

School Leadership Team School Leadership Team

Minutes - October 6, 2025
(approved at Nov 3 meeting)
5:02pm - 7:00pm

-Principal Brian Pew -UFT Chapter Chair: Melanie Pflaum BARD HIGH SCHOOL • EARLY COLLEGE -PTA Co-President: Ursula Schindler ----- CBO Bard College ----- UFT Members Kyung Cho Ryan Vera Annie Shields ----- Yr II Parents Primary: Marie Edesess Alternate: Todd Stevens ----- Year I Parents Primary: Miri Navasky Alternate: Sara McKay ----- 10th Grade Parents Primary: Abhijit Sengupta (not present) Alternate: Tia Wou ----- 9th Grade Parents Martha Andrews Tania Kamensky	Early College Year 2 Students Primary: Zoe Shim Alternate: ----- Early College Year 1 Students Primary: Angelique Alonso Alternate: ----- High School 10th grade Primary: Alternate: Angelina Lam ----- Guest in attendance: -Carol Turitz -Wyatt Shone -Rihanna Lin ----- Visitors Parent Coordinator: Carol Turitz Wyatt Shone Rihanna Lin
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4:55 Meeting called

The minutes from September are approved

There is discussion about making them readable.

Melanie Pflaum agrees to take minutes

MP speaks for a few minutes about **PROSE** and what a PROSE school can do. Unlike the other form of changing rules at a school, SBO, it can make bigger changes on any schedule. MP asks for approval of us as a PROSE school which must be approved by the SLT. With our most recent PROSE ballot we have returned to having an in-person Curriculum night and a flexible schedule for some teachers.

Prose is approved.

Student Dues

Student Rep. (ZS) said \$250 is a lot of money

Students have been reached out to with offers of help and the cost has been brought down to \$200, which is still a lot.

BP: No one should be excluded because they can't pay.

Marie has brought up some innovative ideas, but BP thinks they may not work right now.

BP: The most realistic option is that everyone participates and pays dues. Families who can pay more will be asked if they can pay for other kids. We will approach kids who don't pay so they don't have to come to us.

In smaller groups, it is possible for everyone to decide what to pay. In other words, if Senior Costs are \$15,000, we announce that and keep fundraising until we meet those goals.

One of our goals is to protect kids and families from uncomfortable conversations. Students may not even feel comfortable asking their parents. We don't necessarily know who those kids are.

MP: Is it all one lump sum for all senior activities?

One parent hears that these conversations are difficult.

ZS: What about fundraising opportunities?

CT: We have not done fundraising for senior dues

CT: Senior Dues are relatively small and all kids can get to the Prom, no one is left out.

Student: We should add notes to the newsletter to offer support for kids who can't pay.

CT: We use the lunch form.

CT: Our senior dues are relatively low compared to other schools. Everyone gets a yearbook, Every can go to prom.

BP: I can make clarifying statements in the yearbook, making it clear that everyone will be able to go regardless of pay.

CT: We know all the students who need help.

Other Student: Having to pay with a bank check or money order is complicated or impossible for many students.

CT: Cash can be dangerous and we don't have the flexibility to deal with bounced checks.

BP: There doesn't seem to be a DOE approved way to use electronic transfer.

Student: We would love an itemized list of what is included in senior dues. Does it include the graduation ceremony?

Another Question: Can we use the PTA to collect dues?

TS: We also have to make sure students are aware of these dues and discuss them with their parents so there isn't sticker shock in March.

RV: Remuneration for SLT. To be clear: the only way to donate the money we make in SLT to Bard is to collect the money you are paid and donate it. If you don't fill out the form, the money disappears. Carol keeps track of our points. You get paid for 2 hours per meeting plus up to an hour of preparation.

PTA Report:

US: We are at 20% of our target at 10% of the school year. Lots of people are giving donations. We will be selling and raising donations at Curriculum Night.

Collecting money for what people ask? We try to advertise the things the PTA purchases and pays for during the year

Buy Bardware!

Are there parent concerns? Yes but many could be quickly addressed.

Parents are concerned with:

Clubs when do they start?

What's happening in advisory?

Why are so many games and practice sessions at Randall Island? It's far away and student athletes missing class, and can't go and support

More on these concerns from TS:

Seeking practice that people can walk to

Renegotiate times

It doesn't seem to be anyone's job to solve this field problem [some progress is being made in this direction]

There are parents who want to have a gym built. That is possible

BP: We have struggled with no on campus athletic director and the closing of the East River Park. We will strive to find places that are closer!

Student Report:

9th grade: Student union went to advisories and many were not showing the slide show that the student union created

Disconnect between reps and student body. It is not clear how these groups should communicate.

At Curriculum night we are going to be a presence and hand out stickers

10th grade: Lockers? How were these handed out? Is the process clear and transparent?

BP: We decided that since there are only 260 lockers for 600 students there is no way to give one to everyone.

One of the roles for our new community associates is collecting phones. Now that they have tackled that, lockers should be easier next year.

CT: 9th graders are prioritized, then year 2's and then 10th and year 1's.

ZS: We just want to know when there are leftover lockers.

Year 2: We are busy filling out college applications

In the CTO we are filling out Common App - it has been very helpful to spend time in CTO Advisory to spend time on this.

ME: What do we do about Advisory? We would like all advisories to be useful, we keep coming back to this.

MP: To segue to the teacher report: There is an advisory curriculum for 9th and 10th graders and I don't have an advisory solution but there is a revitalized committee structure and there are ideas coming from those committees like having intervisitations.

Teachers love A and C schedules where a few teachers can start at 8:17 am and leave early or come in at 9:45 and stay until 4:17

CT: Does it impact student schedules?

WS: It might make teaching better because teachers are happier and more available.

KC: The seminar team wants to make the Year 2 seminar more experiential (make use of the city) and help them go out in the world since they are so book educated.

Maybe museums and walks are a better investment than books

Or parents are yearning to give to the school and they can share with the Y2 Seminar.

MN: People like to give to a particular thing or to teacher appreciation. Parents would love to give to this!

Some discussion of fundraising.

CT: We can't just spend money from the PTA how we would like. The budget is voted in June and we know where every dollar is going

Principal report

As we close up the first semester, Aaron Little is meeting with all the share-holders (deans, counselors, administrators) about how to build a schedule for next semester and next year. It was a 2.5 hour meeting and resulted in a clear calendar of steps and goals.

BP thinks once a week advisory is not enough. It would be hard to change to 2 days a week but he believes it would be helpful.

Students who leave early for teams are an issue. We want to try a o period gym for students on teams.

AS: I don't want to change the schedule

US: Can't students get gym credits for sports?

[answer: only if the teams are coached by PE teachers at our school and have the exact schedule of a PE class]

Bard from New Orleans visited. Leon Bottstein visited

We are in the start of the admissions season. Lots of interest.

Lots of interest in Curriculum night! [374 RSVPs yes] Everyone come! Mostly for parents! Do we need a reminder?

Some discussion about Curriculum night schedule.

Some discussion about other in-person events: Spring versus Fall and Evening versus Afternoon

BP: Thursday night in the Fall and Friday in the Spring

RV: About the SLT

OUR DUTIES:

CEP and interrogate the budget

Sign into the portal” <https://www.iplanportal.com/>

ME: Let’s make sure everyone can sign into the Portal

What are we doing to address each of these goals?

1: Read Well

2: physically safe

3: high quality academic experience

4: College and career ready

5: inclusive

**Section 5: Priority 1 –
All students learn to
read well**

[Edit Information](#)

**Section 5: Priority 2 –
All students are
physically and
emotionally safe**

[Edit Information](#)

**Section 5: Priority 3 –
All students have a
high-quality academic
experience**

**Section 5: Priority 4 –
All students graduate
college and career
ready and have a
strong plan and
pathway to economic
security**

**Section 5: Priority 5 –
All districts and
schools are more
inclusive and
responsive for
parents and families,
including having more**

**Section 5:
Attendance/Chronic
Absenteeism**

[Edit Information](#)

**Section 5: High
Quality Inclusive &
Accessible Learning
for Students with
Disabilities**

[Edit Information](#)

Let’s look at goal number 1: Read Well

There are 5 Goals in Section 5. We want to focus on one each of the next 5 meetings and have people speak to each of these issues. For example, Vanessa Anderson gave a data presentation last year that was helpful.

Some of our goals have happened: Cell Phone Data

Learn to read well:

US: What are our MAP scores are they available?

TS: Is the MAP GROWTH taken seriously?

Look at the data.

KC: Wild range of speed of completion. Consider having a pull out during Writing and Thinking.

ME: We have to work towards this goal. We could have someone present data, but it would be great to have someone discuss pedagogy and different ways of looking at literacy.

RV: We are doing more progress monitoring and already moving to meeting last year's goal, but that should help us form next year's goals.

KC: Professor Embola building reading time in class based on a class she took at Bard last summer.

Would it be better to have Prof. Embola speak to us or the professor of the course she took?

BP: This a real task that we should take seriously but it is also a bureaucratic challenge within the DOE.

Student spend a lot of time all 4 years but do they learn how to skim. Is that good?

WS: Prof. Embola's method has been tremendously successful. It gives us space to think and enriches the conversation.

Our regents scores are not trending in the right direction at the moment (almost every student passes, but our over 75% numbers are not going up, so far).

US: A literature department presentation would be great.

CT: What data is available and what do we want to see?

BP: We can get Data separated by IEP or race.

I want teachers to start restorative justice

Ryan did training this summer

MP volunteers AS to present data.

PLEASE READ Priority 1 (read well) then priority 2 (safe) by next month (December)

Priority 3 is on SPED goals where we have many more procedures and many more teachers.

Marie Ryan Melanie Zoe and Angelique will work on by-laws
Should we have a title 1 or IEP parent representative.