

DRAFT Minutes
Stuyvesant High School Parents' Association
General Meeting
Tuesday, Dec. 17, 2002

Co-President Judy Moore called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M.

Co-Presidents' Report (Judy Moore). Judy announced that:

- A presentation on college financial aid will be held Wed., Dec. 18. The speaker will be Brother David, Director of Admissions and Financial Aid for Manhattan College for many years and now a popular speaker and consultant on financial planning for college. Brother David will give detailed information about filling out the FAFSA form (Free Application for Federal Student Aid), which all colleges require.

- The Membership Outreach Committee is sponsoring a meeting for Chinese parents at 6:30 P.M. Thurs., Jan. 9, in the cafeteria.

- Parents are encouraged to fill out a PA volunteer form. The PA wants to develop a talent bank of people who can be called upon as needs arise.

- Parents can sign up on the PA website to receive e-mail updates about news and events. (Go to www.stuy.org, then click on the News page, and look for the "Stuyparents Listserv" item.)

- Angela Fremont-Appel will take over as chair of the Program Committee from Carey Meltzer, who resigned due to demands of a new job. Judy thanked Carey for arranging programs for this fall's PA meetings.

- Bonnie Song, co-chair of the Intel/Research Committee, organized this evening's program, which will provide an overview of research opportunities for Stuyvesant students.

Minutes. The minutes of the Nov. 19 PA general meeting were approved as written.

Treasurer's Report (Donovan Moore). Donovan reported that the Appropriations Committee recommends the following additions to the "Wish List" in the PA budget: \$12,500 to the Physics Department for analogue laboratory equipment, an additional \$5,000 for General Administrative costs, and \$900 to support a production of Macbeth. A motion to approve the allocations was seconded and passed by general consent. In response to a question, Donovan reported that \$15,000 has been set aside (but not yet allocated) for the College Coach program, which would provide an individual college counseling session for juniors and their parents. The PA is discussing this program with the Stuyvesant College office. Additional information will be provided before any money is allocated.

Committee Report

Health and Safety. Judy reported that the PA's environmental consultant Howard Bader reviewed and approved the protocol for testing the upholstered seats in the auditorium for asbestos. Testing is scheduled for the Christmas vacation.

Program—Independent Research

Presenting information on Independent Research were Anne Manwell, Independent Research Coordinator; Dan Bucher, a chemistry and physics teacher; Elizabeth Fong, Assistant Principal, Biology; Jennifer Suri, Assistant Principal, Social Studies, and Bruce Winokur, a mathematics teacher.

Anne Manwell said the Independent Research program can help a student take a nugget of interest and progress to focused research. She said a goal of the Independent Research program is to train students to think critically, to focus their interests, to understand problems to be solved within their area of interest and to decide how the problems can best be approached.

Echoing Ms. Manwell's comment, Elizabeth Fong said the independent research program not only allows students to participate in contests but encourages students to enjoy the research process and to learn about how to look at the world, keep an open mind and apply their knowledge to solve problems.

She and other presenters said the independent research classes let students see what it would be like to do research as a graduate student or professional.

The teachers encouraged parents to become involved in the independent research program, saying that:

- Parents who do research are needed to mentor students doing research projects.

- Parents were encouraged to enlist family members or friends who would be willing to be mentors.

- Parents can serve on an "institutional review board" that would review student proposals for social science research projects. The board would consist of three or four people with expertise in medicine, psychology or social work who

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would consider whether proposed student projects pose risks to animals or people involved.

Regarding math research, Mr. Winokur, the math research class teacher, said freshmen and sophomores do math fair projects that require researching a topic and writing a paper. Second-semester juniors and first-semester seniors learn about research and do projects focused on the Intel competition.

Regarding chemistry and physics research classes, Mr. Bucher said the independent research program lets Stuy students experience what it is like to be a graduate student. The program includes a series of seminars with distinguished scientists during the spring semester and has placed students in the New York University Physics Department.

Regarding biology research classes, Ms. Fong emphasized that the biology department offers classes that prepare students to do research and succeed in the Intel program. Classes she highlighted included:

- Molecular Science and Molecular Genetics, a one-year course for sophomores that teaches laboratory techniques used in college and hospital research and focuses on cutting edge topics.
- Genetics Research, which includes laboratory investigations in classical yeast and fruit fly genetics.
- Biochemistry of Proteins, in which students learn techniques once taught in graduate school. This course, open to juniors and seniors only, is designed for students entering the Intel competition or as an introduction to AP Biology;
- AP Biology, a college-level course offering in-depth study of all major areas of biology.

Regarding social science research, Ms. Suri posed a series of questions that might be researched, such as: Is student stress related to 9/11? Why do girls shy away from high-level science courses? Do young girls and boys play differently with dolls? Noting the Intel competition's division for social science research, she said that interested Stuyvesant students can be paired with experts doing research.

In response to a question about whether students have enough time to prepare Intel projects, it was noted that some classes are open only to juniors and seniors because students must be 16 years of age before they can be placed in some labs. It was also suggested that the independent

research program contact the Stuyvesant Alumni Association to find mentors.

A question about how younger students can prepare for research opportunities prompted a listing of extracurricular and summer programs, including foreign exchange programs through the Social Studies Department, and summer math programs at Boston University, Hampshire College, City College, the YES Center at Brooklyn Polytechnic and the Young Scholars program at Ohio State University. It was noted that parents and students can also check the following websites and books for information: www.sciserv.org; the social sciences page on the www.stuy.edu website which has links to summer programs, and a Peterson's Guide called *Summer Opportunities for Kids and Youth*.

School Leadership Team (Elizabeth Roistacher).

Elizabeth said that the SLT at its Dec. 12 meeting:

- created committees on equity and diversity, school tone and ethics. She encouraged parents who have concerns about these issues to call or e-mail an SLT representative.
- heard from Principal Teitel that contrary to concerns last spring, budget cuts did not cause students to be denied any classes this fall.
- allocated money for a tabletop copier for the college office.
- discussed the School-Based Option for Stuyvesant, an issue that requires approval by the Stuyvesant UFT chapter.

Judy Moore noted that the Executive Board, at its Dec. 12 meeting, chose to focus on the School-Based Option as one of its top three goals for this year, along with supporting the College Office and developing a Parent Talent Bank to help support the school. Judy encouraged parents to fill out the form on the back page of the December Bulletin to volunteer to be a mentor.

Judy Moore closed the meeting by wishing parents a peaceful holiday and New Year. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Ritter, Recording Secretary