

**Boston Arts Academy
Parent and Caregiver Council Board
Meeting Minutes
November 15, 2005**

Attendance: Gideon Ansell, Robin DeClements, Teresa Ford, Veronica Greaves, Mike Heichman, Virginia Matute, Jean O’Leary, Hazel Marshall, Sterling Marshall, Marilyn Mesiti, Linda Nathan (BAA Headmaster), Lana Niles-Malcolm (Parent/Caregiver Advocate), Elba Mendez, Neil Ryan, Anthony Samuels, Ray Stockwell, Patricia Swansey, Priscilla Walker, Shari Wallace,

Student Activities

Jossie Diaz highlighted various activities from the BAA calendar for upcoming events in November and December 2005.

Elections

Pat Swansey volunteered as PCCB Secretary. Jean O’Leary volunteered as PCCB Treasurer.

Budget

PCCB needs to establish a budget at the beginning of each school year. Last year, the PCCB funds were allocated as follows: \$100 to a family (experiencing loss due to a fire), \$100 scholarship to a student, \$300 for PCCB Committee meeting refreshments, \$300 security detail for PCCB meetings (required) and \$800 for the Teachers’ Appreciation event. **Lana/Elba/Ray How much was added due to fundraising?** Current available funds total \$2015.38. Assuming \$400 for security and \$800 for the Teachers’ Appreciation leaves the Committee with \$800; this is prior to any fundraising activity.

Question: How the Committee wants the funds spent? **Suggestion:** scholarship.

Suggestion: PCCB develop a list of possibilities and prioritize them. **Suggestion:** expand the scholarship to include PCCB financially supporting yearbooks, specific items or needs across departments, a senior gift, a microwave for the cafeteria, food for students (e.g., M & Ms for the dance classes). Some of the items might be secured through a solicitation of area stores like Best Buy and others. **Suggestion:** BAA department heads develop a “wish list” within a specific dollar range. **Lana/Elba I don’t know what the final outcome was on this section.**

Annual Appeal

The BAA Annual Appeal is mailed to the entire student/parent body. **Action:** Lana will research to determine the percentage of parents who contribute in addition to the amount raised and communicate that information back to PCCB. The money raised through the Annual Appeal is given to the BAA Foundation as unrestricted funds. The Appeal states at every \$5.00 counts. This is to let families know that no amount is too little. There were concerns that the Appeal places additional financial demands on parents. Parents/students are also expected to pay class dues (instituted last year) and fees associated with the student’s major. The BAA Foundation administers the Annual Appeal and raises \$1 million annually from a variety of sources including grants and

individual giving. The Foundation is trying to increase individual giving, especially from parents. Last year the PCCB declined to endorse the Appeal letter. **Suggestion:** BAA Administration educate parents and clarify the purpose of the various fundraising activities via an article in the newsletter. It needs to be clear where requests are coming from and what funds will be used for, the letter should clearly state the need and where there are gaps. The Appeal should be made to current parents only. **Agreed:** the Appeal letter would not include an endorsement from the PCCB.

Student Assessment

The next PCCB meeting on December 13, 2005. On Monday, December 5th, 5-8 p.m. BAA will host their annual joint Board of Trustees, and Parent/Caregiver Council Board meeting and Holiday Meal. The topic: "Changing the Assessment Debate." There will be a professor from Columbia University and several BAA teachers discussing what they think about student assessment. It is an open meeting but limited to BAA people only. It is intended to educate our parent community and the BAA Board. **Suggestion:** the meeting announcement should be sent to parents via email, specifically using "Evite." It is important that parents interact with BAA Board members to share their views regarding testing. This is the only formal time for the Board to meet with the PCCB.

PCCB Preparation for Meeting with Red Sox Organization

In anticipation of the November 28 meeting with the Red Sox organization, the primary question was what is the Organization's "master plan?" **Agreed:** parents/participants at the meeting **should not say anything regarding the BAA building nor broach any financial discussion with the Red Sox representatives.** The purpose of the meeting is for the Organization to communicate its plans and ideas going forward not to negotiate nor challenge the Organization around the BAA facility. **Agreed:** in an effort to manage the meeting well, one parent (Elba Mendez, PCCB Co-Chair) will be designated to ask questions. **Action:** all parents are encouraged to develop questions in advance and forward them to Lana who will compile one list. It is important for the Red Sox organization to see the level of parent support. Peggy Kemp, Fenway High School's Headmaster will also be present at that meeting as all decisions affect her parents and students as well. There will be no advance materials from the Red Sox organization. A list of the Red Sox Foundation's contributions to BAA was distributed so that parents are more aware of the types of support BAA receives from the organization currently. The group debated whether representatives from the School Department, City Councilor Mike Ross and the at-large City Councilors should be invited to attend. **Agreed:** none of these people will be invited to attend the meeting.

Narrative Day – November 22

Action: Contact cards will be issued to update the email and mailing addresses of parents and students.

BAA Facility Repairs

Action: More parent pressure is needed directed to Superintendent Payzant regarding the repairs necessary for the BAA building. A letter to the Superintendents office was delivered and we received a courteous, written response. **Action:** The PCCB need to

request a specific timeline for repairs. **Voted:** to determine and pursue the course of action necessary and appropriate to achieve the repairs needed. Action should be lead by the **Political Action Committee**.

PCCB Upcoming Agenda

The following are elements of the discussion to determine what PCCB will work on in the current school year:

Establishing a shuttle bus from Ruggles to BAA. There were four deaths of students in October along the route BAA students take from Ruggles to BAA. The MBTA should be contacted, perhaps we can collaborate with Fenway H.S., other potential collaborators include Children's Hospital which operates a shuttle for its employees. It was unknown whether certain shuttles (e.g., the one for Latin Academy) were a "service" of MBTA. **Agreed:** this is an issue for the **Political Action Committee**. Other topics for the PAC include working with the Citywide Parent Council, pilot school network and others to build an alliance around the MCAS issue. **Suggestion:** should the alternative assessment issue be referred to the Political Action Committee? Does PCCB want to explore this issue further?

Events Committee will coordinate and participate in a bake sale for the 11/22 Narratives.

Fundraising Committee will sell school merchandize for the 11/22 Narratives

Suggestion: future PCCB agendas should list the committee work and decisions earlier on the agenda so that they receive full discussion and attention.

Technology Committee: **Suggestion:** PCCB needs its own website. Gideon Ansell volunteered for this committee. **Agreed:** the Technology Committee and its activities should be an agenda item for further discussion. **Voted:** Ed Wu will work with the web master to establish an exploratory committee to determine how best to develop and expand the PCCB web site. Jean O'Leary volunteered her partner's time to this effort. **Agreed:** the website should be used to foster better communication.

Suggestion: the PCCB Co-Chairs should be informed of the goals and activities of the various committees.

Fundraising: \$1184 spent on "hoodies" with the student major on the sleeve. Ray Stockwell requested authorization to expend some of the PCCB budget to purchase inventory in anticipation of the November 22 Narratives. **Suggestion:** explore costs with an alternative vendor Robin DeClements had in mind.