

Solon Academic Boosters Club

November 16, 2022 Meeting

Officers:

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

In attendance via Zoom: Andrea Pitzel, Emily Johnson, Candice Walker, Dawn Haynes, Jen Schusterman, Pam Selvaggio, and Madhavi Rubbo

Call to Order

Andrea Pitzel

Meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM.

Secretary's Report

Emily Johnson

Please send any reports to emmyedwards@hotmail.com. Minutes from the October meeting are pending approval.

President's Report

Andrea Pitzel

- Mission: To promote, recognize, and reward Solon High School students for their academic achievements
- Date Reminders
 - No DEC meeting
 - Rising Stars WED 01/11
 - Next meeting WED 01/18
- Thank you to the following individuals:
 - Anju Agarwal, Jen Schusterman, and Candice Walker, for organizing the Rising Stars Student Recognition, held 10/20.
 - Sonal Bandi, Jayashree Dorairaj, Erica Kanj, Kristen Newman, Teanna Pollard, Alyssa Rukin, Leah Streem, Stephanie Zhang, and Cathy Zweig, for volunteering for the Rising Stars Dessert Bar.
 - The parents who donated baked goods, fruit, and candy for the event.
 - Dawn Haynes, Emily Johnson, and Erica Kanj, for working the early morning bake sale, 10/21.
 - Jen Schusterman and Candice Walker, for organizing the National Merit Recognition Luncheon, held 10/26.
 - Navaneeth Bashyam, Jayashree Dorairaj, Michelle Levine, Grace Shi, Jen Schusterman, and Candice Walker, for volunteering for the National Merit Luncheon.
 - Pam Selvaggio, for sending communications to the academic teams regarding the mini grant process.
 - Jen Schusterman, for scheduling the Jersey Mike's Subs fundraiser, held 11/13.
 - The families who placed sub orders supporting the fundraiser on a stormy November Sunday.
 - Dawn Haynes, for collecting and updating the membership data.

- Madhavi Rubbo, for maintaining the technology platforms for the academic team mini grants, the online store, and general web updates.
- Erica Kanj, for managing the budget planning and finances, including Venmo transactions, and posting FB messages.
- Emily Johnson, for compiling the meeting minutes.

Treasurer's Report

Erica Kanj

- Everything is on track as expected. We have finally met our projected income goal for memberships. We will probably get a few more early in the next year from people wanting priority registration for essay workshops as well as people joining for scholarship opportunities.
- Income is low from the bookstore because we are still awaiting payment from 1st quarter books. We never bill until well after the quarter so that we can return unused books first before billing.
- Every year a charitable registration has to be filed with the state for non-profits and that has been done. Taxes are near completion from our new tax guy. Deadline is not until December 15th for organizations whose tax year is July 31st.
- If you have any reimbursements, please get them to me in a timely manner if possibly. Everything can be done via email if you just reach out to me.

Committee Reports

- **Academic Awards/Graduation Medals** Jen Schusterman
 - National Merit Recognition Luncheon held at the SHS Atrium, 10/26
 - 54 students recognized
 - Lunch catered by Alesci's, cake, and fruit. Will change the quantity of food for next year.
 - Erin Short gave Academic Boosters an opportunity to address the group. Had membership postcards at the dessert table.
 - Students enjoyed hanging out afterwards.
 - Volunteers at event were parents of National Merit students
 - Parents of recipients were sent an email requesting membership after the event.
- **Academic Teams Support** Andrea for Pam Selvaggio
 - Support academic teams that submit a mini-grant request to offset competition fees and equipment purchases, up to \$250.
 - Sent email to academic team advisors, with application deadline of 11/1
 - 5 teams submitted grant requests:
 - Science Olympiad: SAWSTOP BRAKE REPLACEMENT PARTS, a safety feature on saws used (50-100 members) \$250 request
 - Speech and Debate: TOURNAMENT ENTRY FEES, for students that are unable to pay competition fee (50-100 members) \$250 request
 - Future Business Leaders of America: COMPETITION COSTS, including supplies, travel, and t-shirts (0-50 members), only \$200 request
 - Future Problem Solving: COMPETITION REGISTRATION, costs \$100/team to compete (0-50 members) \$250 request
 - Mock Trial: TEAM EXPENSES, competition entry fees, annual banquet food (50-100 members) \$250 request
 - Vote on mini grant requests

- Emily Johnson made a motion to award the 5 academic teams that applied for mini-grants the amounts requested.
 - Madhavi Rubbo seconded the motion.
 - Hand vote was taken and motion unanimously passed.
 - Pam will send an email to teams that the grants will be awarded shortly.
- **Agendas/Student Planners** Andrea Pitzel
 - No report
- **Book Sales** Andrea Pitzel
 - Awaiting First Quarter book payment from SHS, following the return of unused books to Fireside
 - Second Quarter books are stocked and available for purchase
 - Second Quarter book for English 12 was on publisher back-order, which affected sales, as we had to turn students away who came to the bookstore to purchase
 - Ordered Third Quarter books early for English 12 classes, to have before winter break
 - Working with teachers for their Third Quarter book assignments, so we can place the order shortly, in time for delivery
- **Bylaws** Andrea Pitzel
 - No report
- **College Essay Workshop** Andrea Pitzel
 - No report
- **Corporate Membership** Andrea Pitzel
 - No report
- **Fundraising** Andrea & Jen Schusterman
 - Early Morning Bake Sale: FRI 10/21
 - Had only 1 location, selling donations from Rising Stars Dessert Bar & additional donuts purchased, from 7:10-7:50 AM
 - Included in SHS morning announcements, FB post, & Paula Telepak made a school announcement that morning
 - \$193 in sales, after subtracting the expense of extra donuts purchased
 - For future bake sale, will stock more donuts, as they quickly sold out
 - Jersey Mike's Sub Fundraiser: SUN 11/13
 - Marketing: Two emails to members, posters at SHS, flyers in senior commons, placed in SHS teacher mailboxes, posted on FB, posted on Solon Soundboard, left at Solon BOE, sent to Solon school PTA presidents
 - Wintry mix weather-wise limited people leaving their homes
 - Only 29 orders for Solon Academic Boosters
 - Awaiting financials
 - Potential to do a second fundraiser with them
 - Disadvantages: more difficult to get Sunday buyers; lose the after school and after sports/extracurriculars crowds going straight from campus
 - Suggestions/marketing
 - Reminder for holiday shopping with Amazon
 - Smile.Amazon.Com, choose Solon Academic Boosters Club as organization of choice
 - Portion of proceeds of eligible purchases goes to organization when you shop SMILE.AMAZON.COM
- **Membership** Dawn Hayes
 - Staff and total membership, as of 10/31/2022
 - \$4232 YTD end 09/2022

- \$5527 YTD mid 10/2022
 - \$5627 YTD end 10/2022, \$6736 11/2/2022
 - Met \$6500 target
 - Staff members
 - 72 staff members YTD 11/2022
 - Parent members:
 - 122 parent members YTD 9/2022
 - 159 parent members YTD 10/5/2022
 - 192 members YTD end 10/2022
 - New memberships coming from emails sent to prior members and National Merit recipients
- **Rising Stars** Jen Shusterman
 - STARS= Solon Teachers Are Recognizing Students
 - Teachers recognize students: motivation, perseverance, and effort
 - Hosted fall event, Thursday 10/20, Dessert Bar
 - Utilized donations from sign-up genius
 - Recognized roughly 300 students
 - 230 students recognized in the Fall Rising Stars 2021
 - Increased nominations due to multiple requests for submissions by SHS administration
 - Extras used for Early AM Bake Sale the following day, 10/21
 - Tight timeline for next event:
 - Need to get signup genius invite in early DEC, upon return from Thanksgiving break, and spots filled before winter break
 - SHS back to school TH 01/05, with Rising Stars the following WED 01/11
 - Thinking about having a lunch rather than a dessert bar for January event.
 - Rising Stars Dates: JAN 11, MAR 22
 - Early AM Bake Sale Dates: JAN 13, MAR 23
- **Scholarship** Andrea Pitzel
 - In the past, Solon Academic Boosters has reached out to the parent offering the chance to join as a member in order for the student's application to be considered.
 - Other parent organizations (i.e., SHS PTA, Music Parents, Solon Athletic Boosters) do not consider a student's scholarship application if the parent is not a member.
 - Effective for the 2022-23 scholarship application process, Solon Academic Boosters will align with the other parent organizations and no longer consider a student's application whose parent is not a member.
 - Elimination of these applicants will reduce the workload of the scholarship committee chair, in terms of reaching out to non-members to request membership.
 - Membership needs to be submitted by 12/31 for consideration for the scholarship application process.
- **Shining Star** Andrea Pitzel
 - No report
- **Strive for 0.5** Erica Kanj
 - No report
- **Technology** Madhavi Rubbo
 - Maintain and update web presence and e-commerce
 - Early bird membership taken down from the store

- Looking for volunteer to shadow Madhavi Rubbo and take over committee next year

Unfinished Business

- none

New Business

- Proposed mini grants vote done during committee reports
- Committee Volunteers
- Scholarship deadline discussed and agreed upon as noted under the Scholarship Committee report.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:44 pm.