

Solon Academic Boosters Club

April 19, 2023 Meeting

Officers:

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

In attendance via Zoom: Andrea Pitzel, Emily Johnson, Jennifer Shusterman, Erica Kanj, Ava Farivar, and Darci Friedman

Call to Order Andrea Pitzel

Meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM.

Secretary's Report Emily Johnson

March meeting minutes were approved and posted on the Solon Academic Boosters Club website.

President's Report Andrea Pitzel

- Date Reminders:
 - Summer books will be available for pre-order in May
 - Year-end award assemblies: May 16 (juniors AM, seniors PM), May 17 (sophomores), May 18 (freshmen)
 - Next meeting Wednesday, 05/17
 - Year-end gathering: last meeting
- Thank you to the following individuals:
 - Anju Agarwal, Jen Schusterman, and Candice Walker for coordinating the MAR Rising Stars Recognition program.
 - Kristen Chandler, Tera Gross, Natalya Karathanasis, Jennifer Kavanagh, Orit Krivis, Teanna Pollard, Alyssa Rukin, Alicia Russman, Robin Siff, and Leah Streem, for volunteering for the Rising Stars Dessert Bar 03/21.
 - All the parents who donated sweet treats for the Dessert Bar.
 - Tera Gross, Dawn Haynes, Erica Kanj, and Jen Schusterman, for working the early morning bake sale on 03/22.
 - Shannon Wong, for coordinating the college essay workshop registrations.
 - Robin Siff, for helping distribute the college essay workshop promotional materials for the English 11 classes.
 - Emily Johnson, for coordinating the senior scholarship program.
 - Deepak Bhat, Ava Farivar, Darci Friedman, Erica Kanj, and Sangeeta Nippani, for carving time out from spring break to review the scholarship applications.
 - Shannon Wong, for coordinating the college essay workshop registrations.
 - Dawn Haynes, for updating membership lists for senior scholarships and junior early registration for essay workshops.
 - Madhavi Rubbo, for updating the website for the college essay workshop and running registration reports.
 - Erica Kanj, for completing the Strive for 0.5 Awards.
 - Teanna Pollard, for coordinating the Shining Stars program.
 - Emily Johnson, for purchasing the candy for the Shining Stars program.

- Emily Johnson, Erica Kanj and Madhavi Rubbo, for the behind-the-scenes operational support.

Treasurer's Report

Erica Kanj

- February was really a very slow month from a financial standpoint.
 - There were a few smaller deposits for the bookstore and the bake sale which raised approximately \$200.
 - Only expense was for technology.
 - Things will ramp up with college essay workshop registration opening soon, as well as sale of quarterly books.
- April will have more activity
 - Bookstore sales
 - College essay workshops
 - Scholarship award checks
 - Reimbursements- get those in by June

Committee Reports

- **Academic Awards/Graduation Medals** Andrea Pitzel
 - Ordered honor roll awards and graduation medals.
 - Honor roll medals have been delivered.
 - Graduation medals will be ready next week.
 - Will need volunteers to assemble awards, which can be done at home.
 - Volunteers: Erica Kanj, Emily Johnson, Jen Schusterman, Darci Friedman, Ava Farivar
 - Tera Gross will take over academic year-end awards committee next year.
 - Will need committee chair for the National Merit Luncheon next year.
- **Academic Teams Support** Andrea Pitzel
 - Need a chair for next year (tentative yes)
- **Agendas/Student Planners** Andrea Pitzel
 - Confirmed school bell schedule for next year.
 - Proof of next year's cover and back cover: due this week.
 - Will need committee chair for next year.
- **Book Sales** Andrea Pitzel
 - Fourth Quarter books are on sale at the SHS Bookstore.
 - Summer reading books will be available via pre-order on the web: <https://www.solonacademicboosters.com/onlinestore>
 - Awaiting book titles from teachers
 - Will work with Madhavi and Denise to list items online.
 - Online orders will be announced early May and it will be a short ordering period.
 - Required reading books for English, AP History, and AP Spanish classes for incoming grades 9-12.
 - Books will be picked at the end of the school year at SHS and SMS for incoming 9th graders.
 - Third Quarter book invoice has been paid by SHS
 - \$13,306 total sales
 - 1070 total books sold

- \$11,783 reimbursed sales, excluding Venmo
 - 121 Venmo books sold
 - Second Quarter book comparison
 - \$12,413 total sales
 - 843 total books sold
 - \$10,713 reimbursed sales, excluding Venmo
 - 118 Venmo books sold
- **Bylaws** Andrea Pitzel
 - No report
- **College Essay Workshop** Andrea Pitzel
 - Junior English classes had visitations by students who participated in the workshops, April 4-5.
 - Early online registration began April 6. Open registration began April 10.
 - Promo: flier in English class, posted online by teacher, email to Academic Boosters members, FaceBook post ABC and SHS PTA, email from Tammy Strom, Naviance email to juniors.
 - Target enrollment: minimum of 16, suggested maximum of 22 with ultimate max of 24.
 - Current registration for the college essay writing workshops, as of 04/17:
 - Session 1, 18
 - Session 2, 22
 - Session 3, 23
 - Session 4, 15
 - Sessions 5 and 6, 3 each
 - Last year, at the April meeting, sessions 1-4 were filled at max capacity, with few slots left in sessions 5-6.
 - This junior class has 90 fewer students than last year's class.
 - Good enrollment by ABC members.
 - Accepted a few additional memberships to allow for early registration.
 - Word of mouth also helps support program; please share posts.
- **Corporate Membership** Andrea Pitzel
 - Looking for committee chair and volunteers to identify Solon businesses to target, create mailing, leverage relationships for next year.
- **Fundraising** Andrea Pitzel
 - Bake Sale earned \$200, 03/22.
 - Restaurant fundraiser for spring?
 - Suggested to revisit a Chipotle fundraiser next year- Erica Kanj
 - Waterway as an idea- Darci Friedman
 - Amazon Smile program ended 02/2023
 - Should be receiving one small final check.
- **Membership** Andrea Pitzel for Dawn Haynes
 - 6-7 new memberships for juniors interested in early registration for the college essay workshop.
 - 13 new memberships last year, in advance of the workshops.
- **Rising Stars** Jen Shusterman
 - STARS= Solon Teachers Are Recognizing Students
 - We hosted the third Rising Stars dessert bar on 03/21.
 - 270+ students were nominated by their teachers with approximately 170 attending
 - Brownies, cookies, candy, fruit, and donuts were donated by parents.
 - Students picked up certificates during 3rd period, to encourage more winners to attend Dessert Bar during lunch periods.

- Students and their parents received an email notifying them of the event (that day, not in advance, as was done with prior events).
- Items not sold were left for staff and donated to the food pantry at Volunteers of America in Aurora.
- **Scholarship** Emily Johnson
 - 29 applications submitted, 25 were eligible with current membership status.
 - Thank you to the judges for their time in evaluating the applications.
 - 16 seniors will receive scholarships which is 64% of applicants.
 - \$10,300 in scholarships.
 - Award winners will be recognized at the Senior Awards Program in May.
- **Shining Star** Andrea Pitzel
 - Seniors can nominate staff member/coach/advisor who has made a positive impact during their time at SHS.
 - Can submit multiple nominations.
 - Hard copy nominations submitted in Senior Commons.
 - Electronic nominations submitted via Google Docs.
 - Extended deadline with the Easter holiday. As a result, received 30 additional nominations.
 - Teanna Pollard is finalizing the certificates.
 - Winners receive certificates and candy the last week of classes for seniors, the week of April 24th.
- **Strive for 0.5** Erica Kanj
 - *Recognized 80+ students for the Strive for 0.5 Award in April.*
 - Students raised their GPA by 0.5 or greater from Second Quarter to Third Quarter.
 - Packets were put in teacher mailboxes today.
 - Students received a letter, award certificate, and sweet treats, 04/20.
- **Technology** Andrea for Madhavi Rubbo
 - Updates made for college essay workshop.
 - Ran membership reports for senior scholarships and college essay workshops. Ongoing reports to capture registrations.
 - Upcoming projects: summer reading to be added to website.
 - Maintain and update web presence and e-commerce.

Unfinished Business

- Open committees for 2023-24
 - Academic Awards (National Merit Luncheon)
 - Academic Teams Support (maybe)
 - Agendas/student planners (maybe)
 - Book sales co-chair
 - Fundraising
 - Will need a Secretary next year, who is considered a board position

New Business

- Volunteer opportunities: Academic Awards assembly
- Year-end gathering: we will be meeting in person on May 17th at 7:00 PM at Roll House

Meeting was adjourned at 7:38 PM.