

Summit High School PTO General Session Meeting

May 19th, 2017

Auditorium

Attendance: Julie Adams, Torie Bligh, Donna Brandt, Alison Chieffo, Nicolette Chin, Laura Coburn, Susan Daniel, Karen Fallowes, Kathi Frandlich, Leah Griffith, Stacy Grimaldi, Wolfgang Guenther, Mitchell Hecker, Katie Hellings, Sherri Kantor, Amy Kovar, Danielle Maloney, Anjali McCormick, Julie McTernan, Mike McTernan, Jane Meyer, Donna Miller, Jennine Pommier, Alex Queripel, Jesse Reyes, Beth Sharpe, and Susan Sidebottom.

Call-To-Order: The meeting was called to order by Donna Miller at 9:03.

PTO Business: Donna Miller, PTO Co-President, thanked everyone for coming. She reminded the group to please mark their ballots. Today is election day for the new executive board. Blank ballots are available in the front and the back of the auditorium. Once a ballot is complete, it can be left in the front of the room.

Recap of 2016-2017: As a PTO, three goals were set: enhance engagement, improve communication, and smart spending. We achieved each of these goals during the school year. To enhance engagement, we encouraged volunteer opportunities, spoke to student council, attended faculty meetings, and partnered with sister organizations on joint projects.

Regarding communication, based on parent survey feedback, we changed our communication tone to make our eblasts more streamlined for the busy parent. We sent out grade specific eblasts when applicable. We also had three Coffees with the Principal, new this year, where parents had direct access to Mrs. Grimaldi, so questions could be asked and answered right away.

The PTO continued to practice smart spending. Four PTO scholarship winners will be announced on June 9th. The PTO is always very proud of the deserving winners each year. As always, the PTO decorates and provides the refreshments at Investor's Bank Field right after graduation each year. In the past, the PTO would ask for a small donation to defray the cost for the bows and cookies. However, for this year, the PTO will be funding those costs without needing help from parents.

Additionally, we introduced our PTO Pilot Program (teacher wish fund) and rewarded more than \$8,000 in grants to teachers. Today, four teachers are here to talk about the grants they received and how it impacted students in the classroom.

Grant Recipients:

Wendy Donat - Headphones: Ms. Donat purchased 12 headphones so that students could use them to watch video segments on the computer. It is a simple but very useful tool in the classroom which is super helpful. The students using the headphones did not have access to headphones from home.

Jennifer Renn - Virtual Reality in Psychology: Ms. Renn bought a class set of virtual reality glasses for her AP Psychology class. She explained that these glasses allow students to experience an alternative reality which is imperative when learning psychological concepts. Students can experience perceptual changes like (skewed vision, upside down vision, mirror vision) and simulate psychological disorders like schizophrenia and dementia. These glasses are an incredible tool in the classroom.

Lili Arkin - Inked Voices: Inked Voices is a virtual online writing group. Poetry students in the club, Word, choose their own pen names and post their work. Students receive feedback from fellow writers all over the world. This is a wonderful opportunity for the work of these young poets to get exposure.

Mary Beth Reardon- Community Based Instruction Through Career & Community Literacy Class:

Through this grant, students are given a budget while partaking in real life experiences like riding the train or going to a restaurant. For example, when students visited the Peppercorn, they learned how to order off a menu, how to interact with a wait staff and how to pay for food with a small budget. These experiences are so impactful for them.

PTO Business Continued: Donna Miller thanked the outgoing board. Big thank you's to...

- Maureen Alvidrez for her fabulous minutes through out the year.
- Leah Griffith and her communications team for getting information out quickly and accurately through eblasts and the web site
- Susan Sidebottom and Anjali McCormick for overseeing the class parents and many subcommittees. We know that the PTO will be in very good hands next year under their leadership.
- Finally, a huge thank you to Mrs. Grimaldi, Ms. Dolan and Mr. Steffner. It has been a pleasure working with such dedicated and hard working individuals.

Donna Miller then introduced Susan Sidebottom who is Co-President-Elect. Susan presented the 2017-2018 Summit High School Executive Board Slate to the group. She reminded everyone to vote.

Co-President: Susan Sidebottom and Anjali McCormick

Co-President Elect: Wolfgang Guenther and Jane Meyer

VP Communications: Nicky Chin

Treasurer: Beth Sharpe

Recording Secretary: Nora Holley

****After the meeting, Ballots were counted and the 2017-2018 SHS Executive Board Slate was approved unanimously. Ballots are on file.****

Principal's Report - Stacy Grimaldi:

A big thank you to this year's PTO staff. A special thank you to Danielle Maloney for her role as hospitality chair. The teachers and office staff always appreciate the luncheons and desserts that she organizes during the year.

Mrs. Grimaldi said that tonight will be her 25th prom. She reminds parents that drinking is not tolerated. She wants everyone to be safe. She thinks of the students as her own kids and wants only the best for them...to have fun, make good choices and to get home safely.

School is winding down and final exams will be starting on June 15th. She reminded parents to look for a letter with the exam schedule.

Middles States Certification is done every 10 years. Students completed a survey last week and a parent survey will be coming home soon. Mrs. Grimaldi asks that parents please take some time to fill out the survey because all feedback is appreciated.

Mrs. Grimaldi talked about the rise in use of Juul devices. She displayed several for parents to see. They look like a flash drive and can be charged in a computer like a USB port. They are smoked and traditionally have a liquid in them containing nicotine. However, the nicotine liquid can be swapped for THC (marijuana) or other illegal substances. It is harder to detect if a student is using these devices because there is very little odor when smoked. The device and liquids can be bought online or at local stores. They are not supposed to be sold to minors. Currently, there is a two-day detention for a first offense. However, that policy is currently being reviewed by the Board of Education.

Upcoming Dates:

June 8	Senior Banquet
June 21	Last Day of School
June 22	High School Graduation

Meeting Adjourned at 9:55 am.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Alex Queripel.