

Mayor's Control of Schools Up for Renewal

When our students were in elementary school, the school system was different. There was still a citywide school board that hired the chancellor and made educational policy, and community school boards that were elected by local communities, which hired superintendents and made policy in their district. The districts, under their superintendents, had significant control over educational policies and practices and budgets in their areas.

In 2002, this changed. The mayor became responsible for public education in New York City. He appoints a chancellor who is accountable only to the mayor. These two are accountable to no one else—unless you count the voters who have the opportunity to vote the mayor out of office after four years.

Are we better off under the new system? If you have an opinion about that, this is a good time to express it, because at the end of this school year, the law handing control over the NYC public school system to the mayor expires. It is up to the state legislature to vote on a new school governance law that could shape the future direction of public education.

To review some of the results of mayoral control, it has brought us such "reforms" as three reorganizations of the school system in six years; a single-minded focus on high-stakes testing, including testing of kindergarteners; single letter grades to rate every aspect of a school's performance, based on indecipherable metrics, to name just a few. Whether these initiatives have succeeded in improving the schools may be open to debate, but what concerns many parents most is that the current form of school governance seems to allow the chancellor and the mayor to implement their agenda without any regard for the concerns of or input from parents, teachers, principals, or any other constituency.

If you think that the debate has little relevance here at Stuy, consider this: Our students now have to take additional exams to prove they are ready to take the Regents tests, even though failing

Regents exams is not an issue at Stuy. In addition, at a time when the mayor is requesting \$180.5 million in midyear budget cuts and Stuy students once again face limits in the number of classes they can take each semester, the DOE continues to divert millions of dollars that could be going into the classroom, spending it instead on questionable initiatives such as

- \$80 million for a new computer system to track test scores
- \$80 million for McGraw-Hill's Acuity practice tests given every six weeks to students in grades 3-12
- \$5 million on couriers to deliver tests (as well as teacher's pay checks)
- \$4 million this year alone for school progress reports (letter grades)
- \$400,000 on a pilot program to expand standardized testing into kindergarten
- \$6.3 million a year for a British company to fly to NYC and stay at DOE expense to conduct school quality reviews that many principals find less than useful
- hundreds of millions of dollars in no-bid contracts
- a 28% increase in the last 5 years in the number of employees at DOE headquarters, most of whom have no background in education.

Yet the ability of parents and teachers to influence decisions such as these, and many more, has been virtually eliminated under mayoral control.

Parents can contact their state legislators to voice their opinions of the changes that need to be made to the system. In addition, a group representing every parent group in the city (including Community District Education Councils, Presidents Councils, and other groups such as Class Size Matters), is working to formulate their own recommendations based on what will provide the best education for our children. The Parent Commission on School Governance and Mayoral Control convenes monthly and is also holding a series of forums on help parents and others understand the history and the issues in school governance. For more information contact parentcommission@gmail.com or 917-435-9329.

Continued from p. 1

that if we all contribute what we can, we will raise enough money to make a real difference in our children's education. Please watch for our Annual Appeal letter, which will be in your mailbox shortly. We are excited about two new fundraising initiatives: the revamped SchoolPop, now called OneCause, and a possible Spring Auction. OneCause is especially promising because it is an utterly painless way to contribute to the Stuyvesant PA by doing what many of us do anyway—shopping! Just click on the button on the PA website, [shop,contribute](#). The Spring Auction could raise significant amounts of money but will only happen if a significant number of people volunteer for it now. Finally, planning for the Lunar Feast on January 30th is in full swing; we need you to both purchase tickets and volunteer. (See announcements in this bulletin for more details on each of these fundraising initiatives).

Ultimately, however, parents cannot continually be asked to make up the difference between what their children need for the decent, free public education to which they have a right and what the city and state are willing to provide. New York City public school children have chronically been shortchanged (Stuyvesant gets about \$5,000 per student, far less than suburban and charter schools) and are about to fall even further behind. Admittedly, we are in the midst of a fiscal crisis, but we are hardly a poverty-stricken nation, state or city. It's all a matter of making choices:

of deciding, for example, that schools should be funded before stadiums and that the benefit of a \$400 property tax rebate to individual homeowners pales by comparison to the loss of \$250 million for services to vulnerable sectors, including public education. Having considered these issues, along with the millions of dollars wasted by DOE on initiatives that benefit private vendors without advancing our children's education (see article on p. 11), the Executive Board recommended joining a broad coalition of over 100 groups that advocates not only against budget cuts, but also for a fairer allocation of the tax burden necessary to run basic public services. At the November 18th General Meeting, the membership voted to accept the recommendation and the Stuyvesant PA is now a member of One New York: Fighting for Fairness. We will keep you apprised of developments through our listserv.

As the holidays are coming upon us, we bring Stuyvesant's Vacation Homework Policy (available on our website) to your attention and remind you that it applies to the Christmas but not Thanksgiving holiday break. As there will not be a December PA meeting and this is the last Bulletin of 2008, we wish you all Happy Holidays and hope to see you at the next PA meeting on January 20th, which will be devoted to "what to do if your child is encountering difficulties at Stuy."

Paola de Kock and Susan Mendelsohn, Co-Presidents, 2008-09.



You are invited: Sixth Annual LUNAR FEAST on January 30, 2009 at 6:30 pm

The Stuyvesant PA will celebrate our Sixth Annual Lunar New Year Feast on January 30, 2009 at the Golden Bridge Restaurant, 50 Bowery Street, in Chinatown. The Lunar Feast traditionally supports college services for all Stuyvesant students, including family college advisement sessions, the College Handbook, and College Night. The Lunar Feast is also a wonderful opportunity to meet school administrators and elected officials, mingle with new and old friends, and enjoy student entertainment and a sumptuous 10-course meal.

Although the event is weeks away, we need to start selling tickets now. Please use the form below to purchase tickets. You may also download the form from the PA website (www.stuy-pa.org).

PLEASE NOTE: No actual tickets will be issued. Reservations will be confirmed by email and the names will appear on a Guest List at the restaurant. Tickets are \$55 per person. You may also purchase a table of 10 at the discounted price of \$500 if we receive your payment by January 20th.

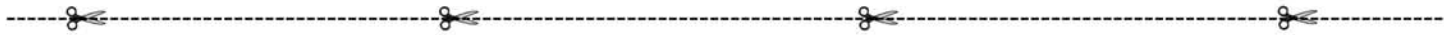
史岱文森家長會之第六屆新春晚宴，謹訂於1月30日下午6:30時在華埠包厘街 50 號 金橋大酒樓舉行。募款將用於支援本校學生申請大學之家庭輔導，大學手冊，大學之夜等等。晚宴不只提供家長們接觸校方與相互溝通的機會，也提供精采表演和美酒佳餚。晚宴雖然訂於明年初，推銷餐券則要馬上開始。請用下列表格購買餐券，表格也可由家長會網站 (www.stuy-pa.org) 下載。

스타이의 PA는 6회 연례음력설행사를 1월 30일 차이나타운에 위치한 Golden Bridge Restaurant 에서 열기로 했습니다. 전통적으로 이 행사는 대학입학과 관련된 행사들- 대학진학상담, 대학진학 책자발행, 대학의 밤-등을 지원하는 행사를 지원하기위한 것으로 1장의 티켓은 55불이고 10장구입시 500불을 받습니다. 이자리는 많은 학교관계자들을 만날 수 있는 기회이며 새로운 또는 전에 알았던 사람들을 다시만날수 있는 기회가 될 것입니다. 또한 10코스 음식 또한 일품입니다.

晚宴不發行餐券，改用電郵通知嘉賓，並在酒樓大廳展名迎客。如蒙1月20日前付款，10位筵桌為\$500。個人席券為\$55。

Please complete this reservation form and mail it with a check payable to Parents' Association of Stuyvesant H.S. to:
請填妥下列表格，並寄支票到家長會地址：아래의 예약양식을 작성하셔서 다음의 주소로 보내주십시오.

Parents' Association of Stuyvesant H.S.
Attention: Jane Yuen, PA Administrator
345 Chambers Street, NYC 10282



_____ Individual tickets* 個人席券 개인티켓 \$55 x _____ = _____

_____ Table for 10 persons* 10位筵桌 10명좌석의식탁 \$500 x _____ = _____

I cannot attend, but I would like to support College Services for Stuyvesant students. 我不克出席，但願捐款支持：
본인은 참석할 수 없지만 스타이의 대학진학지원활동을 지원하며 다음의 금액을 기부합니다.
Contribution 捐款 기부금 \$ _____

Total amount enclosed 合計 합계 \$ _____

* For tax purposes, the non-deductible portion of one dinner is \$30. 據稅務法規，每人\$30之數，不可視為捐款抵稅。
세금목적상 공제되지 않는 금액은 1장당 30불입니다.

Name: 姓名:성명:	Company/Affiliation: 公司/寶號: 회사
E-mail: 電郵:이메일	Telephone: 電話:전화번호
Address: 地址:주소	

If you are purchasing a table, please print the names of guests; to purchase more than one table, please use additional forms.

如購滿一桌，請列明嘉賓姓名；超過一桌請用另一張表格

테이블을 사시는 경우 참석자들의 명단을 기입해 주십시오. 두 개 이상의 테이블을 사시는 경우는 이 양식을 여러장 사용하셔서 기입해 주십시오.

The Parents' Association of Stuyvesant H.S. is a 501(c)3 organization; all contributions are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law. 史岱森家長會為一 501(c)3非牟利團體，所捐款項可抵稅。스타이브슨트 학부모 협의회는 연방세법 501(c)의 적용을 받는 단체로서 세법상 허용된 만큼의 세금공제혜택을 받으실 수 있습니다.



Lunar Feast Committee Volunteer Sign-Up Sheet

史岱文森家長會新春晚宴義工報名表

The Lunar Feast Committee needs volunteers to publicize and sell tickets to the Feast, solicit ads for and produce the Journal, obtain donations for and run the raffle, and help at the event itself.

新春晚宴委會需要義工幫忙推銷晚宴，促銷廣告，徵求獎品，負責募捐，與抽獎等等有關工作。

음력설 축하잔치 위원회는 티켓 판매와 광고판매와 journal 발행과 래플판매. 행사당일 도우미등 자원 봉사자를 찾습니다.

Name 姓名 (성명) _____

Email 電郵 (이메일) _____

Best Contact Phone 電話 (전화): _____

I would like to volunteer for the following activities:

我願意參加以下委員會工作:

본인은 다음의 활동에 자원봉사하고 싶습니다:

- 推銷晚宴券票 테이블과 입장권판매 Table and Ticket sales
- 徵求獎品捐贈 광고판매, 래플, 지원금 요청 Solicit Raffle Donations
- 會前推銷獎券 행사전 래플판매 (PA정례모임때 또는 그외의 행사에서) Selling Raffle Tickets Before The Event (at the General Meeting, Outreach etc.)
- 現場推銷獎券 행사당일 래플판매 Selling Raffle Tickets At The Event
- 促銷啤酒汽水 음료수 (포도주, 맥주 소다판매) Wine, Beer, and Soda Sales
- 促銷宴會廣告 디너 신문에 낼 광고판매 Solicit Ads For The Dinner Journal
- 設計晚宴雜誌 디너 신문 디자인과 레이아웃 Dinner Journal (Design and Layout)
- 現場迎客帶位 행사당일 손님확인 Guest Check-In At The Event
- 現場推銷餐券 행사당일 입구에서 티켓판매 Selling Tickets At The Door
- 出納工作 현금관리 Cashiers
- 會場佈置 장식과 축하장소 꾸미기 Decoration and Set-Up
- 統籌表演 여흥과 연주 행사 준비 Coordinate Entertainment and Performance
- 音響效果 방송 시스템 셋업하기 Sound System Set-Up
- 座席安排 테이블 지정하기 Table Assignments
- 會後清潔 청소담당 (장식품정리 및 남은 음료수 관리) Clean-up Crew (Pack up Decorations, Leftover Beverages)
- 邀請貴賓(政要、校友) 특별초청담당(시위원, 동창생) Special Invitations (Legislators, Alumni)

To volunteer for an activity occurring on the night of the Lunar Feast, please contact Annette Farkas, farkasa6@netscape.net, (347) 866-9499.

행사당일 자원봉사하실 분들은 Annette Farkas씨에게 위의 연락처로 연락하십시오.

To volunteer for a pre-event activity, or if you have any questions, please call:

熱心家長如願協助新春晚宴，請向以下共同主席報名:

행사 전에 도움주실 분들이나 질문이 있으신 분들은 다음의 연락처를 이용하십시오.

Eleanor Chang
(347) 622-1568

Jenny Cho
(347) 431-5555

Mariam Sarrafan
(646) 620-9561

jcheng6819@earthlink.net

jennycho_26@hotmail.com

mariam.sarrafan@mac.com

Or you may complete this sign-up sheet and mail, fax (212-312-4837), or email scan (stuypaadminj@gmail.com) it to: 請填妥表格上述各項，並寄到家長會地址:

또는 이 양식을 작성하셔서 아래의 주소로 우편발송, 팩스 또는 스캔해서 이메일로 보내 주십시오.

Parents' Association of Stuyvesant High School

Attention: Jane Yuen, PA Administrator

345 Chambers Street, NYC 10282

Bulletin

345 Chambers Street, Room 271
New York, NY 10282

Dated Material



The Parents' Association
of Stuyvesant High School

Bulletin

www.stuy-pa.org

2008-2009, Issue 3, November/December

Stuyvesant Parents' Association Website

Information is also
available at the
Stuyvesant PA website,
www.stuy-pa.org

SCHOOL CONTACT INFO

Stuyvesant
High School
345 Chambers Street
New York, NY 10282
212-312-4800
www.stuy.edu

NEXT PA GENERAL MEETING

TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2008

7:00-9:00 PM

Murray Kahn Theatre

6:30 PM - Hospitality and refreshments

7:00 PM Meeting

PROGRAM

What to Do if Your Child is Having Difficulties at Stuy
Resources for handling academic and emotional problems

There will be no PA General Meeting in December
Happy Holidays to everyone

Stuyvesant PA Bulletin

The PA Bulletin is
published by the

**Stuyvesant High School
Parents' Association.**

Please contact Bulletin Editor
Ellen Bilofsky (ebb11@optonline.net)

Many thanks to this month's contributors: Inna Deshkovich, Dave Gibson, Michelle Herman, Gerry Khermouch, Florri Levy, Cathy Minuse, Lee Levitt, Mariam Sarrafan; to Yunmi Kim and Larry Sit for their invaluable assistance in translation; to assistant editors Claudia Chernow and Lee Levitt for copy editing and proofreading assistance; and to Lolo Saney for her design and layout work.