seconded: Mr. Sherwood

The motion passed with 10 in favor, 0 abstentions, and 0 opposed.

All in favor: Christina Alfonso '02, Richard Braun '72, Robert Ayzin '00, Daniel Egers '03, Carl Hendricks '75, Jukay Hsu '02, Evelyn Krejci '76, Soo Kim '93, Vanessa Lui '92, Harry Malakoff '62, Serphin Maltese '51, Lawrence Marshall '61 Robert Sherwood '68.

Summary of Motions:

Motion: by Ms. Krejci, to approve the May 2014 meeting minutes.

Seconded: Mr. Kim

Motion: By Mr. Daniel Egers, to ratify the list of scholarship attendees.

Seconded: Mr. Richard Braun

Motion: By Mr. Braun, to ratify the appointees to the Nominations Committee.

Seconded: Ms. Krejci

Motion, by Mr. Maltese, that the SHSAA join the other organizations to defend a single test admissions standard, while promoting diversity.

Seconded: Ms. Krejci

Motion: by Mr. Braun, that the dues schedule remain the same in Fiscal Year 2014 as in the prior Fiscal Year 2015, and that the Allocations Committee be able to approve or disapprove requests of up to \$3,000 without bringing the requests before the Board.

Seconded: Mr. Egers

Motion: by Mr. Maltese, to adjourn the meeting.

Seconded: Mr. Sherwood

Respectfully Submitted,

Susannah Maltz
Membership Coordinator