

Solon High School PTA Meeting Minutes

October 27, 2009

Call to order 9:25 AM by Lisa Cartellone, President of the SHS PTA. Recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Recording Secretary, Patty Chaitoff:

- No report
- Lisa asked for approval for last month's meeting minutes. They were approved without any changes or adjustments

Corresponding Secretary, Joni Sand:

- President passed out book for service hours in Joni's absence. Reiterated two hours of service for PTA meeting and reminded volunteers to record time for budget bin and upcoming craft fair will be recorded as ways and means.
- Congrats card to teacher Anna Ward (now Guseilo) on her wedding
- Speedy recovery card to Frank Corrigan after his surgery
- Sympathy card to Pam Friedauer on the loss of her mother
- Congratulations card to Mr. Wentz on the birth of his son

Treasurer, Sue Navratil:

- Craft Fair activity donations are ways and means. Open donation from PTA for \$100.00
- Balance as of 10/26 is \$14 283.73. After Prom balance is \$5800.03. Report will be filed for audit.
- After Prom budget for 2009-2010 will be voted on for approval next month.

Principal, George Steyer:

- End of first quarter Friday 10/30. Gradebook online.
- Orchestra concert 10/27, Choir concert 10/29. Fall Play is "Hamlet" on Nov. 19-22nd. Senior English students study Hamlet and will see the play in a separate performance.
- Late start for Juniors and Seniors on 11/18 due to Freshman taking the Explore test and Sophomores taking the Plan test. All others to start at 10:40 AM.
- Winter sports starting . Soccer shoot out today for placement into district finals on Thursday. (This report written after the shoot out. Solon girls soccer won 4-3!)
- Boy's and Girl's CC made it to regionals to be held at Boardman.
- Solon is football conference winner with an undefeated record. Home play off game on 11/7.
- Next year 2011-2012 we will have a Senior prom. This year (2010 -2011) will be a Junior/Senior prom. Multiple reasons for this decision including class size, expense, keeping the event "special".

2nd Vice President, Anne Johns:

- Evening PTA Parent Principle Coffee was well attended with 55 parents. Good idea to keep it going in the future
- Service hours for students should be tracked on Prep HQ. It is not a SHS graduation requirement, so students should keep their own records on Prep HQ to make it easier as they write their resumes.
- Remember that messages going our on Prep HQ are being sent to a whole class. There are times that these messages do not apply to all students/parents. Please do not take personally and delete when necessary.

- PSAT for Freshmen on Nov.14 from 9:00AM through Noon. This is free given by the Princeton Review. Students can sign up in guidance office. Sophomores who missed taking the test on 10/7 May take it on 11/14.
- 11/18 Freshmen will be taking the Explore test and Sophomores will take the Plan test. Pre register for the test in English Class on 11/17. The Plan test is a practice ACT. Juniors and Seniors come in late that day.
- Freshman should register for the Freshman Mentoring Program on Prep HQ. Go to guidance home page and click on Prep HQ.
- SAT and ACT test dates for Juniors and Seniors is online. It is suggested to sign up for two dates for each test. If you go to guidance home page, the “to do” list for Juniors and Seniors has links and dates. Juniors, suggested dates for ACT to be administered in Solon: April 10/June 12. Suggested dates for SAT: March 13/May1.
- Results of ACT/SAT tests available online two to three weeks after the test dates. If you would like specifics regarding answers to the tests, it will take a little longer.
- Mr. Bergman is conducting SAT English practice sessions on Wednesdays after school.
- Juniors and Seniors can sign up to visit with college representatives. The schedule is on the guidance home page calendar.
- There are mini workshops scheduled for Seniors. Sign up in guidance office. There will be a meeting on 10/28 regarding the college application process and on 12/2 regarding the scholarship application process.
- Marcia Elbrand is the financial aid advisor and Mrs. Reed is available for help with college essays.
- Seniors are doing a great job with college application process. Deadline for apps to be mailed by 12/1 is 11/10. Deadline for apps to mailed by 1/1 is 11/24.
- GPAs on report cards are for grading period only. They are not cumulative. The parent handbook describes how to calculate the cumulative grade point average.

Vice President, JoAnn Branstetter:

- No report

President, Lisa Cartellone:

- Thanks went out to hospitality committee, Louise Isroff, Claudia O'Brien and those who brought food and drink. Our three budget bin chairs, Cindy Castro, Kim Littman, and Laura Weyenberg have been hard at work this last week helping to make budget bin a success.
- As we head into November, Susette Even and Robin Stanton have been busy at work preparing for our Craft Fair which is scheduled for Saturday, 11/14. I know their hard work will pay off. Please be sure to encourage your family and friends to attend this great event.
- Joann Branstetter and Linda Elwing have stayed on top of our membership campaign. I have received notice from the Ohio PTA that we are a recipient of the Cardinal Early Bird Award for submitting our dues by the 9/30 deadline. We have a PTA decal for the school that maybe we can post in the office window.
- Kathy Kramer and Barb Shane for coordinating the evening parent principal coffee. I was pleased by the attendance at this meeting and I filled an open after prom chair position.
- Donna Bard a Junior parent who works full time has agreed to be our fundraiser chair for after prom. Lisa Crawl has volunteered to chair tickets for after prom. We still have a couple of openings for after prom. I wanted to take a few minutes to review the openings we have and share the responsibilities for these jobs. First off these positions

are all manageable. I think sometimes we get a little carried away with what a big undertaking after prom can be, and forget that when you break the work down into workable jobs it is no more than planning other events. There are detailed reports from previous years for all of the committees and Beth and I are more than willing to provide any chair with all of the help they need. We seem to be getting a number of people saying they will help, but don't want a leadership position, so the good news is we are developing a strong list of workers to support out chairs. We still need...

- A decorations chair. As you will see later when we look at our budget we have slimmed down our decorations budget. This person will help decide on the plan for decorations and work with a committee to get those decorations, whether they are borrowed from other schools or businesses, created by us, purchased or in some cases taken off of tree lawns on garbage day. This is one of those projects where a little bit of creativity goes a long way and the project can be as big or small as we make it.
- A food chair to decide on the food, get donations of food and purchase food.
- The Casino games chair organizes the need for volunteers and runs the casino.
- The manpower chair recruits volunteers for the other committees.
- Prizes chair solicits donations and purchases prizes for the raffle.

Please consider if there is some way you can help us make this year's after prom a fun night for our students. If you have an people you suggest that we contact let us know that as well.

- We will be stuffing envelopes for our fall after prom fundraiser on after the meeting.
- Sent an email to the committee chairs w/ a new committee list and an updated volunteer list.
- We are having our new family welcome meeting here in this room this 10/30 at 1PM. Anyone interested in helping to get this group off of the ground is welcome.
- Meeting with the SADD student board on 11/ 4. If you have any suggestions on how we can partner w/their group let me know.
- Finally, if you pledged money to Steve Bramwell's Race for Education, you may give me the donations for him.

Council Delegates Report, Michelle Barksdale, Ken Dobbins, Gayle Marks, and Eca Taylor:

- Gayle Marks attended a school board meeting on 10/26. The 5 year plan was presented along with the strategic forecast. In a nutshell, we need to pass the 6.9% levy in 2010. The forecast always looks grim, however because of the \$5,000,000 we will not get to subsidize our budget with state cut backs, we will not be able to make up with the levy passing. It is imperative that we go to the meeting on 11/23 to plead with our local government to convince the state that the tax passing is critical.
- There will be more traffic delays in the Preserve for the next 6-8 weeks
- Vaccines will be available please contact school for details.
- Ken Dobbins attended the Board meeting on 10/12. The following are highlights from the meeting:
 - Band room renovation project will be completed in the near future
 - Retire/Rehire of the Assistant Superintendent Tom Stupica said he plans to stay with the district for 2-3 years. With this option the district saves money by no longer paying benefits such as health care insurance premiums.
 - The board approved a resolution to reimburse parents whose children attend private or parochial schools. The board determines whether or not transportation will be provided to non public schools within 30 minutes by school bus for district resident children. If

transportation cannot be provided then parents are reimbursed at a rate established by the state BOE.

- All outside organizations must request a building permit to utilize any district facilities.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

After Prom, Beth Eidner:

- Still in need of volunteers. No special skills required.

Budget Bin, Laura Weyenberg, Cindy Castro, Kim Littman:

- Thank you to all the volunteers who helped with this year's fundraiser.

By Laws/Standing Rules, Beth Bickel:

- No report

Freshman Class Rep., Andrea Dobbins:

- No report

Sophomore Class Rep., Sue Pohle:

- Mr. Jeter is Sophomore Faculty Advisor. Abby Grossman, Ilana Postman, Chelsea Guest are sophomore student reps.
- Time to order class rings.

Junior Class Rep., Sue Steidley:

- No report

Senior Class Rep., Carol Kutsko:

- Josten's representative, Mr. Armstrong, will be at SHS in Oct. to collect orders for commencement invitation/announcement and cap and gown orders.
- Representative from Josten's will be in for cap and gown orders for Seniors on 10/30. You must have a cap and gown to participate in the commencement ceremonies. If you have older siblings you may order tassel only. Girls wear white gowns. Boys wear blue gowns. Mrs. Johns asked that if anyone has a gown they are willing to give, they may be dropped off in the guidance office.

Craft Fair, Susette Even and Robin Stanton:

- Craft Fair is on Saturday, 11/14 from 10AM until 4PM. Please call 349-7757 x5010 or email PTA craftfair@solonboe.org.
- To date, we have over 80 crafters signed up. Last year we had 70 crafters. This is a ways and means fundraiser, please help support by attending, being a crafter or by baking or volunteering on the 14th of November.

Directory, Elizabeth Goodin:

- No report. No listing as of yet.

Health, Safety and Welfare, Debe Klotzman:

- National PTA has partnered with Consumer Reports and the National School Boards Assoc. to form a school safety alert program. To access info go to ConsumerReports.org/schoolsafety.

- Tune into Channel 22 to see program on internet safety for students and parents. This is a program presented by Ohio Attorney Generals office. It encompasses a wide variety of internet topics including bullying, identity theft, and eluding internet predators.
- 10/30 @ 9:30AM – 11:30AM @ Belfaire Wulinger Center: Staying in the Boat During the Rocky Years. Effective strategies for working and living with teens. Presenter Amy Speidel, parenting coach.
- 11/4 @ 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM: IDEIA what's in a form. Donna Boss, parent mentor will explain the new IEP and ETR.
- 11/17 7:30PM until 9:00PM Met Life will present an Estate Planning Seminar. It will explain why estate planning is essential for families of special needs children.
- There is a move in place by the Coalition to Amend the Social Host Law to change the wording to be more specific in regards to parents' responsibility when hosting teen parties. The goal is to use wording similar to or the same as the standards expected of hotel owners which reads "knowingly or should know". The issue is going to be voted on in the House of Representatives which would then make it a state law. Many communities have already implemented this change via city proclamations.
- Stop the Hate Maltz Museum essay contest. Children who are good writers can be part of an essay contest to win scholarship. StoptheHate.Maltzmuseum.org to enter electronically. Deadline 12/16 for grades 11 and 12. Deadline 11/4 for grades 6-10.
- 9/27 Annual "Into the Light" walk @ 6PM at the Zoo. www.helppreventsuicide.org.
- CASS training 9/24 (girls) and 10/3 (boys) 9AM - 1PM.
- "Parents of Teens Survival Group" coordinated by SAY will begin 12/2 from 7pm until 8pm at the Beachwood library. RSVP to Nancy Schaumburgh @ 216-320 8469 or schaumburgh@bellfairejcb.org.

Honors Breakfast, Lisa Crowl, Debbie Coleman and Kim Littman:

- There will be an honors breakfast at the end of Feb. or beginning of March for those students who earned a 3.5 or higher for the first semester. Look for more in Nov. or Jan.

Hospitality, Claudia O'Brien and Louise Isroff:

- Thanks to all those who provided baked goods for the meeting.

Legislation, Rhonda Wien:

- The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Act is up for reauthorization. This act has been in force for 35 years and serves as the major source of federal funding to improve states' juvenile justice systems and sets federal standards for the protection and rehabilitation of youths involved in the juvenile justice system.
- The House of Representatives voted 253-171 to pass the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act which contains an expansion of higher education programs and authorizes funding to support school construction and early childhood education.
- Ohio PTA is asking us to support alternative legislation that would save \$851 million in cuts to education in Ohio. Go to www.ohiopta.org, Advocacy page, CAPWIZ, click on the ACTION TAB, fill in your name and address and click SEND. A letter will automatically go to our state representatives and senators.
- The National Legislative Conference this year is March 9 - 11, 2010 in Washington, DC.
- The PTA Parent Newsletter (parent@pta.org) has many interesting articles. this month there is one titled "Keeping Kids Busy Offline Keeps Them Safer Online" pertaining to risky online behavior and the need for extracurricular activities.
- Lastly there is an article featuring the National PTA program "Reflections" in the November issue of Parenting Magazine.

Membership, JoAnn Branstetter and Linda Elwing:

- To date, PTA membership is at 827 members. All board members and committee chairs must be members. We currently have 59 staff members. Donations are at \$1472.50 for PTA and \$2022.20 for After Prom.

Office Support/Volunteer Coordination, Anne Hoelting:

- Office help for stuffing envelopes for After Prom after today's PTA meeting.

Parent Principal Coffees, Kathy Kramer and Barb Shane:

- The Parent/Principal Coffees are now completed. Five were held. One for each grade level and for the first time this year, an evening multi-grade coffee was held. All were very well attended. For the Senior class Parent/Principal Coffee, there were approximately 55 parents in attendance; for the Freshman class, 93 parents; Sophomore class 57 parents and Junior class about 70 parents. There were 55 parents in attendance at the evening coffee. At each coffee, Mr. Steyer, Mrs. Johns and the administrative and guidance staff presented grade relevant information. Refreshments were served. The committee recommends holding an evening coffee again next year. Thanks to all the parents who attended and who provided refreshments or help at the coffees.

Senior Honors Banquet, Beth Eidner:

- No report.

Senior/Underclass Awards, Cheryl Kresevic, Monica Turk, Tammy Strom, Ellen Lim and Wendy Young

- No report.

Student Appreciation, Cindy Castro, Kathy Kramer and Cheryl Kresevic:

- Doughnuts will be given to all students Friday 10.30.

Staff Appreciation, Beth Bickel and Patty Chaitoff:

- No report

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

Academic Boosters, Kari Kreft and Joni Sand:

- Mattress sale will be on 10/24 this year. Last year we raised \$2500 in one day.

Athletic Boosters, Patty Chaitoff:

- Fall banquet on 11/17 for Football and possibly boys and girl's CC and track. Students winning conference or advancing to states in their fall sports are eligible for a dinner donated by the Solon Athletic Boosters. There is a chance that the fall banquet would be postponed should the teams still be in their playoff status.

OPEN, Debe Klotzman:

- No report

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- No report

NEW BUSINESS

- Sue Navratil presented the proposed 2009/2010 budget. We will vote on the budget at the November meeting.

Nominating Committee

- We ask for volunteers at this meeting and vote on them in November. We don't meet in December. By having the committee formed in advance they can meet right after council announces their slate of officers on 1/8. Volunteers are Barb Shane, Joanne Benke, Beth Eidner, Linda Elwing. Sue Pohle and Ann Hoelting are the alternates.

Meeting ended at 10:25 AM.