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**NOTE: To join a BCCHS initiated zoom meeting you must first be logged into a zoom account, even if you have the meeting ID and password. If you don't already have a zoom account, you can set up a free personal account at zoom.com.**

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**Baruch College Campus High School  
PTA Meeting  
September 21, 2021 at 6:30 PM (via zoom)**

**Minutes**

The meeting was opened by Eileen Braun, Co-President of PTA, at 6:30 pm.

**Introductions of the PTA Executive Board**

**Co-Presidents**

Eileen Braun  
Maura Liconte

**Co-Vice Presidents**

Sandra Fontenla  
Amy Goldstein  
Beth Kufeld

**Treasurer**

Autumn Zobrist

**Co-Corresponding Secretaries**

Annie Howell  
Mariella Salazar

**Recording Secretary**

Layla Shaar

**9th Grade Delegates (2)**

TBD

**Parent Involvement**

**We have 2 open positions on the Executive Board for 9th grade parents.** Executive Board members are expected to attend monthly Executive Board Meetings and participate in the monthly General PTA Meeting (all meetings are virtual until further notice). The final calendar is not yet finalized. If you are interested, please email [bcchs.pta@gmail.com](mailto:bcchs.pta@gmail.com).

Incoming families should [sign up for the PTA email list](#) to receive the weekly PTA Newsletters. These newsletters contain concise updates and timely reminders of events.

There are many opportunities for [parent involvement](#) at Baruch and help is appreciated! You can reach out to the PTA directly by emailing [bcchs.pta@gmail.com](mailto:bcchs.pta@gmail.com)

**Parent Space**

- We encourage parents to join the Parent Space study group, which was started last year to discuss racism in America. We will begin monthly meetings in October. The group discusses podcasts, books, articles, etc. Our focus is on learning and reflecting. Look for more information in the PTA Newsletter. If you would like to help organize the group, or suggest a text or topic, please email [bcchs.pta@gmail.com](mailto:bcchs.pta@gmail.com).

## PTA Treasurer Update

- Thanks to the generosity of Baruch parents and because many student events had to be cancelled over the last 18 months, we have built some savings.
- The suggested donation this year is reduced to \$500 per family. It is most important that everyone participates in supporting the school. Please contribute whatever is comfortable and affordable for your family.
- Here are some ways to support Baruch:
  - [Monthly recurring donations](#) - Many families find automatically recurring donations of small amounts are an easy and affordable way to contribute.
  - [Checks](#) - Checks can be sent or dropped off.
  - [Amazon Smile](#) - Take a moment to set this up and Baruch will benefit when you shop at Amazon.
  - Matching Gift - Employer matching gift programs are an easy way to double or triple your donation.
- This year the PTA budget is \$42,000. We cover expenses the DOE does not, such as some Covid related supplies (for example, seating so the kids who have lunch in the gym don't sit on the floor), software programs such as Pupil Path and Naviance, and student expenses, although these are dependent upon what prom, graduation, athletics and clubs look like this year. We have money earmarked for these activities and events and hopefully we can spend it on the students as planned.
- If you have questions, please email [bcchs.pta@gmail.com](mailto:bcchs.pta@gmail.com) and we will be happy to provide more information.

## Updates from the Principal - Alicia Perez-Katz

Our motto this year: *Build the plane while you fly it.* It's wonderful to see the building alive with students again. We are placing instruction and learning at the forefront and want to make sure students have a positive experience this year.

There have been some staff changes. Typically there are two Vice Principals but Ms. Nassif-Hanna relocated at the end of August and Mr. Keijzer is on parental leave until mid October. In the interim, we are fortunate to have Ms. Daisy Fontanez to support us. She has a wealth of experience and this evening she will talk about the DOE's updated Covid mandates.

- **Health Screen**  
This year all 511 students enter at the same time. As most students have their Health Screen on their phones everyone is able to enter quickly.
- **Curriculum Night**  
This will happen next week on September 30 (online). More information will be coming out at the end of the week. This will be an opportunity to meet the teachers and learn what the students will be studying this year.

- **Report Cards and Progress Reports**

The school year at Baruch is broken into 2 terms or semesters. The report cards at the end of the terms are the official grades that will go on your child's transcripts. The grades at the quarter are essentially progress reports. Progress report cards are between the teachers and families, they don't go anywhere else. The first quarter closes on November 22. Shortly after November 22, you will be able to see your child's progress report card on Pupil Path.

We will also be doing mid-quarter checks on Pupil Path. This means we will ask the teachers to grade all assignments so students have a true picture of how they are doing. We will let parents know when these mid-quarter checks happen. We hope this will reduce the need to check Pupil Path constantly.

Nearly all of our classes are two semesters long. Exceptions are health and art in 9th grade and the college seminars in Junior and Senior Year.

- **Lunch**

We have made some changes to better distance students during lunch. Lunch used to be split into 2 grades at a time, but on rainy days students would overflow into the hallways. Since we can't allow that congestion in our hallways at this time, we have split lunch into 4 periods and for each period the students are assigned to the cafeteria or gym, or they can go out to lunch. Parents, via the PTA funds, are buying seating so the students assigned to the gym don't have to sit on the floor. For now, many are outdoors for lunch so it hasn't been crowded at all. We will see what it is like on a rainy day.

- **Trips**

We hope to have some trips this year. Trips are permitted by the DOE with health and safety caveats that reduce our options. For example, our students can't co-mingle with others. In addition, many indoor options require proof of vaccination and we don't want to exclude unvaccinated students. We also can't take many students on the subway at once. For now we can do trips to parks. As the year progresses, we would love to do some advisory trips since those are smaller groups. We will stay on top of this.

- **Grade Level Zoom Meetings with the Principal**

This year there will be periodic grade level zoom meetings with the principal and a few teachers. These meetings will focus on the needs and interests of different grades. More information will be forthcoming.

- **Afterschool Programs and Clubs**

We will have a full range of after school programming and clubs. Information will be coming out soon. Clubs will offer students more opportunities to connect with others.

Additionally, there are some opportunities for student involvement in the senior mentorship program, teacher assistant internship program or the student tech team.

These are not classes, but are leadership opportunities so kids can do more productive things during the day.

- **Ipads**

There are iPads in the office. We purchased 90 last year and we requested another 200 from the DOE. We also have some chromebooks that are going to be tested. We want to make sure all of our students have access to wifi and have a device to access google classroom, especially if they aren't feeling well and have to stay home. We don't want students on their phones. If your child needs a device, please have them talk to their advisor. They just have to write their name on a form.

- **Lockers**

Lockers are not being used this year. Lockers create too much congestion in the hallways. We know backpacks can be heavy and we are looking to possibly have students use their advisory rooms. In the meantime, talk to your child about what they may be able to take out.

### **Covid Protocol Update - Interim Assistant Principal (?) Daisy Fontanez**

- **Vaccinations and Testing**

So far, 82% of Baruch families have uploaded proof of student vaccination. This number will go up as more families are able to upload the documentation. If you are having trouble with the system, please have your child take a screenshot of their vaccination card to room 504. Ms. Salmeri and I will help them.

The DOE is testing unvaccinated students weekly. If your child is not vaccinated, it's very important that you provide consent for testing. If you can't upload the form, please download it, complete it, and have your child bring it to room 504. Ms. Salmeri or I will upload it for you.

- **Updated Covid Protocols from the DOE**

The DOE Chancellor sent updated protocols to all schools. Parents will receive a [letter](#) from the Chancellor. In summary:

- We will no longer be closing classrooms when there is a positive case.
- Unvaccinated students who may have been within 3 feet of the positive case are considered close contacts and these students must quarantine.
- Vaccinated students do not need to quarantine.
- Ms Fontinez will do an investigation to determine which students are close contacts. For the safety of all she will err on the side of caution.

Regardless of vaccination status, students may wish to obtain a Covid test when there is a positive case in the school.

In conclusion, Baruch will follow every DOE mandate. Everyone is masked at all times unless they are eating or drinking. Students are being very responsible about wearing their masks.

Additionally, we have ventilation systems, air purifiers, hand sanitizer, and we are distancing and limiting congestion as much as possible.

Administration will continue to email the community if there is a positive case and when there is a change in the protocols.

The PTA will send the October PTA meeting date soon via the PTA Newsletter. Parents who haven't already done so, should [sign up](#) to be on the PTA email list.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:34 pm.