

October 8, 2024

To: Brookline School Committee

From: Ben Stern, Chair Innovation Fund Board of Directors and Tracy Shupp, Co-Chair
Innovation Fund Communications/Fundraising

Re: School Committee Approval

The BHS Innovation Fund is requesting approval to serve beer and wine at our annual GALA-RAMA, a fundraising event which will be held on BHS campus at 22 Tappan Street. This event will take place on Thursday, November 14 from 7:00pm - 10pm. We are requesting permission to have a handful of students present for a portion of this event. We have approval and support from the BHS administration (the Head of School will be in attendance as will teachers and staff).

Two to three students will reflect on their experience with Innovation Fund sponsored programming, in particular with the Experiential Physics program which all 9th graders take. Several additional students will help out with physics-themed activities at the event.

We are presenting Jennifer Spencer, Julia Mangan and Stacey Kissel with our second annual Champion of Innovation Award. This award recognizes leadership in engaging the BHS community through innovative curricula that address current issues. Through their Fund-supported work, these three physics teachers have made a significant contribution to the culture of innovation at BHS. They have consistently inspired our students to think beyond the conventional and prepared them for success at BHS and beyond. The speaking program will run approximately 8:15-8:45. Students will be out of the space by 9:00pm.

The Innovation Fund Gala Planning Committee is working with our event planner, S.H. Events and caterer, La Bonne Maison to make sure to keep students away from the bar where beer and wine will be served to adult (over age 21) guests only. La Bonne Maison holds a comprehensive 12c License and all bartenders are TIPs certified, meaning that they have participated in alcohol server training. Food will be passed by servers and available at food stations. All alcohol will be served from the bar by the TIPs certified bartender and will not be passed by servers. This is the same catering company used at a Gala in the same space at 22 Tappan Street last year, where we also had students present with no issues.

To differentiate students from adult guests, the student guides will be identified by a t-shirt, a bracelet, or a hand stamp. Bartenders and catering staff will all be informed that students will be present and instructed not to serve any student. Many BHS staff and teachers will be on hand and provide oversight over the students.

We have requested a security detail to be present before, during and after the event. The security detail will be placed near the bar when alcohol is being served and students are in the building. S.H. staff will support the security officer and the TIPs certified bartenders to keep students away from the bar.