

## Solon Academic Boosters Club

September 21, 2022 Meeting

Officers:

- PRESIDENT: Andrea Pitzel
- SECRETARY : Emily Johnson
- TREASURER: Erica Kanj

In attendance via Zoom: Andrea Pitzel, Emily Johnson, Anju Agarwal, Jen Schusterman, Madhavi Rubbo, and Erica Kanj

### **Call to Order**

Andrea Pitzel

Meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM.

### **Secretary's Report**

Emily Johnson

Please send any reports to emmyedwards@hotmail.com.

### **President's Report**

Andrea Pitzel

- Mission: To promote, recognize, and reward Solon High School students for their academic achievements
- Thank you to the following individuals:
  - Nicole Lieber, for managing the Shining Stars program and recognizing SHS faculty and staff.
  - Sarah Asbury, Stephanie Contipelli, Ava Farivar, Dawn Haynes, Erika Hays, Emily Johnson, Erica Kanj, Jen Schusterman, Grace Shi, Leah Stroom, Candice Walker, and Stephanie Zhang for helping with summer reading book distribution.
  - Shannon Wong, for managing the college essay and supplemental essay workshops.
  - Erica Kanj, for coordinating the Fourth Quarter Strive for 0.5 Award Recognition program.
  - Deborah Bradt, Dawn Haynes, Emily Johnson, Erica Kanj, Robin Siff, Jen Schusterman, Grace Shi, and Candice Walker, for working the student planner sales displays during new student orientation, in the cafeteria the first few days of school, and at the SHS community tailgate.
  - Alum Lori Abraham, for selling student planners & collecting memberships during Curriculum Night
  - Ava Farivar and Erica Kanj, for stocking the SHS Bookstore for 1Q required reading books.
  - Dawn Haynes, for collecting & updating the membership data.
  - Erica Kanj, for managing the budget planning & finances, including Venmo transactions.
  - Madhavi Rubbo, for hosting the technology platforms for the online store, membership, summer reading, college essay workshops, Paypal transactions, and general web upgrades.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Erica Kanj

- We are starting off the year a bit slow. Hoping to be able to sell a few more agendas at some point. Memberships we are steady on. Usually we get a few more people joining after we hold events like Rising Stars. Also, senior parents will join for their kids to be eligible for scholarships. Last year we did really well on the essay workshop so hopefully this year we will have that same interest.
- Book sales are currently down. We are begging people to please purchase their required reading books at SHS bookstore and not on Amazon, etc. The profits from this support SABC.
- Not a lot of change in budget this year. Some small changes here and there, mostly with decreasing membership due to lower student population and raising essay workshops a bit due to high interest. This year we have to pay more for an accountant to do our taxes. The last guy was doing us a huge favor at \$150. Looking at \$350 at least this year.
- We had to change our Venmo payment policy for the bookstore. Before we just required students to show a screenshot of their parent's Venmo purchase or the purchase on their app. But there were rumors that students were photoshopping the screenshots to pick up a book. Purchases now will be verified within Venmo before handing out the books or agendas. All orders placed by 8pm will be verified for next day pick up.
- Please submit any outstanding expense reimbursements.

## Committee Reports

- **Academic Awards/Graduation Medals** Andrea Pitzel
  - ABC provides the following academic awards for senior banquet and awards assemblies:
    - 220+ Graduation Medals
    - 95 Graduation Medals for Academic Excellence, GPA 3.5-3.99 (blue ribbon)
    - 126 Graduation Medals for Academic Excellence, GPA 4.0+ (blue/white ribbon)
  - Year-end Awards, 2022:
    - 620+ underclassmen received academic letter awards
    - 220+ seniors received graduation academic medals
  - National Merit Recognition:
    - 50 students recognized in 2021
    - 50 students projected to be recognized for National Merit Semi-Finalist, Commended, Hispanic, & African American Scholars in 2022
    - This Year's Date: October 26, 2022- will have catered lunch on campus
    - Sign-up genius 4 volunteers
- **Academic Teams Support** Andrea for Pam Selvaggio
  - Support academic teams that submit a mini-grant request to offset competition fees and equipment purchases.
  - Eligible teams include:
    - Academic Challenge
    - Chess Club
    - Future Business Leaders of America
    - Future Problem Solvers
    - Math Club
    - Mock Trial
    - Model United Nations
    - Science Olympiad
    - Speech and Debate

- Provided \$250 mini-grants to five Academic Teams in 2021: Future Problem Solvers, Mock Trial, Model UN, Science Olympiad, This Year: submit club email for mini grant requests 10/17 with due date 11/1. Will vote on submissions at the NOV meeting.and Speech & Debate Clubs
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- **Agendas/Student Planners** Andrea Pitzel
  - Sales during new student orientation, at lunch the first few days of school, SHS tailgate, Curriculum Night, and at the SHS Bookstore
  - Include Solon specific information (i.e., Solon phone numbers, school maps)
  - Last year had COVID delay, with planners arriving second quarter
  - Cost: \$8 each, cash check, online store, Venmo @SHSacademicboosters
  - Ordered 275 (pre-COVID ordered 600)
  - Sales through 9/1: \$1295
- **Book Sales** Andrea Pitzel
  - Sell summer reading books and supplemental quarterly books for English, AP History, AP Spanish, Yoga classes at SHS Bookstore
  - Biggest fundraiser, historically
  - Encourage your students to purchase for the SHS Bookstore, located just outside the cafeteria and senior commons
  - Venmo sales: students will need to be on the Venmo transaction list, no longer just a screen shot, to receive book
  - Stock roughly 75% of class size
  - First Quarter books sold vary greatly by class, from 7-131 books sold/class:
    - 70% sold English 9
    - 58% sold English 10
    - 76% sold English 11
    - 94% sold English 11 Honors
    - 72% sold English 12
    - 31% sold AP Lit
- **Bylaws** Andrea Pitzel
  - No report
- **College Essay Workshop** Andrea Pitzel
  - Held 6 sets of in person workshops, to help current juniors begin their college application essay
    - Maximum capacity, all workshops filled quickly
    - 120+ students attended
  - Conducted by SHS College Essay Advisors
  - Signups in April with sessions held MAY-AUG
  - Academic Boosters members have 1st priority signing up for sessions
  - Offered 2 hour supplemental essay workshop
- **Corporate Membership** Andrea Pitzel
  - No report
- **Fundraising** Andrea Pitzel
  - Income generators:
    - Membership
    - Donations
    - Supplemental Reading Books at SHS Bookstore
    - Student Planners
    - Chipotle Fundraiser
    - Smile.Amazon.Com, choose Solon Academic Boosters Club as organization of choice

- Fall Fundraiser
  - Chipotle or look at other options
    - Ask other restaurants such as Jersey Mike's in Solon
    - Look at dessert options for spring
- Suggestions/marketing
- **Membership** Andrea for Dawn Hayes
  - Created a Google Doc and email address for membership
  - Staff and total membership, as of 9/8/2022
    - \$3500 YTD 2022 (92% 2021)
    - \$3800 YTD 2021
    - \$4290 YTD 2020 (virtual)
    - \$6800 YE 2019
  - Staff members
    - 53 staff members YTD 2022
    - 69 staff members FY 2021-22
    - 67 staff members YTD 2020 (virtual)
    - 59 staff members YTD 2019
  - Parent members:
    - 122 parent members YTD 2022
    - 297 parent members FY 2021-22
    - 111 parent members YTD 2020 (virtual)
    - 155 parent members YTD 2019
  - Paper and electronic memberships
  - ID target groups with emails: prior members, college essay workshop participants, and those who placed book orders
- **Rising Stars** Jen Shusterman
  - STARS= Solon Teachers Are Recognizing Students
  - Teachers recognize students: motivation, perseverance, leadership, citizenship, academic performance
  - Recognized over 760 students last year during Dessert Bars
    - Take home treat, 2020
    - School luncheon, 2019
  - Positive feedback for Dessert Bars: time, variety, selection of options, cost effective
  - Extras used for Early Morning Bake Sale the following day
  - Rising Stars Dates: OCT 20, JAN 12, MAR 22
  - Early AM Bake Sale Dates: OCT 21, JAN 13, MAR 23
  - Sign-up Genius for volunteers to provide baked goods and work the event & work the early am bake sale
- **Scholarship** Andrea Pitzel
  - Seniors complete scholarship application for Solon Academic Boosters Scholarship
  - Parent must be member for scholarship consideration
  - \$10,800 in scholarships awarded during Senior Award Ceremony
  - Some winners sent thank you notes.
  - Looking for a committee chair, to coordinate packets of scholarship information, tally judge scores and provide financial recommendations
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- **Shining Star** Andrea Pitzel
  - Seniors recognize SHS teachers who have made an impact
  - Teacher receives certificate with name(s) of nominating student(s)

- 116 faculty/admin/coach/advisor/staff were recognized
- **Strive for 0.5** Erica Kanj
  - Recognize students who raise GPA by 0.5 or greater from a quarter to the next
  - Recognized 240+ students
- **Technology** Madhavi Rubbo
  - Theme changed on the website
  - Looking for volunteer to shadow Madhavi Rubbo and take over committee next year

### **Unfinished Business**

- none

### **New Business**

- Looking for members to take some committee roles.
- Solon Academic Boosters will have a presence at UnityTailgate on October 14, 2022.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:48 pm.