

**DRAFT Minutes
Stuyvesant High School Parents' Association
General Meeting
Sept. 17, 2002**

Judy Moore, co-president of the Parents' Association, called the meeting to order at 7 P.M. She asked for a motion to change the agenda, moving the film clip of "With Their Eyes" to the end of the meeting. A motion was made, seconded and passed.

Judy introduced Schools Chancellor Joel Klein.

Mr. Klein said he wanted to assure parents that the Stuyvesant building was clean and safe, saying he would not have authorized the building's opening on Sept. 5 if he did not think it was safe. He said his staff had been in contact with officials of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the city's Department of Health and that results of extensive testing consistently showed the building to be clean. He also said that carpets and drapes will be removed and that the Department of Education (DoE) will continue to monitor the school environment.

Judy thanked the Chancellor for attending the meeting. She said the PA's Health and Safety Committee would report later in the evening and that parents could ask questions then.

Judy introduced David Ross, the PA's second vice-president and parliamentarian. David reviewed basic elements of Robert's Rules of Order, saying parliamentary procedures would be followed as necessary to ensure fair and business-like meetings.

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

Judy gave the co-president's report, as follows:

- she acknowledged the difficulties of the past year and said she was glad the school was open and the children were well.
- she said the PA will continue to pursue outstanding issues related to the cleanup of the building, but will seek to balance those efforts with work on other issues.
- she encouraged parents to sign up for committees, to check the website for updates and to sign up for the Parent Directory.
- She listed dates for Parent-Teacher conferences (Oct. 24 & 25), Open School Week (Nov. 10 – 16)[correction: Open School at Stuyvesant is Oct. 21-23, before Parent-Teacher conferences], and the homecoming football game (Sun., Oct. 6 at Erasmus HS).
- She said the book *With Their Eyes* is on sale outside the auditorium. The book is the text of a play produced by Stuyvesant teacher Annie Thoms and her students.

Judy announced the names of committee chairs: Appropriations—Donovan Moore; College—Karen Money; Communications—Jane Ritter; Family Orientation—Ellen Freudenheim; Faculty Reception—Felice Perlman and Dorothy Schuster; Hospitality—Pearl Schoenfeld and Ellen Rosenblatt; Intel/Research—Bonnie Song; Membership Outreach—Joy Lall, Young Mi Suh and Steven Zhang; Phonathon/Fundraising—Harvey Blumm and Jennifer Chiang; Program—Carey Meltzer, and Scholarship—Anne Kostick

A motion was made and seconded to approve the list of committee chairs. Discussion included:

- a request for the qualifications of the appointed people.
- an observation that committee appointments have not been

questioned in the past.

- a request to offer alternative candidates.
- a suggestion that because half the Stuyvesant students are Asian, more Asian parents should be chosen.
- a comment that because committee chairs become members of the Executive Board, some questions raised are a continuation of last spring's hard-fought PA leadership election.
- a call to support the nominees in the interest of having a well-run PA.
- a question about whether the PA must approve the appointments as a group or can consider each individually.

A motion was made and seconded to call the question. The motion passed. The motion to approve the list of committee chairs then passed on a show of hands.

Approval of Minutes (Jane Ritter, Recording Secretary): A motion was made to approve minutes of the June 18 PA general meeting. The motion was seconded and approved.

Treasurer's Report (Julie Romano, Assistant Treasurer): Julie presented the appropriation committee's "Wish List"—an outline of how the PA plans to distribute its money to school academic departments and activities. A motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the wish list.

Featured Speakers (Principal Stanley Teitel, AP Eleanor Archie, AP Randi Damasek). Principal Teitel gave the following statistics about Stuyvesant:

- more students got grades of 90 or better last year than in several previous years,
- over 2,400 advanced placement exams were given to Stuy students last spring, with 74% earning top scores of 4 or 5,
- the school offers every course for which the Educational Testing Service offers advanced placement exams,
- Stuy has 31 sports teams (and is the only public high school with a hockey team),
- all kinds of clubs are available, and more than 240 students arrive at 8 a.m. each day for math team.

He asked parents to discuss with their children a letter being sent home soon outlining steps to improve school tone. Principal Teitel said the letter describes some rule changes designed to address problems such as students making noise in the hallways during class periods.

Principal Teitel:

- introduced Eleanor Archie, the new acting assistant principal for pupil personnel services, noting that her responsibilities include programming, the college office and attendance.
- introduced Randi Damasek, the new acting assistant principal for organization.
- said the school would have its first fire drill of the year on Wed., Sept. 18 and planned a total of six before the end of December and 10 by the end of the school year.
- said the removal of the drapes and carpeting announced by Schools Chancellor Klein would not hamper the functioning of the school.
- said, in response to a comment from a parent, that Chancellor Klein has said the Stuyvesant building is safe and that he accepts that assessment.

Continued on next page

Stuyvesant High School Parents' Association Executive Board

Officers

Co-Presidents	
Dale Bernstein	212-580-2992 Brod645@aol.com
Judy Moore	212 799-3123 Jmoore30@nyc.rr.com
1st VP	
Linda Lam	718-476-0788 Lindlam@nyct.com
2nd VP	
David Ross	718-499-6609 DavRoss@nyct.com
Recording Sec.	
Jane Ritter	212-255-1852 jmr719@aol.com
Corresponding Sec.	
Denis Meadows	718-768-0494 Dismeado@aol.com
Treasurer	
Donovan Moore	718-624-6676 Donovanmoore@nyc.rr.com
Ass't Treasurer	
Julie Romano	718-680-4574 Julie_Romano@prodigy.net

School Leadership Team

Senior Representatives	
Avis Alexander	212-721-5184 AvisAlexander@aol.com
Russell Pinsley	212-799-0102 RPinsley@nyc.rr.com
Junior Representatives	
Sankar Chakraborty	718-463-8644 Sachakra@nyct.com
Steve Kessler	212-876-1104 CigsIk@aol.com
Ellen Krug	718-768-0494 Choiceful@aol.com
Soph. Representatives	
Rochelle Kalish	718-871-0114 Rokalish@aol.com
Elizabeth Roistacher	212-362-1033 Earnyc@msn.com

Freshman representatives to the School Leadership Team and Members-At-Large to the Executive Board will be elected at the October 15 PA General Meeting. A full list of the Executive Board will be published in the November Bulletin.

Nominations (Dale Bernstein): Judy asked for permission to change the agenda, moving the nominations ahead of the committee reports. A motion was made, seconded and passed to change the agenda.

Nominations were then received for members-at-large to the Executive Board and for freshman representatives to the School Leadership Team. Those who were nominated were asked to complete an information form and give it to the recording secretary before leaving the meeting. [Nominees are listed in the official meeting notice in this Bulletin.]

Committee Reports

Health and Safety Committee (David Ross): David presented copies of an eight-page report written by the PA's environmental consultants summarizing the summer cleanup. He explained that early in the summer the co-presidents had appointed a health and safety committee, inviting three of four members of last year's health and safety committee to continue as members, and had appointed him chair. The committee also included Judy Moore and Dale Bernstein in their roles as co-presidents, as well as Tom Barnard and Felice Perlman. The committee hired environmental consultants Howard Bader, who was hired by the PA last year, and Tom Fusillo, who had worked with nearby schools PS234 and PS/IS89. The consultants visited Stuyvesant two to four times each week during the summer. Reports of their visits and minutes of health and safety committee meetings are on the website.

David said the cleanup was successful. He noted that after asbestos was found in the auditorium carpeting, the committee asked the Department of Education to remove the carpet using asbestos containment procedures. He said the committee wrote to the DoE in August with several outstanding concerns and is still

awaiting the DoE's response. He said he expects that response before the October general PA meeting and announced an informational pre-meeting that evening when the environmental consultants will answer parents' questions.

Parents then commented that:

- the covers of the auditorium seats should be replaced now because no one will be paying attention in a few years if there is embedded asbestos that loosens as the seats age.
- the PA should pursue issues important to last year's health and safety committee including (1) a medical survey of the students and a health registry, (2) a guarantee that the waste transfer site near the school has been cleaned up and (3) maintenance and upgrade of the school's air filtration system.
- the PA should publish a list of committees and tell parents how to get involved. It was said that meeting dates would be posted on the school website.

New Business: In response to a request for new business, several parents made statements, including:

- that the PA has sought and continues to seek minority parents to stand for election.
- that children were subjected to yelling during protests on the first day of school and that the psychological well-being of the children should be considered.
- that new parents are being frightened by the fractious nature of the PA and that mediation should be considered.

The meeting was adjourned at 9 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jane Ritter, Recording Secretary