

November 15, 2016

PTSO General Meeting

In Attendance: Janice Myers, Deb Arquette, Neil Hamilton, CaSandra Perrilliat, Kathleen Winters, Kidada Bivins, Shirley Norman-Taylor, Priti Patel, Ann Wilkie, John Wilkie, Meg Boone, Andrew Crichton, Rhonda Mustafaa, Bonnie Kellem, Michael Greenberg, Matt Ragone, Julie Hopkins

Call to Order: PTSO President Rhonda Mustafaa called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Attendees played an Icebreaker Bingo game for a few minutes.

Ms. Mustafaa presented the meeting minutes from 9/27/16. After review, Kidada Bivins motioned to approve the minutes. Bonnie Kellem seconded the motion. Minutes were approved unanimously.

Ms. Mustafaa welcomed attendees to the third PTSO meeting of the school year, and introduced all Board members in attendance. She thanked all volunteers who assisted with the Wizards game, especially CaSandra Perrilliat and the school faculty and staff. She listed all sponsors of the event and encouraged the South County community to support those businesses.

The PTSO is looking for students to fill the following roles:

- PTSO Rep on Student Council
- United Prevention Coalition Teen Council (drug intervention/prevention program)

Ms. Mustafaa also thanked the Academic Awards Program volunteers (Karen Yoon, Barb Cammarata, and Julie Gorski) for always volunteering their time and working tirelessly for this program.

OFFICER & COMMITTEE REPORTS

ANGP Committee Report: Julie Gorski (as reported by Ms. Mustafaa)

Please support the Craft Fair! There is a dire need of volunteers to support advertising efforts. Currently the Craft Fair has 144 registered vendors (\$10,190 in revenue), with 7 vendors pending and 3 more inquiries.

Committee is trying to target activities to increase attendance and to widen the audience. Yard signs are out on some roads in Burke. Carla has a sign-up genius for volunteers to help. Students can earn volunteer hours for flyer distribution. The Craft Fair has a new Facebook page that we can "like". Question was asked: Can the South County Boosters post an advertisement on their Facebook page?

ACT/SAT Bootcamp: Pamela Reed (as reported by Ms. Mustafaa)

12 attended, and the PTSO did not earn any profit. Upcoming test prep: Hybrid ACT/SAT, SOCO Cafeteria, December 10th, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

MOSAIC Program: Vera Woodson (as reported by Ms. Mustafaa)

Met to finalize vision, mission and goals. The focus is diversity, wellness, productivity.

Theme is “One Goal, One Voice”

Students developed new logo for t-shirts. They will be making a video for diverse learning backgrounds. Teachers will film. Hope to have this video to show at next PTSO meeting.

Amazon.com: Chrissy Parks (as reported by Ms. Mustafaa)

YTD earnings are better so far, and big months are ahead with holiday shopping. Please use the PTSO link to generate revenue.

Giant A+ Rewards: Julie Hopkins

Current earnings (11/15/16): \$1,542.47

We do not collect Box Tops at SOCO. They can be sent in to South County Middle School or any of the elementary schools.

TREASURER REPORT: Kidada Bivins

- Incoming funds: \$800 from Craftmens Classic, Dulles Expo in the Spring, \$4386 from last year’s golf tournament, and \$318 in concessions from Wizards game. Ms. Bivins provided copies of the current Treasurer’s Report.
- Ms. Bivins noted that the SAT Bootcamp (September 2016) fee was \$175, and the PTSO received \$40 per student. Catalyst tutors ran the program. Ms. Pamela Reed recruited 1-2 volunteers to help with set-up and clean-up. Deb Arquette commented that the session was not well structured, according to student attendees. Students and parents did not receive any feedback from Catalyst re. their scores. Ms. Mustafaa indicated that she would contact this vendor for further information.
- Also noted: Khan Academy has a partnership with the College Board for SAT preparation. They will send out 20 questions each day based on student needs. The school has resources available to help students prepare for these tests, and counselors are able to assist students who have questions or concerns (per Principal Ragone)
- White House Christmas ornaments are still available, and will benefit the ANGP. They will be sold at the Craft Fair, as well as a Holiday Market at Silverbrook Elementary.

Membership: Priti Patel

Current numbers: 189 students, 54 staff, 291 adults. Total: 534

Use payforschoolstuff.com to register and join, although the process to sign up and register on the website may need some explanation.

Wizards Game: CaSandra Perrilliat

- 344 tickets sold, for \$5018
- 15 staff in game: 7 from SOCO, 3 from Silverbrook Elementary, 1 from Halley Elementary, and 4 from Gatehouse Staff. Shirts were donated. Leadership students participated and were very helpful. The Goal of this event was to bring the community together. More volunteers would have been beneficial. For future planning, more participation would help increase event attendance. The crowd was very happy, and elementary schools were involved.
- “Coach” Neal Hamilton commented: Kids want to see and be part of SOCO. These programs are terrific catalysts for future enthusiasm. There is a great sense of community. This can help increase support systems at home.

Military Child Connections: Michael Greenberg

This is a program to provide framework for seamless transition for federal government, military families. Fort Belvoir is our support. Committee has met.

- * The committee has created a welcome packet that includes information on school clubs, Dept. of Defense resources, DC brochures, parent/student points of contact.
- * Educational events include: Dec 13 meeting with Belvoir School Liaison Office to discuss interstate educational opportunities, transferring school credits, etc. Feb: Tactical Parenting for iGeneration (Fairfax HS event to include DoD, Homeland Security, and more). April: TBA
- * Want to create a media platform w/2 students and parent volunteer. Families use website a lot before moving into the area. Would like to provide introductory resources on SOCO website.
- * Buddy program at school
- * Joining Forces Education Program (Mrs. Obama’s initiative)
- * Veteran’s Day: lead with student services/PTSO next year. Possibly include breakfast with chaplain, General officer, JROTC

Mr. Ragone notes the Impact Aid forms help the school identify these students. He is on a Process Action Team for this. Mr. Greenberg said the goal is to make SOCO a model high school to welcome military families. Fort Belvoir has a student sponsorship program and school liaison officers in place. Also mentioned: Youth Ambassadors Program is free and ongoing.

Student Issue: John Wilkie

Asked about the possibility of crew being recognized as an official SOCO sport. Principal Ragone indicated that it may be a liability issue with VHSL. Mr. Wilkie also discussed the rise of e-sports, which involve video games and higher skill/time commitments.

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT:

Mr. Ragone was thankful for improved behavior at sporting events. Parents responded to the e-mail, and last few football games have been great.

Honor Roll Ceremony will be on December 6 during FOCUS periods. Some grade changes may still occur. Teacher of the Year Celebration will be on December 6, from 3-4 p.m.

Concern raised: SIS shuts down every few days during the grading period. The system is too clogged and teachers couldn't input grades effectively. Some parents feel that work is not graded in a timely manner, and teams need consistent grading and rules. Mr. Ragone stated that grades should be updated each week, and progress reports should be sent out consistently and automatically, with one email per child that shows all grades.

There is a new Learning Center that is available for peer tutoring during lunch. Students can walk in to the Center, and teachers can also recommend students for tutoring.

Ms. Mustafaa thanked Ann Wilke, the Teacher of the Year Chairperson, and six committee members. Quality was the goal. They received 15 nominations for 8 teachers. The final selection has been made and will be announced at the December 6th reception.

Meeting adjourned: 8:45 p.m.

Minutes prepared: Julie Hopkins, Recording Secretary

Minutes reviewed: Rhonda C. Mustafaa, President