

## **Solon High School PTA Meeting Minutes**

February 23, 2010

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

### **Guest Speaker Steve Richman CAOSHL:**

- President Lisa Cartellone introduced Steve Richman who is a councilman for Moreland Hills and a member of the Coalition to Amend Ohio's Social Host Law (CAOSHL).
- Mr. Richman discussed the current Host Law Statute which is intended to punish parents who knowingly serve or allow children to drink in their homes (other than their own children). It is difficult to prosecute parents under the current statute based on the wording (specifically "knowingly", as it creates an automatic defense) and its interpretation.
- There is a movement to change the statute to redefine the criminal aspects of knowingly furnishing or recklessly allowing under aged drinking in a private or in a public setting. The punishment could be 6 months in jail and \$1000 fine.
- In addition, at a minimum there will be a \$250 fine if the law is not upheld.
- Currently there are steps being taken to get sponsors and have House Bill 351 assigned to the Justice Committee. Mr. Richman asked for the PTA support as he feels that the more organizations who endorse the statute, the more likely the bill will pass with the new statute as described above.

### **Recording Secretary, Patty Chaitoff:**

- Lisa asked for approval for last month's meeting minutes. They were approved without any changes or adjustments. Thank you to Sue Pohle for completing January minutes in Patty's absence.

### **Corresponding Secretary, Joni Sand:**

- Passed out book for service hours. Reiterated two hours of service for PTA meeting.

### **Treasurer, Sue Navratil:**

- Balance as of 2/22/10: \$15,985.45 for the PTA. After Prom balance \$6725.03.
- SADD assembly guest speaker sponsored by PTA. Check paid in the amount of \$300.

### **Principal, George Steyer:**

- Mr. Steyer attended the state ACT conference to accept the Red Quill award for Solon High School. This is the third year in a row for this award. We are the only school in the entire country to have achieved this award for the third year straight.
- There will be a blood drive on 3/2. Blood donors must be 16 years of age, however need a permission slip for our blood drive. There is no need for permission slip for 17 years or older. There are height and weight requirements that are applicable for giving blood.
- Week of 3/15 OGT tests for sophomores. Late start for freshman, juniors and seniors. (10:15 am start time.)
- There are 19 students going to states for swimming and diving. Also, 18 students have moved on to regionals for speech and debate.
- Mr. Dan McKean has achieved the 2009 AP teacher of the Year. There was one winner in the state of Ohio. The school received a \$1000 grant to improve math and science. Congratulations to Mr. McKean on this achievement.

### **2nd Vice President, Anne Johns:**

- Scheduling for next year for juniors is approaching completion. Parents should be getting a summary with course verifications in the mail. There is a portion that needs to be completed at home. Students have until 3/8 to make any changes. Juniors are encouraged to impact their GPA as transcripts include cumulative GPA from freshman year through junior year.
- Sophomore scheduling is currently underway for next year. Meetings for Sophomores will include results of the Plan test
- Please continue to check Prep HQ. There may be something relevant to you. We identify by grade level. Currently we are advertising about summer opportunities on Prep HQ. This does not mean the school is endorsing or promoting any of the programs, rather just informing of the opportunities. Let guidance know if you, as a parent are not getting Prep HQ messages and would like them.
- SAT and ACT test dates are 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 or June 12. Suggested dates for SAT: March 13 or 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.
- Freshman Mentoring Program will include a program called "Expect Respect" on 3/10/10.
- There will be individual appointments through guidance with freshman to review Explorer results and plan for next year.
- Senior projects first meeting will be on 2/23/10. Presentations will be late May and will be in much smaller groups this year in order to improve the process. Seniors must complete and present projects in order to graduate.

**Vice President, JoAnn Branstetter:**

- Spring Fling tickets are available through Joann Branstetter for \$22. The event will be held at Signature of Solon on 4/30/10.

**President, Lisa Cartellone:**

- Thanks to Kathy Kramer, Cheryl Kresevic and Cindy Castro who arranged Valentine's Day treats for our students earlier this month.
- Thanks to Louise Isroff and Claudia O'Brien for organizing the wonderful breakfast this morning. Thanks also to all of you who volunteered to prepare and bring items in to share.
- Thanks to anyone who brought box tops in during the last month. Keep them coming! You can bring them to these meetings or send them to school with your kids to be dropped in the main office.
- Just another reminder to those of you with children who are seniors this year that the budget bin scholarship applications is available on the guidance website. The deadline for submission is March 26th.
- Lisa met with Erin Short, Tammy Strom, Anne Johns and Jodi to discuss ways in which the PTA might partner with the school in initiating communication with parents about encouraging safe teen behavior. The 2009 SAY high school youth risk behavior survey which was conducted with east side suburban high school students last spring - and included Solon students indicated that 27.8% of local high school students had been at gatherings in a home where parents permitted students to use alcohol and 25.9% of students had sexual intercourse with one or more persons during a 3 month period. As parents we have an amazing resource available to us through SAY but that message is lost to the people who don't come to these meetings or read our minutes, or more

importantly read the school newsletter. So, at this meeting we agreed that regular communications, possibly post cards, would be sent to parents using a variety of messages developed by the SAY coalition. The purpose of the post cards will be to provide parents with important statistics regarding teen behavior and encouraging tips on how to deal w/tough teen issues. The timing for kicking this program off is perfect with prom season being just around the corner. This plan is just in its development stages, so it may evolve from here, but I think it is a positive step for us to start this conversation as a community. If you have any questions about this new initiative, please let Lisa know.

- The PTA council slate of officers was read for the 2010/2011 school year. The slate is as follows: President: Lisa Crowl, VP: Cheryl Kresevic, Treasurer: JoAnne Behnke, Recording Secretary: Beth Kalinowski, Corresponding Secretary: Kamna Jain. Elections for these officers will take place at the March 5th PTA council meeting.
- Today is the deadline for the SHS Newsletter. Please be on time with anything you wish to put into the newsletter.

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

- Michelle Barksdale attended the 2/8/10 Solon Board Meeting. Mr. Regano discussed the budget cuts that would be implemented if the 6.9 million levy fails: SHS assistant principal, SHS guidance Counselor, SHS Essay Specialist, SHS ARC Tutors, 4 SHS Custodial Staff (This list is not final).
- Four Solon Seniors named Presidential Scholar candidates. Dana Coleman, Cathy Huang, Maksim Kolysh and Anthony Wang. These four students are among 3,000 select students nationwide to be named as candidates in the annual Presidential Scholars Program.
- 228 SHS students received AP Scholar Awards; SHS students are beating the national passage rates by 40%.

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**After Prom, Beth Eidner:**

- The After Prom committee is busy working on all initiatives. Hours are from 11pm until 3am. Ticket prices will remain the same as last year. SADD is supporting the event with a fundraiser at Max and Erma's to help raise money for After Prom. Also, New Direction Photography is donating an \$80 package for \$25 and The After Prom committee will receive all profits. Photos have to be scheduled by 7/15. After Prom pictures will be donated by New Direction Photography as well.

**By Laws/Standing Rules, Beth Bickel:**

- No report

**Freshman Class Rep., Andrea Dobbins:**

- Freshman fundraiser for T shirts underway.

**Sophomore Class Rep., Sue Pohle:**

- There will be sweatshirts for sale in history classes ranging from \$22 to \$28.

**Junior Class Rep., Sue Steidley:**

- Juniors are working with SAKS for fundraiser for After Prom

**Senior Class Rep., Carol Kutsko:**

- 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. Phone orders can be taken at Jostens by calling John Armstrong @ 330 772 0131.

**Budget Bin:** Kim Littman, Cindy Castro, Cheryl Kresevic

- Planning is underway. Volunteer sheet went out for setting up, working and tear down.

**Directory, Elizabeth Goodin:**

- Elizabeth Goodin was not at the meeting. Lisa Cartellone relayed that she is looking for feedback regarding the new format of the school directory.

**Health, Safety and Welfare, Debe Klotzman:**

- *Can I Kiss You - Safe Date Project* presented by healthy dating and sexual assault expert, Mike Domitrz.  
As with past SAY presentations such as last year's DIRT, the evening student/parent program, cosponsored by SAY and SAY consortium schools, is seeking contributions to cover costs. Will use \$200 of health and safety budget to cover our share of program. For more info go to [www.DateSafeProject.org](http://www.DateSafeProject.org)
- *CHILAX (Chill and Relax with the Guys) - Prevent Premature Fatherhood*  
Programs presented by Cuyahoga County Board of Health male educators to prevent and reduce the number of out-of-wedlock pregnancies.
- *Managing Risky Behavior in Teens* - Thursday, April 8, 7:30 - 9:00 @ Bellfaire JCB Wuliger Center  
A panel discussion with area principals to address the findings of the 2009 SAY High School Risk Behavior Survey which included Solon students participation.
- *EAT (It's Not About Food) - Fairmount Center for the Arts, April 2010*  
This premier production tells the individual stories of young people struggling with the epidemic and often tragic range of eating disorders.

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

- There will be an honors breakfast on March 4 for those students who earned a 3.5 or higher for the first semester. There are usually over 700 students who attend.

**Hospitality, Claudia O'Brien and Louise Isroff:**

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

**Legislation, Rhonda Wien:**

- National PTA has released its 2010 Public Policy Agenda (copies available). The key points are:
  1. Family Engagement in Education with reauthorization of the ESEA, Elementary and Secondary Education Act (formerly the NCLB, No Child Left Behind Act).
  2. Opportunity and Equity for all Children with the implementation of state advocacy efforts for the Common Core State Standards Initiative (CCSSI) and reauthorization of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP)
  3. Child Nutrition Act
- A total of 623 bills introduced to the House and Senate, only 13 have been signed into law, these include: HB 19 Dating Violence, HB 290 Junior ROTC is permitted as an Ohio Core "elective course" and permits BOE's to excuse students from 2 years of physical ed., HB 318 postpones the final year of income tax reduction by two years to balance the state budget. Permits districts to request and receive a waiver regarding all

day kindergarten until 2012. Included in HB 1 all day kindergarten becomes a requirement for all school districts beginning with the 2010-2011 school year, unless the district obtains a waiver.

- The reauthorization of the ESEA is showing no signs of moving through Congress. We are encouraged to increase pressure on state officials.
- The 2011 Budget included 3 billion for education, but proposed the elimination of the Parental Information and Resource Centers (PIRCS). This means that there would no longer be a dedicated funding for family engagement and PIRCS would not be able to reach all families. This would negatively impact PTA's, schools and parents. Annually, PIRCs served over 16.4 million parents.
- The National Legislative Conference is March 9-11 in Washington D.C.
- An Ohio PTA Advocacy Committee has been created.
- Funding for all tobacco prevention in Ohio will end June 30, 2010. In response to this there is a Tobacco Free Youth Advocacy Day in Columbus March, 17, 2010.
- The Annual Ohio PTA Convention is April, 17-18, 2010 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Columbus, I have the program and registration info if anyone is interested.

**Membership, JoAnn Branstetter and Linda Elwing:**

- 846 members to date. Four new members this month.

**Office Support/Volunteer Coordination, Anne Hoelting:**

- No report

**Parent Principal Coffees, Kathy Kramer and Barb Shane:**

- No report

**Senior Honors Banquet, Beth Eidner:**

- Early stages of planning senior awards banquet, more to come next month.

**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:**

- Valentines cookies were given to students.

**Staff Appreciation, Beth Bickel and Patty Chaitoff:**

- No report

**COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES**

**Academic Boosters, Kari Kreft and Joni Sand:**

- Lots of new faces for Rising Star luncheon given last week. The purpose of the program is to encourage those who have made a noticeable positive change in the classroom. Teachers are recognizing these students in an effort to reinforce continued positive direction in the classroom.

**Athletic Boosters, Patty Chaitoff:**

- March Madness fundraiser on 3/13 for Athletic Boosters. Silent Auction, and raffle for team baskets as well as fun filled night of great food, dancing and raising money for Solon Athletics. Please look online for tickets or contact Kathy Kramer at 440 349 3347.
- Winter Sports banquet for boy's and girl's swimming and diving and gymnastics on 3/16.

### **OPEN, Debe Klotzman:**

- Wednesday, February 24 @ Solon Board of Education, 7:30 - 9:00 p.m.  
*Solutions to the "I'm Bored" Blues - Panel presentation of Therapeutic and Recreational Options*
- Wednesday, March 6 @ library, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.  
*Sneak Peek of the new additions and updates to the Becky Richards O.P.E.N. Collection*
- Thursday, March 18 @ Solon Board of Education, 9:30 -11:30 a.m.  
*Fast, Slow or Right on Target - Differentiating Developmental Progress*
- Tuesday, April 13 @ Solon Board of Education, 7:30 - 9:00 p.m.  
*Is It Moodiness or Something More: Recognizing Depression*

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- Thank you to the nominating committee and the alternates. The committee was made up of: Barb Shane, JoAnne Behnke, Beth Eidner, Linda Elwing, George Steyer, and Alternates, Sue Pohle and Anne Hoelting.
- The nominations are: Lisa Cartellone, President, Sue Navratil, Treasurer, Sue Pohle, Vice President, Tammy Strom, Recording Secretary, Anne Johns, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Michelle Barksdale, Corresponding Secretary. Voting will take place in April, installation in May.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- Traditionally at this time of year we ask for volunteers to serve on a committee to select a recipient of the Ohio PTA Achievement award. This award is to recognize an individual or individuals who have served the High School PTA. This award is separate from the award given at spring fling which is a district wide award given by PTA council. The Volunteers are Cheryl Kresevic, Lisa Crowl, Joann Branstetter.
- We agreed to donate a gift (budgeted) amount of \$300 to Solon Schools Levy Campaign.
- We agreed to support the proposed Ohio Host Statute in an effort to provide consequence to parents who participate in any way to support underage drinking.

Meeting ended at 10:45 AM.