

Solon Academic Boosters Club

November 15, 2023 Meeting

Officers:

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

In attendance via Zoom: Emily Johnson, Amanda Musick, Candice Walker, Ava Farivar, Dawn Haynes and Stefanie Lader

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. Minutes from the October meeting were approved and posted to the website.

President's Report

Emily Johnson

- Welcome
- Mission: To promote, recognize, and reward Solon High School students for their academic achievements
- Thank you to the following individuals:
 - Anju Agarwal and Candice Walker, for organizing the Rising Stars Student Recognition, held 10/26.
 - The parent volunteers for set-up, serving, and clean-up at the Rising Stars event.
 - Lisa Monaco and Candice Walker, for organizing the National Merit Recognition Luncheon, held 11/2.
 - The parent volunteers for set-up, serving, and clean-up at the National Merit Luncheon.
 - Dawn Haynes, for collecting and updating the membership data.
 - Denise Elliott, 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.
 - Amanda Musick, for compiling the meeting minutes.

Treasurer's Report

Amanda Musick for Erica Kanj

- Expenses in last month:
 - Payment to Fireside books for 2nd Quarter books totaled \$9,475
 - Payment to Ava Farivar for \$373 to reimburse her for books purchased on Amazon.
 - As an organization we purchase most, if not all our books at Fireside but occasionally Amazon will have a great deal that allows more profit
 - Reimbursements to Candice Walker and Emily Johnson for food they purchased for Rising Stars
 - Reimbursement to Lisa Monaco for food purchase at Alesci's for National Merit Luncheon

- Income in last month:
 - \$644 transfer from Paypal. All for membership dues and \$15 of donations
 - \$985 transfer from Venmo for book sales
 - \$20 deposit to bank for 2 in person membership sales
 - \$252 deposit from Solon Schools for planners they gave to students on Free and reduced lunch

- Reminder, please try to submit reimbursement requests as soon as you can after an event. Thanks to those who have done so.
 - Receipts MUST be included for reimbursement and if you wait too long they may get lost.
 - Please deposit checks sent out as soon as you are able for the same reason. Again, thanks to those who have been depositing their checks quickly.

- A reimbursement check is expected for book sales with cash or check at the bookstore in the next month. Thanks to Ava for handling all that billing.
- Considering a switch from a savings account to a money market. Athletic boosters just did and earned over \$400 in interest in a month.

Committee Reports

- **Academic Awards (National Merit)** Candice Walker
 - National Merit Recognition Luncheon held at the SHS Atrium, 11/2
 - 49 students recognized (only 3 unable to attend)
 - Lunch catered by Alesci's - late but admin helped plate making up time
 - Parents of recipients were sent an email requesting membership

- **Academic Awards (Year-End)** Emily Johnson
 - No report

- **Academic Teams Support**

Emily Johnson for Shakari Donerson

- 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 10/15, with application deadline of 11/1
- 7 teams applied for a mini-grant (\$250)
 - Science Olympiad: Materials for the shop - screws, rails etc. for several of our events including scrambler, air trajectory and robot tour.
 - Speech and Debate: 4 presentation stands, 3 ring binders, page protectors, t-shirts
 - Future Problem Solvers: team registrations for competitions (\$100 per team of four students and about 15 teams)
 - Model UN: registration for conferences
 - Academic Challenge: tournament expenses (10-15 per year)
 - Mock Trial: entry fees
 - Future Business Leaders of America: supplies to present at competition, funding for nationals
- Budget for mini-grants is \$1800
- Call for a vote on Academic Team mini-grants
- Candice Walker made a motion to award the 7 academic teams that applied for mini-grants the amounts requested.
- Dawn Haynes seconded the motion.

- **Agendas/Student Planners**

Emily Johnson

- No report

- **Book Sales**

Ava Farivar

- First Quarter numbers to be determined after a review next week
- Second Quarter books are stocked and available for purchase
- Working to be more proactive on Q3 books with Paula after learning some of the Q1 books were returned and then ultimately needed for Q2
- Noted issues with “free or reduced lunch students” who also should receive free books were not able to obtain their free books due to a need to opt-in for privacy reasons - school is working to correct

- **Bylaws**

Emily Johnson

- Committee met to update bylaws
- Current bylaws and proposed revisions will be sent to the membership in December and presented for a vote at the January meeting

- **College Essay Workshop** Emily Johnson for Robin Siff
 - Work will begin soon on this committee to be ready for spring
 - In the past, the workshop has been led by Susan Blashka and Holly Schmidt
 - Holly is retiring from the current team
 - A new team replacement is being determined with the help of Susan

- **Corporate Membership** Emily Johnson for Holly Boykin
 - We met today to discuss target for the next school year since most businesses budget on a different fiscal year
 - We are working to be careful to not over solicit those already donating to the school in other ways and events for the school

- **Fundraising** Emily Johnson for Anju Agarwal
 - Chipotle Fundraiser
 - Mark your calendars for January 3rd, from 4 to 8pm.
 - Last day of the Winter Break, possible marketing on that point

- **Membership** Dawn Hayes
 - Staff members:
 - 71 staff member YTD 2023
 - 53 staff members YTD 2022
 - 69 staff members FY 2021-22
 - 67 staff members YTD 2020 (virtual)
 - 59 staff members YTD 2019
 - Parent members:
 - 147 parent members YTD 2023
 - 122 parent members YTD 2022
 - 297 parent members FY 2021-22
 - 111 parent members YTD 2020 (virtual)
 - 155 parent members YTD 2019
 - Continue to ID target groups with emails: prior members and National Merit Scholars, and families interested in our scholarships, etc.
 - Discussion of “No rollover memberships from last April” for future late spring memberships
 - The executive committee voted on "carry-over" memberships - annual memberships will follow the fiscal year (August 1- July 31) as stated in the bylaws

- **Rising Stars** Candice Walker
 - STARS= Solon Teachers Are Recognizing Students
 - Teachers recognize students: motivation, perseverance, and effort

- Hosted fall event, Thursday 10/26, Pizza and salad lunch
 - 290 Students recognized - well attended
- January event will be a dessert bar utilizing donations
- Future Rising Stars Dates: JAN 25, MAR 21

- **Scholarship** Emily Johnson
 - Posting scholarships in January
 - Working to ensure students that will apply will have membership by 12/31

- **Shining Star** Emily Johnson for Teanna Pollard
 - No report

- **Strive for 0.5** Emily Johnson for *Erica Kanj
 - No report

- **Technology** Emily Johnson for Denise Elliot
 - Updates are in the works

Unfinished Business

- None

New Business

- Proposed mini grants done during committee reports
- Fundraising dine to donate is January 3rd
- No December meeting
- Next meeting January 17, 2024 - Optional choice of zoom or in-person location tbd

Meeting was adjourned at 7:44pm.

CONTACTS:

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

Ava Farivar, afarivar@hotmail.com for Bookstore inquiries

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

email:solonacademicboosters@hotmail.com

Web: solonacademicboosters.com

Facebook: SOLON ACADEMIC BOOSTERS CLUB,

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

UPCOMING DATES:

FUNDRAISER: JAN 3

MEETINGS: Third Wednesday monthly, 7:00 pm: JAN 17, FEB 14, MAR 20, APR 17, MAY 15

RISING STARS: JAN 25, MAR 21