

SHS PTO General Meeting September 18, 2015

Present: Olga Cano, W. Esposito, Maureen Fowler, Mary Coyle, Dawne Hausman, Diane Dresden, Lisa Curran, Miriam Zahn, Laura Benevento, Lisa Dadourian, Beth Tully, Lori Donohue, Alex Queripel, Sherel Hersch, Ann Trindell, Mitchell Hecker, Amy Kovar, Beth Little, Sue Roberts, Sarah Vostal, Jennifer Alvarez, Lopa Gupta, Ann Rowe, Elisa Mezzacappa, Kath Franelich, Amanda Greenblatt, Tracy Keegan, Nikki Bendl, Carol Stieve, Nellie Stewart, Elizabeth Fagan, Lucy Fleischman, Claire Rupkey, Susan Daniel, Sarah Lowe, Ines Cohron, Stacey Supran, Anne Merritt, Julie Kimmel, Meredith Hendra, Donna Groskopf, Jenny Jillen, Alexandra Miller, Irene Esposito, Margaret Kiven, Kristen Pierotti, Janet Slater, Gloria Ron-Fornes, Donna Miller, Maria Ciaravalli, Kathryn Glad, Diana Sajer, Anna Shapiro, Alison Chieffo, Lesley Alaradin, Nancy Quinn, Diana Loundis, Sylvia Lebron, Jennine Pommier, D. Surabhala, Laura Coburn, Torie Bligh, Lynn Royer-Scheer, Chrissy Reinhardt, Johanna Magovern, Yarlyny Alfano, Lynn McGough, Barbara Edwards, Karen Fallows, Donna Brandt, Leah Griffith, Laura Schaffer, Maggie Bauman, Christie McGinn, Valerie Weiss, Diane Carlson, Teresa Usme, Sue Baier, Sharon Gila, Sonia Timoney, Tina Spotts, Megan Gaeta, Stephanie Gould, Lisa Meyers, Cheryl Costa-Price, all executive board members

Meeting called to order **at 9:00 am**.

Minutes from the **June 5, 2015** meeting approved.

Danielle explained that PTO meetings cannot start earlier than 9:00 am because there are no parking spots available until after 8:30 am.

Introduction of SHS Executive Board for 2015/2016 academic year

- Co-Presidents Julie McTernan and Danielle Maloney
- Co-Vice Presidents: Donna Miller and Alex Queripel
- Treasurer: Stacey Supran
- Recording Secretary: Anne Merritt
- Communications Lead: Ines Cohron

Julie emphasized the importance of communication and solicited feedback as to how best to improve our methods of communicating as a PTO to parents.

Presentation – What to Expect When You’re a SHS Parent

Principal's Report - Paul Sears

Welcome to the 2015-16 school year

Interesting traffic patterns (acknowledging the effects of the Morris Ave bridge closure). Thank you to parents and students for getting to school on time

Block scheduling - Kids are enjoying and appreciating the change

- Students attend 6 of their 8 classes a day, one morning and one afternoon class dropped daily

- Provides break on homework
- Fewer transitions have calmed building down
- Common lunch for both students and teachers
- Allows for more social interaction; students will switch groups during lunch, which reduces imperative of finding friends after school as they have socialized at lunch
- Science classes conduct labs in early and late sessions of lunch
- Clubs can meet during the day

Club meetings have begun

Planting club, Wrestling, Speech and Debate, Art, Baking, Family Promise, 2016 Officers club, Key Club, Club Hispania

Now Tweeting @SHS principals

New bathroom policy

- When to use facilities is student's decision
- Sign in and sign out, wear bathroom pass on lanyard
- Sends message: get your business done and go back to class
- Necessitated by vandalism last year and too much time wasted by some wandering around during bathroom breaks

Parking update

- Students are sharing spots
- Students living within a half-mile radius from school are not eligible for a spot
- Students on waitlist for a spot can now park at Tatlock field

New student email addresses

- Every student has his/her own email address
- **Address is: student ID#@summit.k12.nj.us**
- Will be used to send out forms, surveys, announcements

Explanation of Chrome Books

- One-to-one initiative
- Device offers connection to the internet, provides access to Google suite on-line; different than laptops
- Roll out to Freshman in October, Sophomores in January, Jrs and Srs next year

Senior family night held 9/16

- Conducted by guidance department
- Attendance high

Stokes weekend 9/18 – 9/20 for LCJSMS sixth grade

- SHS students are counselors for this rite of passage

Hilltopper Weekend 9/18 – 9/19

- Friday Night Lights Football game vs. Governor Livingston High
- Mr. Sears encouraged parents to talk to their kids about safety and sobriety
- No bottles of any kind will be allowed into game; keep event enjoyable and safe

Drama program notes

- Auditions starting for fall drama Moon Over Buffalo
- Spring drama will be Mary Poppins

Back-to-School Night Thursday 10/1/15

Junior family night 10/7/15

Discussion of our superior athletic program

- Our programs empower kids to excel, promote teamwork and allow kids to interact with fellow athletes across grades
- Max Prep cup 2014: third in state
- Niche Rankings 2015: #1 in tri-state area, #3 in nation
- ShopRite Cup: #1 of group of 3 in state; award to be presented at 10/3 home football game

Hilltopper Alumni weekend – 10/19 – 10/21

- A great resource for students
- Alumni come to SHS to share their career expertise
- Alumni panels in past have discussed what it was like to go to SHS during the Vietnam War, what it was like to witness social change
- Tours of school conducted

PSATs 10/14

- Sophomores and juniors take test
- Freshman will receive Chrome books
- Seniors will seek guidance support in their college application/post secondary school process

Presentation to freshman and sophomores 10/14

- Title DIRT, focuses on how to get along with others, bullying, substance abuse

Presentation to juniors, seniors and their parents 10/20

- Part of consortium of local school districts' shared programs to protect ours kids and keep them safe
- Looking at the spectrum of substance abuse
 - Legal aspects
 - Treatment programs and options
 - Experiences of families

Mention of “unassigned” periods – Seniors are free to leave the building

Budget presentation

Sources of PTO funds

- PTO membership dues
- Parent social
- ACT/SAT prep fundraiser

PTO funds are used to enhance the school experience of our students

- Two new picnic tables purchased for the front of the school
- Bicycle rack purchased for front as well

Next PTO General meeting 10/16 at 9:00 am

- Will introduce the Guidance department and review its supportive role for our students

Meeting adjourned **at 9:58 am**

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Merritt
PTO Recording Secretary, 2015-2016