



Bulletin

Issue 4

December 2002

Stuy PA presents

Important Programs in December

The Admissions Maze:

An Inside View of the College Admissions Process

Thursday, Dec. 12 7 p.m. Murray Kahn Theater

The *New York Times* and the Stuyvesant High School Parents' Association invite students and parents to attend a special evening on college admissions with Jacques Steinberg, *New York Times* national education correspondent and author of *The Gatekeepers: Inside the Admissions Process of a Premier College*, and Lloyd E. Hall, Associate Director of Admissions for Cornell University. This informative program will feature a discussion on college admissions and will include a question and answer session. An informal reception and book signing with the author will follow.

Copies of *The Gatekeepers* (Viking, 2002), acclaimed as a "fascinating inside look at how some of our most prestigious colleges and universities determine their admissions," will be available for purchase.

*Admission to this special event is free of charge and open only to current Stuyvesant students, parents, faculty and administrators. Entrance is on a first-come, first-served basis only. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

Independent Research Symposium:

Research Competitions, Opportunities and Scholarship

PA December General Meeting

Tuesday, Dec. 17 7-9 p.m. Murray Kahn Theater

This popular annual presentation with Anne Manwell, Stuyvesant Research Coordinator, and four assistant principals—Elizabeth Fong, Biology; Danny Jaye, Math; Olga Livanis, Chemistry-Physics, and Jennifer Suri, Social Studies—will include information on research opportunities and competitions for Stuyvesant students in science, math, and social studies. Intel, Siemens, the NYC Science Expo, and the Lauder Program are among the opportunities for students that will be presented in this program.

Financial Aid: A Guide to Financial Planning for College, Sources of Financial Aid and How to Fill Out Financial Aid Forms

Wednesday, Dec. 18 6:45 p.m. Murray Kahn Theater

The Stuyvesant Parents' Association is pleased to offer this invaluable and detailed seminar for parents, which will include a comprehensive look at financial planning for college, cover sources of financial aid and scholarships, and will feature a detailed presentation on filling out the FAFSA form. Brother David, former Director of Admissions and Financial Aid for Manhattan College and noted expert on the ins and outs of financial planning for college, will preside at this informative, two-hour program.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL December 2002

Dear Parents,

As we begin the holiday season we also begin the third and final marking period of the semester. The grades each student achieves have a different significance depending upon their level. For the Freshman it is the foundation of a transcript each student hopes to build. For Sophomores and Juniors these grades add additional levels to a strong foundation. For our Seniors they represent the last grades on their high school transcript for college review. I urge each parent to encourage and support his or her child in every way possible.

On Wednesday, Dec. 11th, report cards will be issued to each student. Please take a moment to review your child's progress. We are offering academic intervention services (tutoring) in all subjects. If you have any concerns please contact the guidance office.

On Friday, Dec. 6th, and Saturday, Dec. 7th, students will perform our annual fall comedy, "Anything Goes." I hope to meet and greet many of you.

I wish each family a healthy, happy and peaceful holiday season.

Sincerely,
S. Teitel

THE PARENTS' ASSOCIATION would like to thank the students and faculty who participated in the Nov. 19 PA meeting. Thank you to Jay Biegelson, Freshman Guidance Counselor, for the terrific orientation program for new parents. Our thanks to Matt Polazzo, Coordinator of Student Affairs, Janet Hsueh, Student Union President, Mike Litwack, SU Vice President, and Alex Pearlman, SU Budget Chair, for speaking on current issues of interest to students. Thanks also Larissa Gonzalez, Stuyvesant Fencing Team coach, and team members Hu Huang (Captain), David Ferguson, Ethan Frisch, and Gabriella Grisotti, for a fascinating demonstration, and congratulations on your successful (7-1) season!

CALENDAR

December

Tues., Dec. 10	SLT 4:10 p.m. Executive Board 6:45 p.m.
Wed., Dec. 11	Distribution of report cards
Thurs., Dec. 12	Medical Ethics Symposium 3:30 p.m., Theater
Fri., Dec. 13	Staff Development Day— No student attendance
Tues., Dec. 17	PA General Meeting 7 – 9 p.m. (PA Hospitality 6:30 – 7 p.m.)
Dec. 23–Jan. 1	School Closed - Winter Recess

January

Thurs., Jan. 2	School Reopens
Tues., Jan. 14	SLT 4:10 p.m. Executive Board 6:45 p.m.
Mon., Jan. 20	No School— Dr. Martin Luther King Birthday
Tues., Jan. 21	PA General Meeting 7 – 9 p.m. (PA Hospitality 6:30 – 7 p.m.)
Fri., Jan. 31	No School—End of Fall Term

February

Mon., Feb. 3	Spring Term begins
Tues., Feb. 11	SLT 4:10 p.m. Executive Board 6:45 p.m.
Feb. 17– Feb. 23	Winter Recess

School Leadership Team: Meetings of Stuyvesant's SLT are held on the second Tuesday of each month, starting at 4:10 p.m. in the 6th Floor Library.

BRIEFS

Potluck Dinners

The PA Executive Board would like to have some neighborhood potluck dinners for parents during the winter. The dinner last spring at the home of Bob and Linda Carr in Brooklyn was a big success, and we would like to establish a Stuyvesant tradition of giving parents an opportunity to socialize with other parents in their neighborhoods. If you would be willing to host a dinner or to help with the planning, please contact Judy Moore at jmoore30@nyc.rr.com.

Grant Writers Needed

Stuyvesant is looking for parents with grant-writing experience to assist in raising funds to support school activities. If you have experience and could spare some time to brainstorm and provide technical assistance, please contact Harvey Blumm at hblumm@aol.com.

Volunteers Needed for Stuy Open House

Save the Date!
Sat., Feb. 8, 2003
8:15 a.m.–2:30 p.m.

Korean Translation by Sunhee Choe
2월8일 2003년, 토요일,
8:15AM–2:30PM

Students who have been accepted to Stuyvesant for the next school year are invited, with their parents, to see our beautiful school on Sat., Feb. 8, 2003. Please help the PA support this very important event by volunteering.

All parents can be of assistance. Volunteering this day is also a great way to meet and mingle with other Stuy parents and have lunch on the PA.

Please email Fran Meyerson at brevjaf@aol.com or call chairperson Ellie Freudenheim at (718) 636-9811 if you can join us.

Thanks for your consideration,
The Open House Committee

Chinese Translation by Stephen Zhang

2003년도 신입생을 위한 학교소개 (Open House)에 학부모님의 자원봉사가 필요합니다.

2월 8일 2003년 토요일에 신입생 Stuy 학생들과 학부모님들을 함께 초대합니다.

이 중요한 행사에 많은 학부모님의 도움이 필요합니다. 모든 Stuy 학부모님께서 도와주시길 바라며 특히 한국어와 영어에 불편함이 없으신 분들을 더욱 더 환영 합니다. 이날 봉사하시는 학부모님께서서는 다른 Stuy 자모회 학부모들과 친목을 도모할 수 있는 좋은 기회가 되고 봉사후에 Stuy 자모회에서 점심 식사를 같이 할 계획입니다.

봉사를 원하시는 학부모께서는 Fran Meyerson (brevjaf@aol.com)께로 email하시든지 Ellie Freudenheim (718) 636-9811로 전화 주시면 감사하겠습니다.

學校开放日誠徵家長義工

2003年2月8號星期六是訂為下學年的新生和家長的开放日。在一個大日子裡，家長會為办好這一盛會，帶領學生和家長參觀和了解我們漂亮的史蒂文森高中，家長會熱切希望家長們的支持和幫助，特別是懂得中英雙語的

家長們，請加入我們的義務行例，這亦是一個迎新敘舊的好日子。服務的時間是2003年2月8號星期六早上8:15分至下午2:30分。凡參加義工的家長都有午餐招待。有興趣請e-mail給FRAN MEYERSON，網址是：brevjaf@aol.com，或打電話給Ellie FREUDENHEIM，電話：(718) 636-9811。

FRESHMAN SLT UPDATE: from Barbara and Sue

The next SLT meeting is on Tues., Dec. 10, at 4:10 p.m. and the January meeting is set for Jan. 14 at 4:10 p.m. All meetings are open, so if you want to come to observe, you're welcome.

Please e-mail us your questions and concerns. If you have a schoolwide concern that you believe needs to be addressed by SLT, e-mail it to us....And watch for your SLT REPORT each month.

--Barbar6942@aol.com and Sschneider@manhattanreading.org

School Leadership Team Report

By Elizabeth Roistacher

THE SCHOOL LEADERSHIP TEAM (SLT) held its second meeting of the academic year on Tues., Nov. 12, 2002. The SLT has 25 members representing the following constituencies: administration (5), teachers (5), students (5), and parents (10). The junior class has three parent representatives; the other classes each have two. The tenth parent representative is the president of the Parents' Association; because we have co-presidents this year, one is designated to serve on the SLT (Judy Moore). Parent representatives are elected by a vote of the PA membership and serve on the Executive Board. A list of the parent representatives and their e-mail addresses appears below. We encourage you to get in touch with us if you have any questions or if there are issues you think we should be considering. We hope the following description of our responsibilities and current concerns will be helpful to you.

First for some background: Stuyvesant's School Leadership Team was established in accordance with "The Chancellor's Plan for School Leadership Teams." The SLT serves the school in an advisory capacity. However, it plays an important role in policy-making within the school. Its primary role is to develop the school's Comprehensive Educational Plan (CEP), the annual set of goals for the school that are to guide each academic year. The team also has a role in aligning the school budget with the CEP and in assessing how well the school is doing in implementing the goals established in the plan. (The CEP includes a framework for identifying who is responsible for implementation of each goal as well as how, and with what financial support, the goals should be implemented. It also includes indicators of success that are helpful in shaping the assessment process.) The goals for this academic year, which were established at the end of the last academic year, are as follows:

- To provide the best possible instruction for the students of Stuyvesant High School.
- To provide appropriate standards for assessment of students at Stuyvesant High School.
- To provide the best academic and effective guidance services for all Stuyvesant students.
- To promote effective communication throughout the Stuyvesant community.
- To improve student interaction with the arts.
- To improve ethical practice among students and to improve school tone.
- To strengthen Stuyvesant's program of independent research.
- To increase funding resources to improve overall educational opportunities.

Each of these goals needs further specification in order to implement them, and the CEP includes a set of strategic objectives to direct this process. As an example, the first goal has among its strategic objectives: block scheduling in the humanities; teacher training to facilitate teaching the sciences over longer periods; providing English teachers the opportunity to revise and improve the freshman composition course; promoting professional development of the staff; providing faculty with the support to integrate

educational technology into their curriculum; increasing opportunities for juniors to elect a second English class, and improving the quality of instruction in the sciences. Over the course of the year, the current SLT will, in addition to assessing progress on this year's goals, determine what modifications need to be made to the CEP for next year.

In addition to its CEP responsibilities, the School Leadership Team may also address other school concerns that it deems appropriate.

At the Nov. 12 meeting of the SLT, Principal Stanley Teitel briefed us (briefly!) on the school budget. He noted that the share going to instruction had risen somewhat for two reasons: first, the recent teachers' contract has increased teacher salaries; and, second, the loss of a number of assistant principals has reduced the administrative share of the budget. (Note: The Department of Education is being asked to absorb a 4.5% budget cut, but, according to the Nov. 13, 2002, New York Times, "City and school officials have vowed to keep the reductions from affecting classroom instruction, saying they would move to eliminate administrative costs and staff positions, possibly with some layoffs." Previous cuts last summer under Chancellor Levy did not directly affect the Stuyvesant budget. The Times reported that, according to school officials, these were limited to long-term planning money, unspent summer school money and significant purchasing reductions.)

TWO ISSUES DISCUSSED at the SLT meeting are of particular interest. First, there was some discussion about passage rates on the recent Regents physics exam. Stuyvesant students who took this exam did not, on average, score well. Mr. Teitel believes that the reason is that the test had been reformatted. (It was reported that scores fell across the state.) Mr. Teitel also said that it is not an unusual pattern for scores to drop when a new type of test is introduced and that over time the scores get back on track. This led to some discussion of the extent to which teachers need to "teach to the test," rather than focusing on using class time to present material in the way they think is most conducive to developing understanding and fostering knowledge. There was, of course, no resolution to this issue. It will continue to be with us.

The other issue that generated much discussion was the role of the SLT's subcommittee on Ethics/School Tone. That committee had begun its inquiry by focusing on the issue of academic honesty. (Goal 6 of the CEP has as its one strategic objective supporting the school's Academic Honesty Committee, which is chaired by Walter Gern of the English Department.) The SLT subcommittee had decided it wanted to know whether or not academic dishonesty (cheating) was perceived as a major problem and what in the tone/environment of the school motivated it. As such, last year it interviewed 36 people (nine members of each constituency: students, teachers, administrators, and parents) to see what they felt were their major concerns. Cheating was not explicitly reported as a major concern. Among the major concerns: lack of rules and lack of enforcement of rules; the quality of instruction; competition to get into college, and too much stress. While some of these may be related to a problem of academic dishonesty, they are in and of themselves issues that the subcommittee considered to be important. The SLT members debated whether the subcom-

School Leadership Team continued on p. 4

DECEMBER 2002 COLLEGE COLUMN

SENIORS

Secondary School Report envelopes for each college were due Nov. 22 in the college office.

December Deadlines:

Dec. 7 SAT I administered

Dec. 23 Deadline for Jan. 25 SAT I and SAT II Registration

January Deadlines:

File FAFSA (financial aid) forms as soon as possible after Jan. 1, but not before.

Jan. 2 Deadline for Late Registration for Jan. 25th SAT I & II (additional fee).

Jan. 2 SSR envelopes for schools with Jan. 15 or later deadlines due in the College Office.

Jan. 7-8 Third filing dates for SUNY

Jan. 9 Tentative date for SAT II Writing and Math 1C strategy session in school theater at 3 p.m.

Jan. 11-25 Midyear Report Envelopes due in the College Office

Jan. 23 Second filing date for CUNY (6 choices) applications

Jan. 25 SAT I and SAT II are administered

Please also note:

1) CSS (College School Service form for financial aid) can be filled out on-line (www.collegeboard.com).

2) Students applying to the Brooklyn Biomed (CUNY) program and/or the Sophie Davis (CUNY) program must submit the completed applications (with stamped, addressed envelopes) to the college office between Dec. 2 and 6. Applications to these programs must be accompanied by either a completed CUNY Honors application or a regular CUNY application. Check with the College Office to find out which one to file.

3) February 2003: stamped, addressed envelopes to colleges must be given to the College Office so mid-term grades can be sent.

JUNIORS

In February Juniors will get a Secondary School Report (SSR) form to fill out and return to the College Office within two weeks. Each will meet with an SSR writer, a Stuyvesant teacher, sometime between February and June. This interview, the information on the form, updated in September of Senior year, plus any material (teacher blurbs which students should have solicited each semester during their high school years, copies of awards, letters, etc.), will be the basis for the confidential school letter that goes to each requested college. Students can look at their profiles which are kept in the Guidance Office to insure that teachers' comments and important information are up-to-date. Grade advisors will meet with students to help introduce them to the college process and to offer guidance on course selection. Juniors will meet with Mrs. Cleary in February at an assembly where she will review the college process with them. In March, she will meet with the Juniors in their English classes. Copies of the College Handbook which contains all the deadlines, timelines, and information needed for applying to colleges will be hand-delivered later in March. The college office has catalogues, computerized information about colleges and other aids to help guide students in finding colleges. In May of 2003 over 100 college representatives will attend College Night at Stuyvesant. This is a wonderful opportunity for sophomore and junior families to learn about a large number of colleges.

Tests: Mrs. Cleary recommends taking the SAT I in May of junior year and SAT II writing in June. Take SAT II subject tests (two sciences needed for medical school) after the course is completed. PSAT tests taken in October of junior year determine eligibility for Merit Scholarship awards.
-- Sarah Conly

The Most Valuable Tool for Understanding the College Process is the Stuyvesant College Handbook

Families are asked to speak with their students and look in the Handbook for answers to questions about deadlines and filling in forms. The College Office needs to devote its time and resources to addressing problems and concerns of applicants and their families.

School Leadership Team continued from p. 3

mittee (which is not a standing committee) should continue its inquiry into these broader issues or whether it should return to a focus more directly on ethics and academic honesty. The future status of this committee was held over for discussion at the next SLT meeting. (Parent representatives are generally supportive of continuing the work of this subcommittee.)

Among the issues not brought up at the November 12 meeting but of concern to parent representatives: the capacity of Stuyvesant to provide effective college advising, and the ability to introduce a school-based option (SBO) that would give the school greater autonomy in hiring teachers. In addition, one of the SLT members (and a Stuyvesant alumnus) suggested that a Freshman Faces book would be a good idea to help incoming students become acquainted. This idea is already under informal discussion with the Student Union officers.

Please feel free to contact SLT representatives on any of the above issues or on any other concerns you think we should be addressing.

School Leadership Team Parent Representatives

<u>Class</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>E-mail</u>
Senior	Avis Alexander	AvisAlexander@aol.com
Senior	Russell Pinsley	rpinsley@bigfoot.com
Junior	Sankar Chakraborty	Sachakra@nyct.com
Junior	Steve Kessler	Cigslk@aol.com
Junior	Ellen Krug	Choiceful@aol.com
Soph.	Rochelle Kalish	Rokalish@aol.com
Soph.	Elizabeth Roistacher	earnyc@msn.com
Fresh.	Barbara Gsovski	Barbar6942@aol.com
Fresh.	Sue Schneider	Sschneider@manhattanprep.org
PA President	Rep Judy Moore	JMoore30@nyc.rr.com

Website Improvements

Recently, with the help of Tony Shu, a Stuy parent, we have put together a web application that keeps the news and calendar even more timely. Of course, the effort is behind the scenes, but the benefits are for busy parents trying to keep up with the latest news, interesting meetings and holiday schedules. If you have a brief moment, take a look at the home, news and events pages at www.stuyva.org. Special thanks to Tony for his work in making this work so well. In addition, Chick Foxgrover has joined the web team. As the parent of a senior, the website is in good hands.

—Elise Passikoff, webmaster

Freshman Counselor Jay Biegelson Offers Guidance to Freshman Parents

By Carey Meltzer

JAY BIEGELSON, Freshman Guidance Counselor, spoke to new parents at the Freshman Parents' Orientation meeting Nov. 19, 2002. He noted that report card marks are cumulative, and urged parents and students to carefully review their child's transcript for accuracy. Credit for courses taken during junior high or middle school that qualify as high school coursework will also appear on the freshman report cards and will remain part of the high school record. Mr. Biegelson went over the requirements for graduation and detailed the many program options for students as they progress through Stuyvesant. He noted that registration for spring 2003 courses is beginning online now.

MR. BIEGELSON REVIEWED Advanced Placement courses (APs) and advised that students should take APs in subjects he or she is interested in. The first time an AP is offered, he encourages the student to try it, if it is a subject the student is interested in. APs are 50 percent more work than other classes. They use college-level texts and there is 50 percent more reading, papers and homework. Colleges increasingly may not accept APs for college credit, even if the student has received a high grade on the AP exam. A sixth major is 20 percent more homework, research, and writing and students should keep this in mind when selecting their programs. "More kids do themselves damage by taking on too much," Mr. Biegelson noted.

Regents exams are generally not difficult for the students at Stuyvesant. Departmental finals are more difficult. In registering for courses, go online and read through the current course offerings.

In terms of math options for freshmen looking ahead to sophomore year, Mr. Biegelson noted that if the student is running a 90 average or better in math and has finished off Sequential III, the student should take Pre-Calculus. If running an 80-85, take Advanced Algebra. They cover the same material and both prepare the student for Calculus, but on different timeframes. Some students take Pre-Calculus and Calculus at the same time. For students for whom math is not a strong subject, other courses in math are available, such as the History of Math or the popular Acoustical Technology, which discusses the math behind sound. Students in the school are individually tracked for math. Danny Jaye is the Math Department chair and may be reached at ext. 4021.

Students will take four years of Science, and three years of a foreign language culminating in a Regents exam. Dr. Schwegerman, in room 502A, is the Foreign Languages Department chair. Students cannot graduate without passing Gym.

THE COLLEGE TESTING SCHEDULE was reviewed. Sophomore year students should register to take the PSAT for practice as the scores are not reported. In Junior year, again the PSAT scores are not reported but they are used to determine National Merit scholars. SAT IIs, achievement tests, begin freshman year for many students. These are subject-specific, and Mr. B. advises students to take SAT IIs as late as possible in the school year (but not in May since there is still more material to cover, and not after the school year, as students don't generally study in the summer). SAT IIs should be taken in subjects students are strong in. Beginning in January 2005, students will take an additional SAT component, the writing segment, which will make the SAT a half-hour longer. This segment will be 1/3 essay, and the rest syntax, grammar corrections, etc.

COLLEGE FOLDERS and Second School Reports (SSRs) were discussed. Students should prepare an at-home college folder now and list all extra-curricular achievements and activities, along with honors and awards. This should include jobs, volunteer service, music and sports lessons, etc. This at-home college folder can also be used to refer to when heading in for college interviews, as a reference for the students. He noted the more than 100 clubs and teams offered at Stuyvesant. "Colleges like well-rounded students, happy kids," he noted. He encouraged students to be involved in different things and to enjoy high school.

He reviewed the handout: "Biegelson's Theory of Small Pieces—A Study Guide for the Undisciplined," which includes many useful tools for students to adapt in their studying. Students are encouraged to ask questions if they don't understand material in class. Parents and students should familiarize themselves with the Parent Handbook, College Book and Course Catalogue in planning their overall program for their years at Stuyvesant. Mr. Biegelson can be reached at extension 2385 for those with questions on freshman guidance matters.

Mentors and Internships Sought

The Stuyvesant community is looking for parents/guardians to mentor our students in their research projects in chemistry, physics, economics and other applied math areas. Each student would be matched with a mentor working in the student's interest area. Therefore we need a large pool of mentors to help our children. If you would like to volunteer or know of others who can help, please complete and return the form on the back of this bulletin to the Independent Research Committee, c/o Parents' Association, Stuyvesant High School — Room 211, 345 Chambers Street, New York, NY 10282 or contact Bonnie Song (nykapa@aol.com) or Roger Kim (rkim@brookdale.edu), Independent Research Committee chairs.

Also...

The Student Union would like to start a pilot internship program which might become a regular option for seniors if it were successful. If you work for or know of an organization that would be interested in having Stuyvesant students working after school or on weekends, please contact Janet Hseuh, SU President (janethseuh@aol.com) or Mike Litwack SU Vice President (mike-litwack@aol.com).

DRAFT Minutes
Stuyvesant High School Parents' Association
General Meeting
Tuesday, Nov. 19, 2002

Co-President Judy Moore called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

Co-Presidents' Report. Judy announced that:

- Discussions with school administrators about an extra 20 minutes being added to the school day indicate there is no flexibility in how the extra time is used. She said the additional 100 minutes per week is part of the new teachers' contract and that all high schools are required to add 20 minutes to each school day. Only schools that have a "School-Based Option" program can use the additional time as they wish. Stuyvesant is not a School-Based Option school.

- Students and parents will receive a second copy of a letter allowing them to block the release of a student's name and address to colleges, universities and military recruiters. Recruiters were given access to students' names as part of the federal "No Child Left Behind" legislation.

- Several parents should be thanked for their work on various projects, including:

- Denis Meadows, who arranged the PA's ListServ. The ListServ allows PA officers to e-mail parents about important events and issues. Parents can sign up on the PA website (www.stuyupa.org).

- Joy Lall, who compiled the parent directory, and Angela Fremont-Appel, who solicited student artwork for the covers.

- Carey Meltzer, who is planning PA programs. Three planned for December are on college admissions (Thurs., Dec. 12), independent research (Tues., Dec. 17 at the PA meeting) and college financial aid (Wed., Dec. 18).

- The girls' basketball team beat A. Philip Randolph 65-64, with Stuyvesant's center [Ula Kudelski] scoring 55 points, and the volleyball team reached the city finals for the first time.

- Consent forms for the mental health survey can still be turned in.

- Parents, especially those who are bilingual in Chinese and English or Korean and English, are encouraged to volunteer for the February Open House.

- Potluck dinners will be scheduled in the various boroughs this winter. Parents who can help should contact Judy.

- C-30 committees are being formed to nominate candidates for three assistant principal positions. Plans for the committees were announced in the November bulletin and on the PA website. Enough parents have volunteered to fill the committees. Parents who want to be alternates should contact Judy or Dale Bernstein.

- A food drive to benefit the New York Rescue Mission is being held in conjunction with the Student Union.

Minutes. The minutes of the October PA general meeting were presented and accepted as written.

Treasurer's Report (Donovan Moore). Donovan reported that recent contributions have pushed PA income over \$435,000 and that the Appropriations Committee has increased the budget allocation for several "Wish List" items. Also discussed by the Appropriations Committee was allocating \$15,000 to a college counseling program to provide individual counseling sessions for

parents and students. A motion to approve the treasurer's report was made, seconded and approved.

School Leadership Team (Elizabeth Roistacher). Elizabeth said the School Leadership Team (SLT) met on Nov. 10 for its second meeting of the school year. The SLT has 25 members, representing administrators, teachers, students and parents. She said the SLT's purpose is to develop Stuyvesant's Comprehensive Educational Plan (CEP), align the CEP with the school's budget and measure the school's success in meeting CEP goals. [A detailed report of the SLT meeting is on p. 3 of this bulletin.]

Elizabeth reported that Principal Stanley Teitel briefed the SLT about the school budget. Although budget cuts are expected, it is hoped that instruction will not be affected. Also discussed were the lower than expected scores on the physics regents exams, which were thought to result from the reformatting of the test. A third topic discussed was the future of the SLT's subcommittee on ethics and school tone, which has explored the issue of cheating.

Co-President Dale Bernstein took over as chair of the meeting. She explained that the Health and Safety Committee would report next, with a presentation by Chairman David Ross and a minority report from Dave Newman. She said a resolution would be presented, discussed and voted on. Following this business, the meeting would turn to a presentation on student life and a demonstration by the fencing team.

Health and Safety (David Ross). David reported that at the October general PA meeting, the PA had not yet received a response from the Department of Education (DoE) about outstanding issues related to the cleanup of Stuyvesant. He said the response had since been received and was discussed by the Health and Safety Committee on Oct. 29 and by the PA Executive Board on Nov. 12. He said the DoE agreed to remove additional carpeting and the auditorium curtain, but had declined to remove the auditorium seats, saying there is no evidence of airborne asbestos.

Nevertheless, David said, the Health and Safety Committee and the PA's consultants continued to prefer that the seats be removed.

During the summer, he explained, the DoE had tested for asbestos in the auditorium seats using a "beat-the-seats" aggressive air sampling procedure developed in consultation with the teachers' union. These tests were not observed by the PA's consultants.

David said recent conversations with the DoE lead to the following proposal: that the DoE would test more seats using the beat-the-seats method under the supervision of the PA consultants, with the understanding that the seats would be replaced if readings were high, but if results fall below the AHERA standard (70 structures/mm²), the PA could consider the results conclusive and stop asking for more. The Health and Safety Committee approved this proposal 4-2. The Executive Board approved a similar resolution 15-11. A two-page resolution distributed to the membership reflected the motions approved by the Health and Safety Committee and the Executive Board.

David noted that the Health and Safety Committee would meet again on Wed., Nov. 20, at 6:30 p.m.

Dave Newman read a minority report signed by himself and fellow committee member Dorothy Schuster. [The report was posted on the PA website before the meeting.] He said aggressive testing is not adequate and that additional tests should be used to gather all available information.

Dale Bernstein invited audience members to ask questions to clarify the resolution. In response to a question about the phrase, "...the PA *may* express their satisfaction..." she said that she and Co-President Judy Moore felt that this resolution reflected an offer from the DoE that the PA cannot pass up and that the PA officers would take a positive vote on the resolution to mean that the PA would consider the cleanup complete if test results are satisfactory. Dave Ross said it was the intent of the agreement that if the DOE allowed the testing, and if the results were negative, that the PA would refrain from additional requests related to the summer cleanup.

David Ross presented the motion, which was seconded. The motion stated that:

"The PA consultants, Howard Bader and Tom Fusillo are instructed to

1. Develop, in conjunction with the DoE, a protocol for testing the auditorium seats.
2. Observe the testing in a manner that they (consultants) deem appropriate.
3. Evaluate the results of the testing.

If the testing demonstrates an asbestos risk, the PA will expect the DoE to ensure removal and replacement of the seats according to asbestos abatement protocols. If the testing demonstrates that asbestos levels of all samples are lower than the AHERA standard of 70 asbestos structures/mm², the PA may consider the Summer 2002 lead and asbestos cleanup of Stuyvesant High School completed."

David said that the goal of the resolution is to reach an accord with the DoE for additional testing and that this offer by the DoE is a way to come to closure on the cleanup of the school. He said the procedure would include the selection by the PA's consultants of 15 seats in three locations to be tested. Sections to be tested would be enclosed in a tent and negative air pressure would be used to prevent any contaminants from escaping. The seats would be beaten and vacuumed, in an attempt to loosen even more particles than would be disturbed during day-to-day use. Then the air within the enclosure would be sampled for asbestos. The DoE has agreed to replace the seats if any sample exceeds the AHERA standard. He noted that air samples taken between November 2001 and June 2002 showed no asbestos in the auditorium air.

In response to a question about the cost of replacing the seats, Dale said she didn't know the cost but noted it would include the cost of doing the job using asbestos abatement procedures.

In response to a question about the PA's response if the EPA changes its asbestos standards, Dale said that the EPA had concurred in the DoE's assessment that the school was safe, but that if the EPA removed its signoff the situation would be changed.

In response to a question about whether the DoE had agreed in

writing to this proposal, David Ross said that if the PA supports the resolution, a written agreement would be made with the DoE. He said the PA's consultants would work with DoE officials to develop the protocol for the tests.

Dale asked parents who wanted to speak to the resolution to line up on either side of the auditorium and to limit comments to a minute each, with speakers alternating in support or opposition to the resolution. She said that only parents of current Stuyvesant students would be allowed to speak.

After remarks by 10 parents, Dale read a friendly amendment, which said: "Recognizing that only one out of three possible acceptable sampling methods is being used to test for asbestos, the liability of any health hazards identified in the future in this context remains that of the Department of Education." David Ross accepted the amendment.

Dale Bernstein asked for debate to close and for a vote. Paul Edwards objected. The question was called. The motion to end debate passed, receiving approval from two-thirds of those present.

A vote on the motion passed by simple majority.

At 8:30 p.m., Judy introduced Matt Polazzo, a Stuyvesant teacher and coordinator of student affairs. Mr. Polazzo said his role is to be an advocate for students, and said the school environment should emphasize the importance of both learning and relaxing. Noting that the measure of a school is the partnerships among the staff, parents and students, he introduced three student leaders: Janet Hsueh, Student Union president; Mike Litwack, SU vice president, and Alex Pearlman, SU budget chair. The students described the SU's program to keep the school clean now that students are allowed to leave and return during lunch. They also described other SU programs including a review book exchange and the development of student internships.

Judy then introduced Larissa Gonzales, the Stuyvesant fencing coach. Coach Gonzales introduced fencing team members Hu Huang (captain), David Ferguson, Ethan Frisch and Gabriella Grisotti. Coach Gonzales explained the history and sport of fencing and presented Principal Stanley Teitel with the team's plaque for second place in the city finals. Team members and Coach Gonzales demonstrated fencing techniques. [Special thanks to parent Abby Laufer for her help in coordinating the fencing team demonstration.]

There being no further business, a motion was made and approved to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Ritter, Recording Secretary

NOTE: SPECIAL THANKS to Peggy Harvey and Kerneth Levigion for their help with the many preparations for the Nov. 19 PA General meeting. Our appreciation also to the energetic freshman and sophomore parents who helped with the evening's programs: Paula Alexander, Nancy Diederich, Sue Schneider, Nancy Spencer, and Barbara Zahler-Gringer.

Dated Material
Parents' Association
Stuyvesant High School
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New York, NY 10282

The Stuyvesant PA Bulletin

The PA Bulletin is published monthly by the Stuyvesant High School Parents' Association. It is mailed to parents one week before most Parents' Association general meetings. Contributions and suggestions are welcome. Please contact Jane Ritter, Bulletin Editor, at jmr719@aol.com.

Many thanks to this month's contributors: Stanley Teitel, principal; Pat Cleary, College Advisor; Judy Moore and Dale Bernstein, PA Co-presidents; Sunhee Choe, Sarah Conley, Joanne Ehrlich, Barbara Gsovski, Carey Meltzer, Fran Meyerson, Elizabeth Roistacher, Sue Schneider and Stephen Zhang.

Stuyvesant PA Website

Information is also available at the Stuyvesant PA website, www.stuyapa.org. The webmaster is Elise Passikoff.

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I am interested in mentoring a student doing independent research.

Parent Name _____

Student Name _____ Student grade ____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Area of expertise _____

Please return to the Independent Research Committee, c/o Parents' Association, Stuyvesant High School — Room 211, 345 Chambers Street, New York, NY 10282 , or e-mail Bonnie Song (nykapa@aol.com) or Roger Kim (rkim@brookdale.edu), chairs of the Independent Research Committee.

NOTE: All parents who wish to receive periodic e-mails of announcements and reminders from the Co-Presidents and the Executive Board, please send your e-mail address to dismeado@aol.com. (Names listed in the PA Directory have already been entered.)