

TO BE APPROVED BY MEMBERSHIP AT DECEMBER MTNG.



**PTA Meeting Notes
Meeting @6PM
November 17, 2021**

Board Members Present:

Kate Rubin (Co-President), Dr. Meryem Bencheikh-Ellis (Co-President), Crystal Harper (Co-Treasurer), Meredith Meyers (Recording Secretary), Chloe Lee (Co-Secretary), Julie Underwood (Fundraising Coordinator), Members At-Large: Karen Furth, Peg Fox; Principal Samantha Schmoeger, Miguel Negrón (AP), Zina Ettangi (Parent Coordinator)

(At least 8 association members, including a minimum of 2 board members and 6 parent members present; a quorum was reached.)

CALL TO ORDER Meeting was called to order by Co-President (Middle School), Kate Rubin, at 6:00 pm.

Co-President/MS Kate Rubin pta@k497.org

- Introduction to the meeting - IB principle is THINKING/THINKER
- Parents are invited to drop any thoughts into the chat. How did parent/teacher conferences go? Suggestions?
- Congratulations to our new principal, Samantha Schmoeger! She will speak later in the meeting.
- Welcome to our newest board members in their first official PTA meeting. Meredith Meyers, Co-Secretary, Chloe Lee, Co-Secretary, Crystal Harper, Co-Treasurer -- and to all of our new members at large. Big thanks!

Guest Speaker, Toni Smith-Thompson from the ACLU, introduced by co-President Meryem Ellis ptapresident@k497.org

- Going into the next mayoral administration, very focused on equity in schools. Looking at standardized testing, desegregation
- Committee for equity
- Would love to know what kinds of conversations are happening at your school right now with regard to equity

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- To get in touch with Toni, please email at tsmiththompson@nyclu.org for upcoming meetings..

Follow up to Toni's talk: Peg Fox, Principal Schmoeger and Meryem (Co-President) with thoughts about Equity Team.

Peg Fox (ptamemberatlarge@k497.org), brief intro to the Equity Team at BHS

- Equity team, three prongs
- Faculty, student and parent equity (founded last year)
- Getting to know each other right now. Going through some deep work, talking through issues of race, gender, class
- Monthly meetings last year and starting up again soon
- Had a good response, call for more and got 23 more members this year
- Don't want it to be too big so that the work can be meaningful and deep

Principal Schmoeger on the Equity Team samantha.schmoeger@k497.org

- This is the Staff Equity team's fourth year
- Consultancy currently happening with the theme of: "Breaking the Cycle"
- This includes revamping the social studies curriculum
- The Student equity team is in its second year, very successful so far. For example, a few years ago, students questioned "why can't we wear hats?" Felt it was a form of oppression. There was and are ongoing discussions of understanding why and how rules were created
- Finally, there's a Parent equity team. They finished a very powerful mission statement. Will get links to it. Overall the message is, "Every child is our child."

**The question is asked in the chat, "How can other parents get involved (since there's a waitlist for the equity team, a feeling that we don't want it to be too large because of the deeper, thoughtful work all involved are doing.) So, is there a plan to involve other parents somehow?"

Meryem Bencheikh-Ellis (ptapresident@k497.org) responds: PTA can try to organize workshops, maintain awareness. But overall it's good to keep these groups small so that the deeper work can flourish, so that faculty trusts the work (on parents equity team or faculty equity team).

New Principal Samantha Schoeger (samantha.schmoeger@k497.org) Welcome and Hello

- Heartfelt thanks to the whole BHS community.
- Week four of principal. Been part of the community for 8 years.
- Teacher, coach, AP
- SO many great things happening at BHS, 2.0 version of Nichole
- The work isn't going to change. Equity work. Deeper as a community That's still going to be our "due North".
- Reiterates there are three equity teams
- Fun fact: Former soccer player, semi professional
- Heart has always been in education

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- "I work for you."

Co-President Report (Meryem Bencheikh-Ellis, High School) ptapresident@k497.org

- \$100 incentive for getting the COVID vaccine. Want to remind the parents that when you go to get your child vaccinated, mention you are from BHS and the \$ will go to the school.
- We had a pop up clinic for Covid vaccines, but it didn't go very well. Disorganized. DOE is organizing a second round of pop up clinics, so please check emails often this month as the school/Principal won't know about it until the evening before.
- Good to know: Brooklyn Children Museum has the shot, City Pointe as well, Barclays-- for 5-11 and 12 and up.
- Second round of EBT is happening. If the parents do not need the EBT card, there's a way to find a place to get the money redistricted or redistributed. Please ask the PTA if you need help.
- On mental health: the DOE started an initiative for educators called, "Let's Talk NYC". Educators and schools have to register, but not sure if Principal Sam has done that.
- An update on school sports; the Volleyball Team was undefeated, won the play off in Manhattan, lost the last game in Queens. Very proud of them. Boys Basketball, coached by our own algebra teacher Mr. Mobley, is undefeated. Currently running scrimmages. First game is November 30.
- Don't forget small businesses on Saturday, and a shout-out to two more businesses with BHS roots. Darna Falafel (10 percent off for staff/teachers daily, 10 percent off on Wed for students) and Tropic Smoothie (10 percent off to staff and teachers)

TREASURER Report (Co-Treasurer Crystal Harper) ptacotreasurer@k497.org

- Review Profit & Loss report and the ending Bank Balance for the month of November to date; Currently about \$63,000 in bank **add reports with a link**
- Expenses, bank charges and fees have been updated.
- The Treasury team rocks and is getting massively more organized. Thank you, Treasurers!

Approval of October Minutes

- Minutes circulating, can access online

COMMITTEE/CLUBS REPORTS

- November action item: The PTA is still working to solidify committees to support various initiatives at BHS and volunteers are ALWAYS welcome! Please reach out to the PTA if you are still interested in joining one and have not yet received an email.
- Equity Team (Peg Fox, ptamemberatlarge@k497.org, first meeting Dec 2)
- Budget Committee (Terri Desai, ptatreasurer@k497.org, first meeting is November 18, 6 pm)
- Garden (Meryem Bencheikh-Ellis, ptapresident@k497.org)
- Fundraising (Julie Underwood, bhsfundraising@k497.org, Tue Nov. 30 @ 7 pm via zoom)
- Teacher Appreciation (Meredith Meyers, ptasecretary@k497.org, emailing interested parents soon, first meeting TBD)

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- Community (Kate Rubin, pta@k497.org, lots of cool stuff on the horizon/different events, first meeting TBD)

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER ACTION ITEM

- For the December newsletter, focus on local businesses. Please let the PTA know if you have businesses you know of that we could support for the holidays/shopping.
- Parents and friends of BHS can also use Amazon Smile to donate.
- Also, PTA save-the-dates for November and beyond (January 6/7th Senior photos, Stomping Ground Picture Days to take place.)
- If parents have an idea about a grade wide gathering or event, the PTA is happy to help out with that

Esra Dayani, member-at-large, report on Podcast of the Month Club ptamemberatlarge_esra@k497.org

Podcast of the Month Club started back on October 27th, 2021. Great conversation.

- Tomorrow, episode two and three of podcast of the month
- Finishing up the current section of the podcast and then deciding as a group whether to skip some episodes or stick with it.
- Look for reminders on Konstella.

Other Announcements:

- First Movie Night of the year on November 19. This week was senior spirit week. So movie night will be fun after that. Free popcorn and goodies. Thank you, Meryem for organizing.
- 30 Days of Giving starts soon. This is the annual appeal to families to donate to fund activities and programs at BHS. For example, IB expenses (8th and 12th grade travel expenses, field trips are coming back.) Fundraising goal is 30K.
- *What are you grateful for at BHS?* As part of the annual giving appeal, we are asking families and sharing over social media, messages of gratitude. You can also send yours in anonymously. It can be anonymous. Please encourage everyone to participate. Here is the link.
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1_42BlwmRI9qw1GVO6DKLCKnA-Jte5RbVPVrH2PVYr4/vie/wform?ts=61898d30&edit_requested=true
- Don't Forget: Giving Tuesday is on November 30. Facebook will match it if we have the link. Email forthcoming to the BHS community on how to donate and have your funds matched.
- Senior photos. The PTA will help with this. (Note: 7th grade mom Sherri Lee spearheaded this.) The PTA can allocate funds for rental tuxedos, nice senior photos, etc. AP Negron says staff is in the process of asking seniors what they want to wear for graduation.
- Zina put a link in the chat encouraging parents to send in the lunch form if they haven't already done so.

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