NYC Lab HS Parents Association

General Meeting (****Remote, via Zoom, during Coronavirus Pandemic)

04/28/20

● Brooke met with the Chancellor yesterday, 3 big topics:
  ○ Grades: what will happen with high schools? Good news is that no child will fail this semester.
    ■ Sticking with numerical grading scale, she is glad they have that opportunity
    ■ Also can opt to have “CR” for a particular course if you haven’t performed as well as had hoped.
    ■ Code of “NX,” suggests a child needs more time to earn more credit in a class, they have the whole summer (and, actually, til January to work on credit for this semester).
    ■ A student doesn’t have to decide how they want the grade to appear on their transcript until they see their grades in June.
    ■ Middle schoolers are not getting grades this semester, we don’t know yet what this will mean for screened high schools.
  ○ State budget cuts:
    ■ They were profound even before Covid-19 hit, a $12 billion cut was announced in early March. Now that amount is double that. One-third of the city budget is schools.
    ■ Principals told to plan for a most austere year
  ○ When can we go back?
    ■ Not returning this school year, summer will be remote. Principals are planning for an element of remote learning for the fall, even if we can go back in the building. No info yet on how it will look in the fall if a combination of remote learning and being back in the building.
● Jung Min, President’s Report:

Questions, ideas, or suggestions, email us: Jung Min Lee (PAPresident@nyclabschool.org)
Jill Bregenzer (LABHSTreasurer@gmail.com)
Fran Shapiro (FranLABHS@gmail.com)
○ Have been told from the DOE we can't vote on financial matters or board positions until we are back in the building
○ She is fine with keeping her role as the President, others can let her know if they want to step down
○ We are not required to have the (remote) PA meetings, but we will continue with them
○ Good to focus on facts, not rumors, so helpful to connect with Brooke
○ Executive PA decided today we won't have anymore fundraising efforts this year. Thank you to all who have contributed!
○ The bad news is, unfortunately, that there is no rollover of the regular school budgets
○ The good news is that gifts and grants are protected, so almost $13,000 had been turned over from the PA
○ As we need to rely on each other during this time and share resources and tips, please join the support group that meets via zoom on Tuesdays at 11am, it’s existence came about thanks to Brooke’s Roundtables
○ The ACT that was postponed and rescheduled won’t take place
○ Five runners have volunteered to run the NYC Marathon for Lab this fall, and we have 2 people who can step up, if needed
○ On May 14th at 7pm, there will be a speaker, Matt Mulhern, regarding college financing

● Risa, Treasurers’ Report:
○ For Direct Appeal, we are waiting on corporate matches to come in over the next few months. Where we were a little short on other fundraisers, we are okay now, as the extra money from Direct Appeal will make up for it.
○ From an expense perspective, we are fine, since the school year being cut short has meant we will have some money ($24,000) carried over, which we will need!
○ $5,000 was budgeted for graduation. Since a virtual graduation is being worked on, the funds will go to support that.

● Jung Min:

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○ Asked everyone to sign in on the zoom chat function, this will act as a sign-in sheet
○ At yesterday’s SLT meeting, they discussed trying to recreate the June orientation for the incoming freshmen

● Brooke:
  ○ She would like everyone to come to next week’s Roundtables, as there may be more info by then

● Jung Min:
  ○ Does anyone want to comment on the 10am Family Circles?
    ■ A parent said her son was hesitant about the 10am check-in, but is appreciating it now
    ■ Brooke thinks the Family Circles are taking on the character of the group, she thinks it’s been good for the kids. The kids need to change their schedules so they go to sleep earlier.
    ■ Jill said she thinks it’s a perfect balance between checking in and fun. It’s a great way to make them feel connected

● Brooke said if there is going to be remote learning in the fall, we are getting ideas on what works

● Jung Min:
  ○ If you have the time to help enrich the kids during this time, let us know. Some parents have volunteered to lead book clubs or groups for the kids
  ○ Promoting Brooke’s book club, “Permission to Feel,” May 12th 5pm, all are welcome!
  ○ Please try to attend next week’s Roundtables: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, to answer any grade specific questions