

## Solon Academic Boosters Club

September 20, 2023 Meeting

Officers:

- PRESIDENT: Emily Johnson/Ava Farivar
- TREASURER: Erica Kanj
- SECRETARY: Amanda Musick

In attendance via Zoom: Emily Johnson, Erica Kanj, Ava Farivar, Amanda Musick, Robin Siff, Dawn Haynes, Teanna Pollard and Jody Halley

### Call to Order

Emily Johnson

Meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM.

### Secretary's Report

Amanda Musick

Please send any reports to [kelsey.musick@gmail.com](mailto:kelsey.musick@gmail.com)

### President's Report

Emily Johnson

- Welcome and Introduction
- Mission: To promote, recognize, and reward Solon High School students for their academic achievements
- Explanation of Committees during Committee Reports
- Thank you to the following individuals:
  - Teanna Pollard, for managing the Shining Stars program and recognizing SHS faculty and staff.
  - Dawn Haynes, Leah Stroom, Candice Walker, Stephanie Contipelli, Jennifer Grossman, Emily Johnson, Ava Farivar, Jody Halley, Erica Kanj, and Andrea Pitzel for helping with summer reading book distribution.
  - Shannon Wong and Andrea Pitzel, for managing the college essay and supplemental essay workshops.
  - Erica Kanj, for coordinating the 4Q Strive for 0.5 Award Recognition program.
  - Christa Bomeli for overseeing student planner sales
  - Laurie Mohler, Jody Halley, Christa Bomeli, Leah Stroom, Dawn Haynes, Sonal Bandi, Anju Agarwal, Darci Friedman, and Ava Farivar, and for working the student planner sales displays during new student orientation and in the cafeteria the first few days of school.
  - Emily Johnson, for collecting memberships during Curriculum Night.
  - Ava Farivar and Erica Kanj, for speaking about Academic Boosters at Parent Principal Coffees.
  - Ava Farivar and Erica Kanj, for stocking the SHS Bookstore for First Quarter required reading books.
  - Dawn Haynes, for collecting and updating the membership data.
  - Erica Kanj, for managing the budget planning and finances, including Venmo transactions.
  - Denise Elliot, for hosting the technology platforms for the online store, membership, summer reading, college essay workshops, Paypal transactions,

- and general web upgrades.
- Denise Elliot, Erica Kanj, and Dawn Haynes for collaborative work on membership sales and membership database maintenance.

## Treasurer's Report

Erica Kanj

- This is my 4th year being treasurer for Academic Boosters.
  - Also 2 years in middle school
- We came in under budget for everything last year - a very fiscally sound organization.
  - We do not have one major source of income
    - Small sales - book store, agendas and membership. At the end of the year college essay workshops bring in a little more
      - Please support those things
    - Have your children buy their required reading books at the Solon HS bookstore rather than someplace like Amazon.
- If you look at our most recent budget (Feel free to request a review via email) you will see what we will be proposing for this school year and voting on later in the October meeting, as well as the transactions that we have already had.
  - I want to point out that for agendas it says \$820 but we projected to bring in \$1600. We exceeded that. We sold every planner for a total of over \$1,900.
    - more than \$1,100 of those sales occurred in the spring with pre-sales. We have not done that before so that is why it is noted on the bottom.
      - I think the plan will be to do pre-sales again this spring.
- Membership is low. We have approximately \$1,000 less than we did at this same time last year.
  - Please join if you have not done so and also encourage others you know to join and get involved.
  - Membership dues are a significant portion of our income. We are not the only school organization that has struggled with membership since Covid.
  - A reminder that if you are a senior parent and your child will apply for a scholarship this spring, you must be a member.
- A savings account with over \$20,000 that has been untouched since I have been treasurer. It was never explained to me why we have this.
  - We want to plan to use a little of this money, possibly at the end of this year, to buy a new bookstore sales system like Square.
    - This needs to be looked into and discussed with the school. The system they have now is very antiquated. This system would not be implemented until next school year.
    - We currently use Venmo and it requires a personal account - there are no business accounts. Therefore it will not likely be a form of payment for SABC next school year.
      - only required reading books and memberships can be purchased using it.
      - You cannot buy locks, pay AP fees, etc. Those are items the school sells, not SABC.

- Using a system like ApplePay or something more useful to the students should be considered

## Committee Reports

- **Academic Awards (National Merit)** Emily for Lisa Monaco, Candice Walker
  - National Merit Recognition
    - 54 students recognized in 2022
    - 44 students projected to be recognized for National Merit Semi-Finalist, Commended, Hispanic, and African American Scholars in 2023
    - This Year's Date: November 2
      - Awaiting names from administration
      - Sign-up genius for volunteers
- **Academic Awards (Year-End)** Emily for Tera Gross
  - Year-End Awards Assemblies for each grade
  - Honor Roll: Students with cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher
    - 1st year winner: chenille letter
    - 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> year winner: different pins
    - 4<sup>th</sup> year winner: graduation medal
  - Year-end Awards, 2023:
    - 600+ underclassmen received academic letter awards
    - 220+ seniors received graduation academic medals
- **Academic Teams Support** Emily for Shakari Donerson
  - 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 5 Academic Teams in 2022
- **Agendas/Student Planners** Emily for Christa Bomeli
  - Sales during new student orientation, at lunch the first few days of school, and at the SHS Bookstore
  - Include Solon specific information (i.e., Solon phone numbers, school maps)
  - Cost: \$10, cash, check, online store, Venmo @SHSacademicboosters
  - Ordered 250 (pre-COVID ordered 600)
  - Sales through 9/20: \$1,900 (confirmed by treasurer)
  - Sold out before Curriculum Night

- Leftover planners that were sold but not picked were distributed
  - 2 planners donated to counselors to pass on to a student in need
  
- **Book Sales** Ava Farivar
  - 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 screenshot to receive book
  - Stock roughly 75% of class size
  - First Quarter book sales went well. Inventory to be done.
  - Ordering 2nd Quarter tomorrow
  
- **Bylaws** Emily Johnson,\*Erica Kanj
  - Update standard operating procedures for the group to be done Nov./Dec.
  
- **College Essay Workshop** Robin Siff
  - Planning to begin in January, an additional person to help chair the committee will be needed
    - Held six sets of in-person workshops to help juniors begin their college application essay
    - Conducted by SHS College Essay Advisors
    - Signups in April with sessions held May-August
    - Academic Boosters members have 1<sup>st</sup> priority signing up for sessions
    - Offered 2 hr supplemental essay workshop
  
- **Corporate Membership** Emily for Holly Boykin
  - New committee this year to appeal to Solon businesses to invest in Solon Academic Boosters
  - Corporate support to increase income
  - Volunteers needed to work on committee, identify businesses to target, leverage relationships
  
- **Fundraising** Emily for Anju Agarwal
  - Income generators:
    - Membership
    - Donations
    - Supplemental Reading Books at SHS Bookstore
    - Student Planners
    - Dining Fundraiser
  - Fall Fundraiser
    - Chipotle or other option?

- **Membership** Dawn Haynes
  - Staff and total membership, as of 9/10/2023
    - \$3920 YTD 2023
    - \$3500 YTD 2022
    - Staff members
      - 64 staff members YTD 2023
      - 53 staff members 9/2022
    - Parent members:
      - 98 parent members YTD 2023
      - 122 parent members 9/2022
      - 215 parent members FY 2022-23
  - Paper and electronic memberships
  - Membership Drive via emails to : prior members, college essay workshop participants, those who placed summer reading book orders, and after Rising Stars events and National Merit event.
  
- **Rising Stars** Emily for Anju Agarwal, Candice Walker
  - STARS= Solon Teachers Are Recognizing Students
  - Teachers recognize students: motivation, perseverance, leadership, citizenship, academic performance
  - Recognized over 900 nominations last year
  - Rising Stars: OCT 26 Luncheon
  
- **Scholarship** Emily Johnson
  - Seniors complete scholarship application for Solon Academic Boosters Scholarship
  - Parent must be member by December 31st for scholarship consideration
  - 16 scholarships awarded during Senior Award Ceremony
  
- **Shining Star** Teanna Pollard
  - Seniors recognize SHS teachers who have made an impact
  - Teacher receives certificate with name(s) of nominating student(s)
  - 98 faculty/admin/coach/advisor/staff were recognized
  
- **Strive for 0.5** \*Erica Kanj
  - Organized in January once grades are updated
  - Recognize students who raise GPA by 0.5 or greater from a quarter to the next
  - Recognized 130+ students - usually a large candybar or treat bag
  
- **Technology** Emily for Denise Elliot
  - Maintain and update web presence and e-commerce

## Unfinished Business

- none

### **New Business**

- Budget proposal
  - Please email Erica Kanj if you need to further review the budget numbers
  - No big changes in the budget this year
  - Increasing some budgets like Rising Star and Academic Support to ensure the money is going back to the students
  - Budget will be presented again in October meeting for approval

### **CONTACTS:**

Emily Johnson, emmyedwards@hotmail.com to email newsletter and meeting updates

Amanda Musick, Kelsey.musick@gmail.com for meeting notes

Web: solonacademicboosters.com

Facebook: SOLON ACADEMIC BOOSTERS CLUB,

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/656443948747070/>

### **UPCOMING DATES:**

**MEETINGS:** Third Wednesday monthly, 7:00 pm: SEPT 20, OCT 18, NOV 15, JAN 17, FEB 14, MAR 20, APR 17, MAY 15

**RISING STARS:** OCT 26, JAN 25, MAR 21

**NATIONAL MERIT RECOGNITION:** NOV 2

Meeting was adjourned at 7:38 pm.