

High School Council Meeting Minutes

November 6, 2018

Superintendent-Roy Montesano

-All classrooms are up and running after the flood.

-Main gym will be open in 1-2 weeks.

Phase 1 of the Bond Referendum has begun and includes the following:

*2 custom pumps will be installed after the first of the year bringing the total number of pumps to 5.

*Chambers Field-replacement of Chambers track and field will begin on 11/7 and is slated to be finished in time for spring sports.

*Ceiling tiles in the north and south playrooms will be replaced over the winter break. Contractors are working directly with the BOE on this project.

Phase 2 of the bond referendum will be sent to the state on 11/16. Once approved, bids will go out at the end of February/beginning of March with work projected to commence at the beginning of summer.

Principal-Ann Meyer

Ann thanked the Bronxville School Foundation and Bronxville School District for providing a grant to Innovative Designs for Education (IDE Corp.).

8 teachers from the middle and high schools attended an 8-day professional development seminar that focused on how to transform classrooms to build student engagement and empowerment. The goal is to allow students to make more decisions and have greater independence, responsibility, organization and advocacy and what that looks like. The idea is to shift from the teacher standing in front of the classroom to a more student based environment where students work in smaller groups and where not everyone is working on the same thing at the same time.

Christina Vowinkel-Innovative Designs for Education (IDE Corp.)

Ms. Vowinkel presented a slide show explaining that students must be creative problem solvers in an ever-changing economy. A learner-active technology infused classroom will allow the students to solve problems with more understanding and critical thinking. Teachers are now designing different pathways where students have more decision-making opportunities, which increase critical and innovative thinking.

In January there will be a detailed session for parents to learn how the implementation is going and to experience a student driven classroom.

Director of Guidance-Anne Abbatecola

Class Updates:

9th grade

-Bill Meyer will present his organizational and study skills meeting next week. The meeting will also discuss bullying and self-respect.

-Students will meet with their guidance counselors to check in and discuss how the year is going thus far.

10th grade

- 175 10th and 11th graders took the PSAT, which was administered on 10/24.
- There will be a practice ACT administered in the spring...details to follow.
- Students will meet with their guidance counselor to check in and discuss how the year is going thus far.

11th grade

- Juniors and parents received information regarding the post high school planning process at the October 22 meeting.

12th grade

- By November 1, 107 of the 121 seniors applied to colleges ED (early decision) or EA (early action).
- Please inform your guidance counselor if your quarter 1 grades need to be sent to colleges.

Other:

- Quarter 1 will end on 11/8 and grades will be posted to the portal on 11/16.

Principal-Ann Meyer

It has been 1-½ years that the Bronxville School has been part of Challenge Success. To further the Challenge Success work, a committee comprised of faculty, parents, students, Ann Meyer and Tom Wilson has been formed to create a grade 6-12 policy on cheating and plagiarism. The policy needs to be the same for middle school and high school so that there is a clear understanding amongst faculty, administration, students and parents as to what constitutes cheating and plagiarism and how best to deal with these issues.

Students are overbooked, we need to find ways to improve instruction so that it's not easy to cheat as well as help making students understand the value of their work so that they won't be tempted to cheat. A draft of this policy should be completed by the end of the first semester.

Ann attended a Challenge Success seminar titled A 'Fit' Over Rankings: Why College Engagement Matters More Than Selectivity' where topics included discussions about how the traditional college ranking systems are problematic, selective colleges are not an indicator of future success and how engaged you are in college matters more than where you attended college.

Challenge Success co-founder, Denise Pope will be here on 2/5/19 at 8:30 am for a parent workshop about the college admission process. Thank you to the PTA for funding this event and to the Bronxville School Foundation for supporting our work with Challenge Success.

In closing:

-Jenn encouraged people to come to the monthly council meetings

-The Bronco Beat will no longer be emailed and is replaced by the PTA bulletin board

-B.O.L.D. (Bronxville Organization for Learning Differences) is in the process of being rebranded. If you have any creative ideas please contact Jenn Redman losrojos@yahoo.com

-The B'Well committee would like to hear your ideas for movies, speakers, etc. Please contact Jenn Hommeyer jshommeyer@yahoo.com or Betsy Borsch ebastien@rcn.com

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