

General Meeting Minutes 09/23/19

September 23, 2019 6:09 p.m.

ATTENDEES

Cecilia Leong (Co-President), Nancye Good (Co-President), Paulina Rodolphe-Richards (Co-First Vice-President), Ruth Rakofsky (Co-First Vice-President), Heidi Zhang (Treasurer), Sandra Cheng (Recording Secretary), Ms. Katrina Billy-Wilkinson (Headmaster), Ms. Palma-Cheng (Parent Coordinator), TBLS parents and guardians

AGENDA

1. Cecilia Leong called the meeting to order and introduced herself

2. Ms. Billy, Headmaster, introduced herself and reported on the TBLS community

- First HS fair was a success with the help of teachers and parents who stepped to help at the last minute
- There is strong administrative support for the students, especially because the IB program is challenging
- Data indicates that TBLS students perform well academically, however, there are some attendance problems
 - TBLS has a 95% attendance rate
 - Absenteeism is primarily an issue for students who are at risk
 - There will be a proactive review of transcripts to identify where academic support is needed
 - Graduation rate is 98% but working on increase to 100%
- Strong administration support for student voice
 - One TBLS student was on the podium at the recent Climate Change rally in downtown Manhattan and gave a speech
 - TBLS wishes to support all student extracurricular activity
- Two teachers have stepped up to take over Ms. Billy's former role
 - Mr. Thomas, Dean of Culture
 - Addresses disciplinary issues, dress code, etc.
 - Ms. Kat Glass, Dean of Discipuli Support Services
 - Addresses academic issues
- A council has been created to address Discipuli Life
 - Two Deans
 - Counselors, including Ms. Rebecca Davidson, who is the only person remaining from the old team
 - New counselors have been hired following a stringent, multi-step process
 - Families will be able to meet counselors on Family Night
- Heads of Teaching and Learning
 - Ms. Capasso and Mr. Hill
 - Mr. Wen Yee, for transfers and pupil path
- Ms. Billy will have an Open Door Policy
 - First Parent Coffee meeting to be held on 10/8 9:00-10:00 am
 - Strong interest in increasing outreach to parents

3. Student Voice: Student Miolin Richards reflects on the transition to TBLS

- Transition was hard the first year
 - First time in public school
 - Large building that's easy to get lost in
 - It was a big adjustment to be around 150 students
- Recommendation to incoming 9th grade students: don't doubt yourself

4. Ms. Palma-Cheng introduced herself as parent coordinator

5. Questions for staff and students

- Q: As a Class I family how are the new college counselors? How will they get to know the students:
 - Ms. Davidson will be returning next month
 - Letters were written last year
 - Ms. Billy is the supervisor for the counselors
 - Counselors are having senior meetings
 - College counselors will be present on Family Night
- Q: Why did office hours end?
 - Office hours did not work as planned
 - Contract doesn't make it possible to execute office hours
 - Students who used it were not actually using the office hour but hanging out after school
 - Peer tutoring centers will opened in October
 - Students are being trained by teachers
- Q: when will clubs start?
 - Clubs will start in October
 - There will be no activities on Mondays and Tuesdays with the exception of sports
- Q: Why did conclave (study hall) end?
 - Not enough teacher coverage
 - It takes too much of the budget to have a teacher cover conclave
- Q: What is the impact of changes in new start time?
 - It has improved lateness, less students arrive late
- Q: How can I volunteer to build Partnerships/Internships?
 - TBLS is interested in creating opportunities for partnerships for after school and summer internships with companies, like Google, etc.
- Q: How do we log in CAS hours?
 - This is a question for Mr. Thomas
 - Students use Manageback Portal and ask supervisor to approve reflection
- Q: How do you (Miolin) balance your time?
 - Doing too much outside of school to participate much in afterschool
 - Extracurricular activities include karate, violin, and piano
 - Her advisory voted her as tribune representative
 - She's on the Student Senate
 - She fundraises to help build the new student library
 - Miolin recalled her first impressions of TBLS and said she was not impressed until after attending Buddy Day because students looked like they were having fun

6. Reading and Approval of June 12, 2019 minutes

- Nancye G. motioned Susan F. seconded
- One abstention, rest of attendees approved

7. Treasurer's Report

- Goal is greater donations

8. Committee Reports

- PA fundraising
 - Silent Auction
 - November TBD, during discipuli-led conferences
 - Contests for t-shirts
 - Thermometer contests
 - The number of contributions of dues
 - Use Friends and Family Link on PayPal to avoid PayPal fee
 - Talent Show
 - Combined with International Food Festival
 - Lunar New Years January 30th
 - Pie Sale delivery before Thanksgiving
 - School library
 - Shelves needed for library
 - PA will help fund training for counselors

9. Upcoming PA Meeting

- Upcoming Election of 2 PA co-positions
 - Email Blast will be sent out
- Upcoming Amendment Vote on PA Bylaws
 - Email link to Bylaws
- Need for a School Building Committee
 - Need to create an advocacy campaign for an independent campus
 - Increase in enrollment
 - TBLS projected to have 699 new students
 - Incoming TBLS class is over 800 students
 - Enrollment determined by NYC DOE enrollment office
- Need Assistance in Parent Coordination
 - Request for someone to look into Sign Up Genius

10. Meeting adjourned 7:40 pm