

SHS PTO  
General Meeting  
September 22, 2017  
Minutes

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.

**8:15 Icebreaker. Share your favorite school memory with those around you**

**8:25 Co-president Susan Sidebottom called meeting to order**

**Welcome & Vision Co-presidents Susan Sidebottom/Anjali McCormick**

**Focus Area: Friendly and Welcoming Engagement**

- *Ice breakers. Icebreakers at every PTO meeting (at different times, not just at beginning).*
- *Student travel scholarships: new this year, one year pilot. SHS has several trips a year. Scholarship for students that may not be able to afford.*
- *All PTO meetings in library. More intimate environment than auditorium.*
- *New parent book club.*
- *Concentrated communications effort to 'new' families at the high school*
- *Thank you emails to attendees at meetings*
- *Parent Social: Dueling Pianos at Grand Summit*

**Focus Area: Collaborative and Responsible Partnerships**

- *Pilot this year. Award student travel scholarships (Google form for better accessibility)*
- *Partner with LCJSMS to present speaker, Ron Lieber*
- *Partner with Administration to host speaker, Ron Lieber for our 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> graders*
- *Addition of Hispanic Ambassador to our class parent liaisons, 140 families*
- *Finishing the lobby entrance & senior lounge area with Ms. Grimaldi. Goal create more cosy environment. 15 years since last update.*

**Focus Area: Transparency in our Communications**

- *Website format streamlined*
- *Include more information on website, yet still disciplined in approach. Avoid duplication but make sure all information available.*
- *Videotape Ron Lieber, 9<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades exposed to his message*
- *YouTube videos on website to further communications*
- *Promote PTO meetings, changing the time to accommodate busy schedules*

**8:35 Volunteer Introductions**

- Executive Team: Co-presidents elect, Wolfgang Gunther, Jane Meyer, Treasurer Beth Sharpe, VP Communications Nicky Chin, Recording Secretary Nora Holley
- Committee Chairs and Class Parents introduced
- Hospitality Chair Danielle Maloney on importance of Hospitality to the SHS staff. New option to use Angel option when signing up instead of physical donations.

- Membership Chair Alison Chieffo reminded everyone to **join the PTO**
- Parent Social Chair Kristin Pierotti explained **Shake, Rattle and Roll Dueling Pianos on 1/20/18 at the Grand Summit**. More sing along (eventual dance party) than piano bar. The "dueling" is between guests to get the song of their choice played. Guests also pay not to hear certain songs. That's where the fundraising comes in. Great alternative to silent auction.
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- Parent Book Club 10/26 7:00 pm Library. **Mrs. Fletcher by Tom Perrotta..** Will be a provocative and fun conversation. Extra copies of the book are available in SHS Library.  
<http://www.simonandschuster.com/books/Mrs-Fletcher/Tom-Perrotta/9781501144028>

### 8:45-9:00 President's Report

- Class Specific Info (Gatherings, Parent Liaisons & Ambassadors, Web Pages)
- Online Directory. Will not be printed. PTO will alert when on-line directory is complete and provide link to site for self printing if desired.
- PTO offers 3 grants: Teacher Grants, we are in the second year of a two year pilot, Student Travel Scholarships one year pilot, 4 College Scholarships.
- Speaker. Ron Lieber. The Opposite of Spoiled: Raising kids who are Grounded, Generous, and Smart About Money. Don't need to read the book, just come to discussion  
<http://ronlieber.com/>

### 9:00 – 9:05 Treasurer's Report Beth Sharpe

- 2017-18 Budget presented and acknowledged by Kristin Pierotti and Danielle Maloney.
- Fiscal year end proposal: change fiscal year end from 7/30 to 6/30 in order to close books more efficiently. Process: 14 days after proposal finalize at Exec Board, vote at Oct PTO meeting.

### 9:05 – 9:15 Principal's Report Mrs. Grimaldi

- School year kicked off well. Teachers and administration excited to have students back
- Introduced Assistant Principal Nick Steffner, in charge of grades 10 and 12 and student clubs. Assistant Principal Ms Dolan has 9th and 11th grades, parking, student testing
- Laura Kaplan. Director of all School Counseling, sorry to not be at the PTO meeting.
- Back to School Night 9/28. Bring student's schedule. Activities fair in Cafeteria
- New: 9/29 Activities Fair for students in Main Gym during lunch block

Policy Discussion. Please note SHS policies are available to Students and Parents in the Student Handbook. Following is just a brief synopsis of discussion. Refer to Handbook for complete policy.

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

- **New attendance policy:** now coding for Non Cumulative (absent because representing SHS in sports, field trip, debate/drama/music, AP exams, religious holidays or death in family) versus Cumulative absences (ex. sick without a Dr Note). Allowed 20 cumulative absences. Teachers track, similar to past.
- Tardy Policy change because late students are a distraction to students and teachers.
- **New Substance Abuse Policy.** Student found in possession of Juul or electronic cigarette will be drug tested. (Police finding THC oil replacing nicotine in Juul's. Hard to detect, no pot smell).
- Mrs. Grimaldi showed examples of Juul's and candy edibles made with THC. 'How to make' on YouTube: gummy bears, Jolly Ranchers etc. Purchase on Amazon by checking 'Yes, I am 18' box Brownies no longer allowed at Bake Sales.

Parent questions.

Who monitors students after school? *Security officers are present in school. Cameras throughout except in rest rooms and changing rooms.*

How many students per year are sent for drug screening? *About 10-15. Consistent with other nearby schools districts. SHS Staff very vocal with students about Substance Abuse policy. Goal keep students safe.*

- Restorative Practices. SEF Grant for training in Restorative Practices through International Institute Restorative Practices out of Bethlehem, PA. Discipline with purpose. Restorative circle provides opportunity to get to know each other as a person. Possibility of demonstrating Restorative Practices at a PTO meeting

<https://www.iirp.edu/>

## 9:20 Parent Questions for Mrs. Grimaldi

Parking. Where can you park without a Parking Permit? *Very few nearby areas available w/out 2 hour limit. All seniors who requested a space got at least 3 out of 4 quarters. Lottery for spots that come open through out the year. Share the Keys must have been attended by student/parent. 10/3 is only date this year.*

Crossing Guard/ Police at KPB not doing enough to move traffic. *Crossing Guards's cannot direct traffic, only cops. Request for last year's female police officer.*

Bathroom Policy during class. *Every teacher has a policy. If concerned, please contact teachers. Sign in to Bathrooms still in effect*

Note. Teachers must return email/calls within 48 hours. Let Mrs. G know if not happening

9:28 Meeting adjourned by Susan Sidebottom

Respectfully Submitted by Nora Holley 9/27/17