

## **Summit High School PTO General Meeting Minutes, November 20, 2015**

**Attendees:** Ines Cohron, Alex Queripel, Sarah Vostal, Betsy Phillips, Karen Fallows, Sherel Hersch, Stacey Supran Diana Sajer, Ann Rowe, Jennine Pommier, Sue Baier, Kristen Pierottie, Monika Parkthee, Gloria Ron-Fornes, Sheila Herr, Ann Trindell, Susan Palphreyman, Chrissy Reinhardt, Lynn Royer-Scheer, Susie Hoecker, Teresa Usme, Jennifer Cornforth, Colleen Manion, Susan Sidebottom, Claire Rupkey, Tracey Keegan, Laura Coburn, Andrea Mather, Liz Pollock, Elisa Mezzacappa, Lisa Reznik, Laura Benevento, Stephanie Brady, Barb Daney, Maggie Bauman, Tracy Claus, Shari Competillo, Amy Kovar, Sue Roberts, Miriam Zahn, Sonia Timoney, Alison Chaffo, Lynne Strabley, Barb Sherman, Lois Melka, Laura Schaffer, Maria Ciaravalli, Mike McTernan, Johanna Magovern, Susan Daniel, Meredith Henderson

Welcome and call to order: 9:04 am

Approval of October minutes

Susan Sidebottom – recap of parking issue

- There is no neighborhood parking
- Task force formed last spring to find solutions
- Best solution: encroach about 10 feet from lower SHS field to gain spots
- Cost anywhere from \$600 – 950K; so no real numbers available
- Still under review by BOE

### **Principal's report – Paul Sears**

College night was 11/11 – over 200 colleges represented and high attendance from area secondary schools

Moon Over Buffalo presented 11/13 -11/14

Fall athletic teams performed very well overall

French Concert 11/17

Maroon Room Café 11/19 – student musical and literary performances

Upcoming events

- Hallapalooza 11/24 – each grade creates 4' x 8' themed hall mural
- Spanish 1 and 2 assembly 11/24
- Powder puff football game 11/25 – junior vs. senior girls
- Women in STEM speaker to SHS students – during lunch

- Presentation: Helping Your Teen Develop Healthy Coping Skills for Life, SHS library 12/2 at 7:00 pm
- Model UN at Rutgers – 12/3
- Presentation: The Mask We Live In – How young men experience their place in society; 12/3, Millburn High School, 7:30 pm
- Financial Aid Night 12/9 – SHS

Many new clubs have formed; can meet at new, longer lunch period: Ski and Snowboard club, Young Democrats, Young Republicans, Poetry, Futsal, among others

Mr. Sears offered information as to why now is the “right” time for him to retire

- Summit schools will continue to improve as a result of high quality of leadership
- Plans to return to his roots in science, teaching graduate courses and volunteering in Summit elementary classrooms
- Looking forward to spending time on his farm in Virginia

### **June Chang’s Vision for Summit High School**

Current status at Summit school: great! Wonderful athletics, arts, academics and extended day programs; but, “let’s push the envelope.”

Challenges of today’s world – we’re connected to the outside world at all times, we do not compete in isolation.

Our students need to:

- move past the simple attainment of information
- learn how to adapt their knowledge to succeed in situations in the future
- learn technology and skill sets to make the shift to digital platforms

SHS administration needs to:

- Recruit the best teachers
- Audit our programs to see what’s working, what’s not, and why
- Shift funding to best resources
- Establish social media presence at colleges

Superintendent is actively seeking to increase AP offerings – AP Psychology and AP Economics already in place for 2016-17 school year – to broaden net of students who can and want to take AP courses.

Considering offering an International Baccalaureate program to secure an academic edge for SHS students.

Looking to offer summer programs - experiences outside Summit, e.g. NYU and FIT - to broaden opportunities for our students.

We want people to come to us to collaborate and share what works for us.

In order to provide the best for our students, we need to: be “changing before change happens,” bring up the level of rigor, become more media savvy, leverage the devices our kids are already using, identify what we can be doing better, be constantly unyielding about finding creative ways to move forward.

Mr. Chang then responded to several questions regarding his vision.

**Matt Block, Director of HR for district**

Heading up search to find new SHS principal

Ads placed in Star Ledger, on-line job sites week of November 9

Interviews will be held Dec-Jan

Plan to identify candidate by Jan for approval at BOE meeting Jan 21

60 days’ notice customary in education

Late-March transition at earliest

Search process will be transparent in terms of number of candidates, interviews, etc., but will maintain confidentiality of candidates.

Search committee of admin, staff, students, parents, 2 BOE members.

Candidates will most likely be sitting vice principals, internal candidates.

Meeting participants then broke into several small groups to help identify qualities needed in a principal:

- Approachable, experience in Summit

- Someone who will work hard to get things done and move through constituencies
- Good communicator, flexible, sense of humor, empathetic
- Someone who can make decisions, address the social/emotional needs of kids

Mr. Block then fielded a few questions regarding the search for a new principal.

Meeting adjourned: 10:30 am

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Merritt

January 11, 2016