



HIGH SCHOOL OF AMERICAN STUDIES
PTA GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
Virtual Meeting held on 6/23, 2020

FOR APPROVAL

- Meeting called to order at 6:07 pm by Nicole Rothschild, President of HSAS PTA.
- Executive Board attendees: Nicole Rothschild, Stephen Friedgood, Joanna Brody, Jorge Ramirez, Dan Jacob, Eric Weinberg, Wendi Lee, Nora McCauley and Juliet Ragaishis

Opening Remarks – Nicole Rothschild – Nicole acknowledged the challenges of the year, staff we have lost, thanked outgoing PTA members and introduced some of the new members.

Principals Report – Mr. Weiss

- **Graduation** – Virtual graduation will be held on Thursday, June 25 at 6pm. Will be as personalized as we can allow, and there will be speeches and videos from staff and students. Diplomas will need to be issued later.
- **Seniors** – will clean out lockers when safe and the building is available. Currently next to a COVID testing center.
- **Grades** – We will issue number grades as usual on the DOE portal. Make sure you have an account, or speak to Paula. There is no failing mark. Instead, students who do not meet course standards will receive a mark of NX (course in progress). After final grades are released, parents may opt to have number grades changed into CR (credit). Students who receive an NX may make up the work during the summer or the fall semester. If the work is not made up, each NX will turn into an NC (no credit). Think about consequences for CRs when submitting to colleges. Indications are that colleges will be lenient with course completions.
- **2020-2021 school year** – It appears they may be a hybrid model to next year. We are not sure of a start date now, Online and in-person learning. Have no idea what it will be functionally, or how to have social distancing. Remote learning is difficult for us, and attendance decreased for virtual classes. We want to have more live lessons, not just taped. We are not sure if Lehman classes may be cut going forward, CUNY is having budget issues. Course programming will begin soon for next year, working on Juniors' and Seniors' curriculum first. Check Jupiter over the summer. We could possibly look into using Lehman classrooms if they are not on campus. Information on placement tests and orientation dates (Spanish and Math) will be provided by the end of summer

Q&A:

Do we anticipate a class schedule?

- It will be coming towards the end of summer.

Have you received feedback on HSAS remote experience?

- No at this moment.

Will there be more Live classes?

- We are hoping for that.

Will there be a delayed start?

- We do not know. But there may be more planning days, so it could happen.

When are orientation and placement tests?

- Info will be out the end of summer

When does the NYC DOE account expire?

- Access will run out after the school year ends and a student is graduated. Official transcripts will be sent to the colleges.

Is there a hiring freeze?

- Do not have budget yet, so unsure.

How are teachers holding up?

- They are Ok. Videos take longer than in-class instruction, so a vacation is needed.

What about Regents exams?

- There is a Regents waiver, as tests cannot be given. If students want to improve their score, we need to know by 12/1.

Minutes were passed from May meeting.

Treasurer's Report – Dan Jacobs & Jorge Ramirez

- \$300,000+ in bank. A budget of austerity was created. Fundamentally we need:
 - Increased revenue
 - Reduction in spending
 - Accrue capital

Treasurers foresee a 25% decrease in donations because of the economy.

New Business - Nicole Rothschild, PTA President

- PTA Budget was passed

Nominating Committee, headed by Eugenia Tinsley and Charlotte Elkin, nominated the following slate for next year:

President – Nicole Rothschild

Vice President – Joanna Brody

Treasurer – Jorge Ramirez and Dan Jacobs

Recording Secretary – Nora McCauley and Melanie Perlstein

Member-at-Large – Eric Weinberg

SLT – Hanice Pena, Nadine Rothman and Marcella Barglanz

Parent Representatives – Charlotte Elkin- 10th Grade, Jen Unter and Rebecca Metz- 11th Grade

Need 12th Grade representative, Fundraising Chair and Communications Secretary

Audit Committee – Lenny DiPietra, Nora McCauley, Jorge Ramirez and Alix Botwin-Krell

All financials statements were supplied and all transactions were reviewed. Cash balances were down \$100,000 due to disbursements. Financials were good, and no discrepancies.

Announcements:

Senior photos are being taken in Central Park at their picnic by parent Sirin Fernandez.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.