

Our vision is to enrich our school community by connecting through inclusive programs and authentic dialogue. We will accomplish this by fostering friendly and welcoming engagement, collaborative and responsible partnerships, and transparency in our communications.

## SHS PTO Coffee with the Principal Thursday, October 19, 2017 RECAP

Attendance: Mrs. Stacy Grimaldi, Principal. Laura Kaplan, Director of School Counseling  
54 Parent/Guardian attendees

[8:20](#) Call to Order. Anjali McCormick

[8:20](#) PTO Business Susan Sidebottom/Anjali McCormick

- Online Directory Update. PTO email next week to confirm own info. Cannot access directory until info confirmed.
- Book Club Update. Sample questions presented. Please RSVP
- PTO Membership. Alison Chieffo has envelopes if needed. Or join on-line. Important to support the PTO by joining.
- Bylaws Amendment Vote

### AMENDMENTS TO BYLAWS OF SUMMIT HIGH SCHOOL PTO SUMMIT NJ

Proposed in General Meeting: September 22, 2017  
Approved by Executive Board: October 17, 2017  
Vote by General Meeting: October 19, 2017

The executive committee proposes to change the fiscal year from August 1-July 31 to July 1-June 30 to coincide with the school year to aide in the transitioning of duties of the office of the treasurer. The proposal was introduced to the Membership at the general meeting on September 22, 2017, in accordance with the bylaws, giving at least 14 days prior to the meeting at which action is to be taken. The proposed amendments read as follows:

**AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE X: Fiscal Year**

The fiscal year of this PTO shall begin on July 1 and end on June 30. The fiscal year differs from the membership year.

**AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE VI: Duties of PTO Officers**

Section 6. All officers shall deliver to their successors all official material no later than ten days following the close of the meeting in June or upon resignation. An exception to this is for the office of the treasurer, which transitions at the close of the fiscal year on June 30.

Motion to approve Danielle Maloney. Second Nicky Chin. All in favor. None opposed.

8:30 ICEBREAKER: Favorite costume ever. Share with someone sitting near you that you don't know!

8:35 -9:45 Mrs. Grimaldi Update

PARCC Results 2017/2016. *Presentation Slides attached.*

<http://www.nj.gov/education/assessment/parents/> For parents to understand tests and their own students results

- Number of students taking LA and/or Math dramatically decreases by grade as current seniors not required to take PARCC and many students opt out in higher grades
- Proficiency significantly higher than district in grade 9 and goes down in upper grades as less students participating in test
- Math better than state and district. Difference in specific grades and content due to availability of Algebra in grade 8. Geometry and other maths, we test better than state
- Goal for all students to hit Level 4, for Level 4's to improve to Level 5
- District analyzes results for areas to improve: test content areas that need to be taught differently, cohort is analyzed and curriculum changed in response

Why does PARCC matter?

SHS has a great reputation in part because of test scores. Current students pay it forward for future students by trying for great scores. In short, do it for the school.

Parent Questions

Difference in year 1 results of PARCC compared to year 2, not as much in year 3?  
Yes, there was a difference. Trial sections used to develop the test. Test company Pearson does adjust test. School adjusts teaching as well.

Is same PARCC protocol in Middle School and Elementary?  
YES. Look at content to make sure it's taught but not teaching to test.

Could timing be an issue in test results?  
This year LA test after Spring Break. MATH two weeks later. Not ideal but test window limited and state mandates some timing.

## FACT OR FICTION?

During the lockdown that took place on September 28, 2017, there was an active threat in the building and Mrs. Grimaldi and the administration are not being forthcoming with the information shared. **THIS IS FICTION!**

### What Happened?

With new security system LENS (**L**ockdown **E**mergency **N**otification **S**ystem), Lock Down activated by a button in principal's office and can also be activated by dialing in to a designated LENS phone extension. Lock Down went into effect by mistake because extension similar to LENS was dialed.

### Administration/Police Response?

- Administration ran through the building and found nothing of concern. At the same time 12 Summit Police showed up due to the LENS notification. As a result the full process/normal protocol for Lock Down had to be followed: first Police sweep all public areas with SHS security/admin. Then every classroom individually cleared: students hid as per Lock Down procedure.
- Most students said they understood that Lock Down not as serious as ALICE and weren't scared (ALICE, **A**lert **L**ockdown **I**nforn **C**ounter **E**vacuate, also known as Run-Hide-Fight)
- Debrief with police and superintendent. Many lessons: need more master keys and walkie talkies (both added to Budget), block off HS parking lot next time, email must go out quicker (wording now established) as Honeywell texts delayed, extension # for LENS Lock Down changed, entry procedures into classrooms modified, re-unification points clarified, communication protocol reviewed (email/text if a true emergency where in town to pick up child because won't be able to go to school) and so on.

### Parent Questions and Answers

#### Some teachers didn't have key to lock door?

No dead bolts. All doors can be locked from inside the classroom, locks works for all keys. Many doors have magnets that are used so the door remains locked and the magnet blocks the lock from engaging. In an emergency, the magnet then can be pulled and the doors will lock.

To lock, staff has key that will lock door from inside. Some staff forgot to lock door with magnet. Everyone still learning.

#### Lock Down hit Social Media quickly so siblings in college heard before parents?

Students texted siblings, parents and friends. Can't be stopped. Counsellors working with a few upset students

#### Some teachers require cellphones put away. How would students contact?

Different by classroom but all teachers/classrooms have access to phone.

## FACT OR FICTION?

The school is not doing anything about students vaping or using electronic cigarettes in the building. THIS IS FICTION!

### Answer

School changed substance abuse policy this year to include electronic cigarettes (new policy attached). Several students already sent for drug screen test this year.

### What SHS is doing

- Educating students and parents
- Change in drug policy
- Bathroom monitoring
- Partner with police

Administration does lots of research and stays current. Electronic cigarettes at SHS no more prevalent than any other school in nearby/similar districts. LY 10-15 students caught, similar to other schools. This year approximately 7 students to date.

### What's the issue with electronic cigarettes?

Summit Police Sergeant Peters works closely with SHS and is concerned with electronic cigarettes. THC oil may replace nicotine used in electronic cigarettes (JUULS). No perceivable odor so hard to identify. JUULS turned over to police for test for THC (pot).

## Parent Questions and Answers

### Where are students under age 18 getting electronic cigarettes?

Amazon/on line (check the +18 box)

### Why does the BOE pay for drug testing?

Possession of electronic cigarette = automatic drug testing as cigarettes not allowed. District has an OmniMed contract. Why? Eliminates use of personal doctors. Specific protocols followed at lab. Most district have similar contracts. Parents do not pay school back. (About \$220 per drug screen). Parents notified of drug screening.

### What if student is 18?

Parents still notified

### What happens If second offense? What service offered to student?

Student supported academically. Counselor and admin in communication with parents and students and outside support services.

What happens if other drugs found on school property?

Same punishments. See drug policy attached. But conversation different if possession. Turned over to police. Depends on much/how packaged.

Parent Note. Look for small baggies in bedroom and/or lots of cash. If concerned talk to Student Assistance Counselor, Mrs. Amy Herber [aherber@summit.k12.nj.us](mailto:aherber@summit.k12.nj.us)

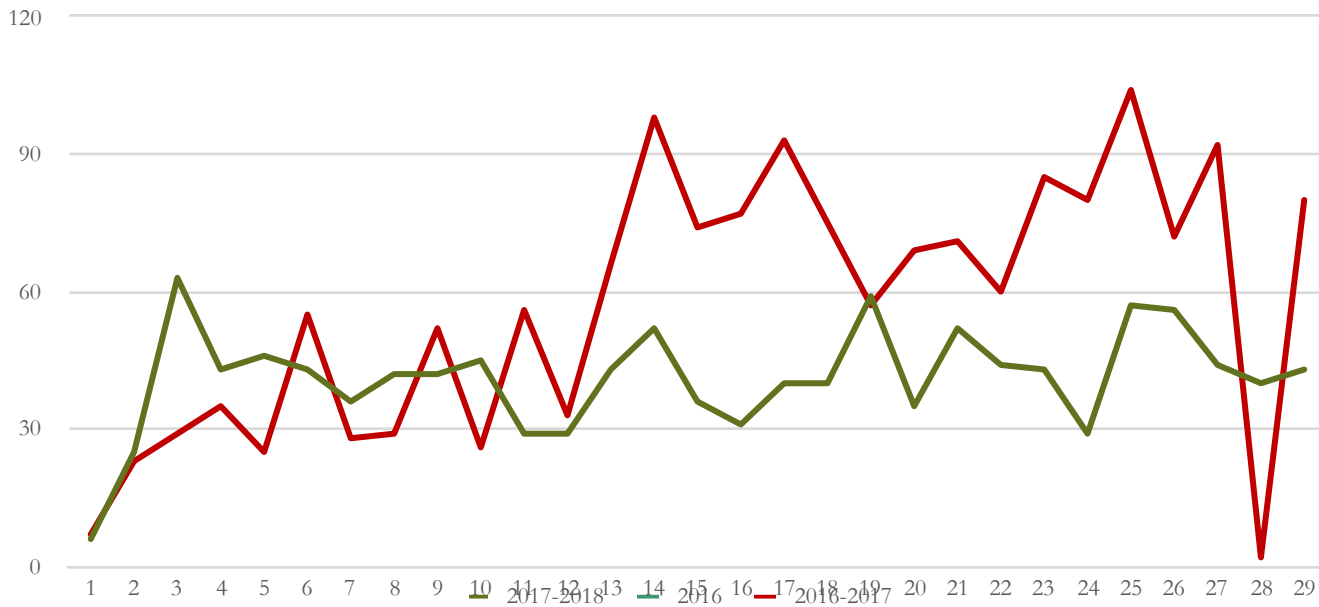
Hidden inPlain Sight program next Wed. 7pm. Interactive. SHS auditorium

### FACT OR FICTION?

Number of students late to school is increasing. THIS IS FICTION!

Number of students Late has decreased this year! Green (lower line)= 2017

Chart: Number of Students Late to School



**THANK YOU** to parents and students. FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS much calmer than in past

## FACT OR FICTION?

Summit HighSchool students are well prepared for college. THIS IS TRUE!

YES. Parents/students say well prepared for college. Better writers than peers. Mrs. Grimaldi has received numerous emails from alumni and parents of alumni commenting on how well prepared students are when they get to college.

## FACT OR FICTION?

What to do if you have concerns about specific teachers.

Talk with the teacher

Talk with the department supervisor

Talk with your child's counselor

TEACHER is always your best resource first. Not the administration.

Mrs. Grimaldi shared personal antidote about her freshman son who had a concern about Math homework grade but was too shy to talk to teacher. She sent an appropriately, respectful email and asked teacher to *talk to her son* (not to her) about the issue.

SHS is Team Student. Be respectful, not accusatory with teachers. Not what we say/its how we say. All on same team.

Teacher Response Standard: No longer than 48 hours for teacher response to email or phone. If no response in 48 hours let SHS admin know.

### Other Parent Questions

Extra Help Opportunities for students? Parent has to hire tutors for help b/c not enough help available

Can Help Centers be available during lunch?

No, because teachers offer help in their classrooms after 30 min lunch so not available to cover Help Centers

Are teachers available after school to help students?

Yes, teachers communicate available times before and after school

Can more Peer Tutoring be available?

Adult must be present if student with another student so would also require teachers

Too much summer required work for AP classes, especially for Seniors

In future, Admin will try to monitor required work. However, the summer work helps overcome the late school start in the North East as nationally all AP Tests are in May. Difficult as Seniors are juggling AP's and college apps over summer. Parents and admin should look more carefully at senior schedule load.

Grading Policy. Why can't all courses should have same grade weighting?

All teachers teach differently, wouldn't be fair or right for admin to mandate. Department supervisors do monitor the rigor of tests for same subjects. Grading should be similar between teachers at same level. % weight for Homework/quiz/Test similar in each department. Pop Quizzes do not have much weight for overall quarter grade

Teacher Evaluations?

Teachers are observed randomly and frequently without prior notice.

Planned Observations are scheduled if concerns about teacher. District admin also involved. Specific process of follow up for teacher

Why doesn't admin mandate Locker use?

Every student has a locker. They don't want to use. Admin doesn't want to mandate Students could go to locker at lunch. Nope. Choose not to.

Administration freedom of speech policy for VERVE and other SHS publications?

Admin committee reads everything that is published: meets monthly with student editors and discuss as a group. Privacy issues for articles/photos may be a concern. Rarely, the admin will request delay in publishing an article to give district time to respond. Only two issues in 8 or 9 years that Stacy Grimaldi has been part of review committee. Goal is to prevent highly inappropriate material or offend students now or future

Why are the students not using the cafeteria tables at lunch?

Plenty of Lunch table space available. Not using tables. Choose to sit on floor. Kids make individual choices

Study Hall in Auditorium, no desks available?

No desks because once wrestling starts, cafeteria tables are folded up. Added desks/tables last year. Will add more this year.

What is the biggest disadvantage SHS students have in applying for college?

Biggest disadvantage is being from NJ. Students 777 are the biggest NJ export

What one thing would Stacy Grimaldi tell every parent?

Have the difficult conversations. Ask questions that require more than Y/N answers. Parents must talk to students regularly and thoroughly.

9:45 Adjourn

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

Oct. 26 Parent Book Club 7:00 pm/SHS Library

Nov. 2 Freshman Class Social 8:00 pm/The Hat Tavern, 10. 11

Nov. 13 Speaker Event with Ron Lieber 7:00 pm/Cafeteria

Please note all policies are available in the Student Handbook

[https://www.summit.k12.nj.us/uploaded/SHS\\_FILES/SHSHandbook17-18.pdf](https://www.summit.k12.nj.us/uploaded/SHS_FILES/SHSHandbook17-18.pdf)

**Smoking Policy** The Board of Education does not permit smoking, the use of tobacco products or the use of electronic cigarettes/vaporizers anywhere in the school building, on school grounds or at school-sponsored events. Students will be subject to the following consequences for tobacco products: 1st Offense: a) 2 detentions b) loss of unassigned study c) products will be confiscated and the police may be contacted if necessary. d) parents will be notified 2nd Offense: a) 4 detentions b) loss of parking privileges 3rd Offense: a) 1 day suspension b) reentry parent meeting with an administrator to discuss consequences of the 4th offense. \*Students who are in possession of electronic cigarettes or vaporizers will be subject to a mandatory drug screening under the revised Substance Abuse Policy. Please refer to Policy and Regulation 5530, 32 definitions, number 6, under the Policies tab at the district website [www.summit.k12.nj.us](http://www.summit.k12.nj.us) for more information about the student substance abuse policy. Student Obligations

**Substance Abuse Policy** Please refer to Policy and Regulation 5530 under the Policies tab at the district website [www.summit.k12.nj.us](http://www.summit.k12.nj.us) for more information about the student substance abuse policy. "Substance" means alcoholic beverages, controlled dangerous substances, including anabolic steroids as defined at N.J.S.A. 24:21-2 and N.J.S.A. 2C:35-2, any chemical or chemical compound which 33 releases vapors or fumes causing a condition of intoxication, inebriation, excitement, stupefaction, or dulling of the brain or nervous system, including, but not limited to, glue containing a solvent having the property of releasing toxic vapors or fumes as defined at N.J.S.A. 2C:35-10.4 and over-the-counter and prescription medications which are improperly used to cause intoxication, inebriation, excitement, stupefaction, or dulling of the brain or nervous system, Juuls, (electronic cigarettes), which may be used for consuming illegal substances. Consequences Any violation of Board rules prohibiting the use, possession and/or distribution of a substance is a serious offense, and the student who violates a substance abuse rule will be disciplined accordingly. Repeated violations are more severe offenses and warrant stricter disciplinary measures. Students who violate the substance abuse rules will be disciplined as follows: First Offense: a. A four-day suspension from school; b. If the student has not received medical clearance to return to school, then the student must have an additional medical examination, verifying that the student is no longer under the influence, and physically and mentally able to perform in school, such medical verification to be presented to the Principal at a re-entry conference at which a parent or guardian must be present; c. A re-admit conference with the family, student, principal or designee, and the Student Assistance Counselor; d. Two mandatory follow up meet-



ings with a Student Assistance Counselor; e. Students who are suspended from school are not permitted to attend school events or activities, be on school grounds or attend classes during the period of suspension; f. A 30-calendar day suspension from athletic and/or extracurricular activities. If there are any remaining suspension days at the end of the school year, these days will carry over to the beginning of the fall athletic, if applicable, or the beginning of the school year. Leadership positions will be revoked for the activity period or entire school year. Second Offense: a. A ten-day suspension from school; b. If the student has not received medical clearance to return to school, then the student must have an additional medical examination, verifying that the student is no longer under the influence, and physically and mentally able to perform in 34 school, such medical verification to be presented to the principal at a re-entry conference at which a parent or guardian must be present; c. Referral to and mandatory evaluation by licensed alcohol and other drug assessment and treatment facility. Student must comply with treatment recommendations resulting from such assessment; d. A re-admit conference with the family, student, principal or designee, and the Student Assistance Counselor; e. Three mandatory follow up meetings with a Student Assistance Counselor; f. Students who are suspended from school are not permitted to attend school events or activities, be on school grounds or attend classes during the period of suspension; g. A 60-calendar day suspension from athletic and/or extracurricular activities. If there are any remaining suspension days at the end of the school year, these days will carry over to the beginning of the fall athletic, if applicable, or the beginning of the school year. Leadership positions will be revoked for the activity period or entire school year; h. The student forfeits the right to any Summit High School special award or scholarship for that school year. Third Offense: a. The student will be suspended or expelled from school as recommended by the superintendent; b. If the student has not received medical clearance to return to school, then the student must have an additional medical examination, verifying that the student is no longer under the influence, and physically and mentally able to perform in school, such medical verification to be presented to the Principal at a re-entry conference at which a parent(s) must be present; c. Referral to and mandatory evaluation by licensed alcohol and other drug assessment and treatment facility. Student must comply with treatment recommendations resulting from such assessment; d. A re-admit conference with the family, student, principal or designee, and the Student Assistance Counselor; e. Students who are suspended from school are not permitted to attend school events or activities, be on school grounds or attend classes during the period of suspension; f. A 90-calendar day suspension from athletic and/or extracurricular activities. If there are any remaining suspension days at the end of the school year, these days will carry over to the beginning of the fall athletic, if applicable, or the 35 beginning of the school year. Leadership positions will be revoked for the entire year; g. The student forfeits the right to any Summit High School special award or scholarship for that school year