

Bergen Academies PPO
November 14, 2006 7:00 PM
PPO General Membership Meeting Minutes

Shiaoling Paxson called the meeting to order at 7:10PM. Shiaoling Paxson welcomed everyone to the 2nd General PPO meeting of the year.

- **Shiaoling Paxson gave a quick overview of the trimester's events**
 - She informed everyone that the first buddy breakfast was conducted and was well received.
 - She also informed the membership that in an earlier meeting it was discussed that the next buddy meeting should possibly be held in the evening, perhaps just prior to a PPO meeting, to allow all the buddies to attend, as some could not attend during the day.
 - She informed everyone that the PPO directory has been distributed.
 - She requested all those parents who are not members to go online or call the PPO and join.
 - She thanked the parents who came to the PPO work session and made it successful.
 - She then introduced the idea of the PPO sharing email addresses with class parents stating that the PPO recognized the trust given to the PPO with providing e-mail addresses.
 - She mentioned that there has been a request to share these e-mail addresses with the class parents but the PPO recognizes our members' privacy concerns and intends to honor this promise by making sure anyone on the list is blind copied.
 - She stated that there will be a PPO e-mail flyer sent out to all parents with the November Newsletter mailing. Any parent who does not want their e-mail address to be shared with the Class Parents will need to let the PPO know by December 1st.
 - There was a suggestion made that there should be links on the PPO web site where parents can see information about upcoming activities for each of the four classes.

- **Parent Education Institute**
 - PEI (Parent Education Institute) committee chair, Carol Blakeslee, spoke about the PEI lecture that is approaching on December 14 at 7:00PM.
 - This meeting is open to all grades, not just juniors and seniors. It is about college planning.
 - PEI was started by our former superintendent, Dr. John Grieco and is designed to help parents understand what it is to be a teenager in this day and age
 - Carol mentioned that Brother David will be coming for this lecture to talk about financial planning for college. Brother David was an admissions officer at Manhattan College.
 - He will be discussing the college application process, the financial aid process, how to handle oneself in the interview, etc.

- **Open House**
 - Susan Bromberg gave an update on the upcoming open houses.

- November 19th, 11:00 A.M. and 2:00 P.M. for AMST, AVPA, ACAHA, ATCS. There is a need for volunteers for the morning session, from 10:00 A.M. to 11:30 A.M.
 - There will be an Open House for all academies on December 3rd at 11:00 A.M. and at 2:00 P.M. Volunteers are needed for the morning session, from 10:00 A.M. to 11:30 A.M.
 - E-mail Susan Bromberg or call Donna Walsh if interested.
- **Mr. Russ Davis**
 - Mr. Davis conveyed Pat Cosgrove's regrets that she was unavailable due to family obligations. Mrs. Cosgrove went to Washington D.C. last week to receive the blue ribbon award.
 - Mr. Russ Davis then reviewed achievements at the Academies
 - Academy Math Team - two students won 1st place with perfect scores on the national level and three students tied for 3rd place on the national level. Eight Academy students were tied for 1st place with perfect scores in the eastern regional level.
 - The Quiz Bowl Team returned from a successful tournament in Rutgers University where they qualified for the national tournament in Chicago.
 - He also mentioned that the Academy Orchestra Concert is going to be held this Friday, November 17.
 - There was a communiqué from the superintendent, Mr. Robert Aloia, which reviewed a few items regarding safety.
 - The school now has a video surveillance system at the front entrance,
 - The front door will be permanently locked; visitors will have to be buzzed in to get through the front doors
 - The school now has a full time person on the front desk.
 - The Bergen County Police will have a lock-down drill in the next few weeks and they will make any necessary recommendations once the drill is over.
 - Mr. Davis mentioned that discipline is now a question on college applications, as mentioned in the newsletter. The Common Application now includes a question regarding discipline. This includes suspension, or removal from the school, which rarely occurs, but parents should be aware of this and should make sure that their children understand that discipline could become an issue in the college application process.
 - There are new disciplinary actions associated with the cell phone policy which has not changed.
 - Cell phones should be switched off and phone calls should not be made during the day.
 - If a student sees a missed call from their parent(s), they may return the call only from the main office. Calls should not be placed in hallways or classrooms.
 - He mentioned that two members of the administration, Dr. Raymond Bath and Mr. Daniel Jaye, will be speaking to the 9th grade parents about academics.
 - They will be talking about some of the innovative plans for this year as well as the upcoming years.
 - Mr. Jaye will discuss the mathematics curriculum
 - Dr. Bath will discuss the English curriculum
 - He also mentioned that Rona Gabin will address the Sophomore parents

- He mentioned that the rest of the guidance department will share some very informative information with the Junior parents.
- He finally thanked the seven senior students who had taken time out of their busy schedules to talk about their CEE experience with the junior parents.
- **Presentations by Class Parents**
 - Class of 2007 - Mary Anne Hoogerheyde
 - Invited all parents to come to the art auction on Friday to raise money for the senior class.
 - They need about 100 parents to attend, in order to earn \$1,000 for the class.
 - Tickets are \$10 and refreshments will be served.
 - Tickets can be purchased at the door on Friday or after the meeting
 - Class of 2008 - Donna Gormley
 - The Class of 2006 is compiling a professionally produced cookbook as a class fundraiser. Recipes should be sent in or can be submitted on line.
 - For each recipe submitted, the submitter's name will be entered to win an iPod or a \$75 American Express gift card.
 - Class of 2009 - Sharon Pierson
 - Class Parents from the class of 2007-2010 are working with the Points of Light Foundation. It is an opportunity to raise money for Hurricane Katrina Relief and each of our classes.
 - Each of the classes will share a portion of the proceeds.
 - She asked parents to be on the look out for the "We are Family" CD that is coming out. It has a lot of artists that have collaborated on this CD to raise money for Katrina Relief. Fliers will be included in the PPO Newsletter.
- **Rona Gabin gave a brief update on plans by the Guidance office**
 - She mentioned that the next guidance meeting will be on December 5th, and will be about financial aid.
 - She informed everyone that the financial aid expert who comes every year will be talking about all of the forms that are needed for financial aid, etc.
 - A snow date of December 7th is on the schedule if required.
 - She advised that the meeting will be in the auditorium.
 - She also said that there will be a guidance meeting in March for the freshman parents.

The PPO meeting adjourned at 7:30PM

Respectfully submitted,

Parul Rawal
Recording Secretary