

**DRAFT Minutes**  
**Stuyvesant High School Parents' Association**  
**General Meeting**  
**Oct. 15, 2002**

Judy Moore, co-president of the Parents' Association, called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. and welcomed all in attendance.

**Co-presidents' Report and Announcements (Judy Moore)**

Judy gave the co-presidents' report, as follows:

- Ballots for tonight's PA fall elections are available in the lobby.
- Carey Meltzer is planning programs for this year's PA general meetings. Topics will include academic issues and the many aspects of high school life of which parents should be aware and that the PA should address in concert with school administrators.
- All parents are encouraged to attend Open School Week, Oct. 21 – 23, and Parent-Teacher conferences on Thurs., Oct. 24 from 6 – 8:30 p.m. and/or Fri., Oct. 25 from 1 – 3 p.m. Parents who need additional time with a teacher can set up individual appointments. Students can attend the conferences with their parents.
- Volunteers are needed during Open School Week as follows: Monday – Wednesday to help parents find classes, and Thursday from 3 – 6 p.m. to set up the Faculty Reception. In addition, parents can send in desserts on Thursday morning (c/o Peggy Harvey in Room 211) for the Thursday evening Faculty Reception.
- Volunteers are needed for a committee that will revise the Parents' Association bylaws. Interested parents who can attend several daytime meetings should contact bylaw committee chair Melanie Arwin at mgarwin@aol.com or relay their name to Melanie via the "Contact Us" button on the PA website ([www.stuyupa.org](http://www.stuyupa.org)).
- Parents who do not want their child's name, address and telephone number released to institutions of higher education and military recruiters should respond to a letter sent home Sept. 23, 2002 by Eleanor Archie, AP for Guidance by Friday, Oct. 18.

Judy explained that as of last week, the school day was lengthened by 20 minutes due to provisions in the new contract with the United Federation of Teachers. At the beginning of the school year, the extra instructional time had been used to offer tutoring each afternoon. Judy asked the audience to consider the following question: "Do you authorize the PA leadership to explore whether there is any flexibility in the use of the extra 20 minutes per day?" By a show of hands, the membership voted that the PA leadership should explore the issue with school officials.

**Approval of Minutes** The minutes for the September 17 PA General Meeting were presented. A motion to approve the minutes was made, seconded and passed.

**Treasurer's Report (Donovan Moore)** Donovan said the PA has just started spending money budgeted for this school year. He said the PA has received about \$45,000 more income than projected in the budget, and expects another \$15,000 in unbudgeted money from the recent sale of books related to Sept. 11, 2001, at Rockefeller Center. He thanked Marty Katz, Harvey Blumm and the football parents for helping with the book sale, which raised money for Stuyvesant and other downtown public schools. He said the appropriations committee would meet in December or January to recommend how to spend the unbudgeted income.

**Committee Reports**

**Health and Safety (David Ross)** David announced the receipt by the PA of a letter from the Department of Education that responded to an August 12 letter from the PA listing outstanding issues related to the summer cleanup of the Stuyvesant building. The DoE letter, dated Friday, Oct. 11, was accompanied by supporting statements from the NYC Department of Health, the NYC Department of Environmental Protection and the US Environmental Protection Agency. David said copies of the DoE's response were available in the lobby and the supporting letters from other agencies would be posted on the PA website.

The letters said that the DoE would remove additional carpeting from Stuyvesant, with most work being done on weekends and holidays. The DoE also said it would remove the auditorium drapes but has determined it is not necessary to replace the covers of the auditorium seats.

David said the Health and Safety Committee met on Sept. 30 and discussed issues that were "on the back burner" last year as the committee focused on the cleanup of the school's air handling system and auditorium. He said committee members volunteered at that meeting to prepare reports on the following four issues: 1. high-efficiency air filtration systems, 2. the cleanup of the waste transfer site north of Stuyvesant, 3. the establishment of a health registry and 4. the implications of a proposed Westway tunnel near Stuyvesant. The date for the next meeting of the Health and Safety Committee will be posted on the website.

In response to a question from David Newman, a member of the H&S committee, asking David Ross to paraphrase comments by the PA's environmental consultants at the 6 p.m. pre-meeting on environmental issues, David said that all parents had been invited to the 6 p.m. meeting and that it would be impossible to paraphrase the comments made during the hour-long discussion.

**Elections (Dale Bernstein)** Dale said parents could pick up ballots until 8:45 p.m. and that filled-out ballots would be accepted until 9 p.m., when counting would start. She said the bylaws permit each parent present to vote for each position up for election. She said candidates would each be given 45 seconds to speak and would be called to the podium in alphabetical order within their contests. Denis Meadows was designated as timekeeper.

Candidate names were read in order and each candidate in attendance was given the chance to speak. Several nominated candidates had withdrawn before the election and their names did not appear on the ballot. One candidate, Lissette Velez de Intriago, announced from the podium her withdrawal from the election.

At the end of the speeches, Dale thanked all candidates and listed those who had withdrawn. In answer to a question, she said that parents who mark their ballot and then want to make a change must do so very clearly and put their initials by the change. [Note: See the PA website ([www.stuyupa.org](http://www.stuyupa.org)) for full election results.]

**Program** Judy Moore introduced Eric Grossman of the English Department. She said that senior parents were invited to stay in the auditorium for a presentation by Pat Cleary and members of the college office. All other parents were invited to hear a presentation by Mr. Grossman in the cafeteria and see a video clip of the student play, *with their eyes*.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Jane Ritter, Recording Secretary