

Solon Academic Boosters Club

March 20, 2024 Meeting

Officers:

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

In attendance via Zoom and Market District: Emily Johnson, Amanda Musick, Denise Elliot, Ava Farivar, Dawn Haynes, Robin Siff, and Jody Halley

Call to Order

Emily Johnson

Meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM.

Secretary's Report

Amanda Musick

Minutes from the February meeting were approved and posted to the website. Please send any reports to kelsey.musick@gmail.com.

President's Report

Emily Johnson

- Thank you to the following individuals:
 - Ava Farivar and Laura Cohen for stocking the 4th Quarter books in the bookstore
 - Robin Siff for organizing the College Essay Workshop including scheduling seniors to speak to Junior English classes
 - Anju Agarwal and Candice Walker, for organizing the Rising Stars Student Recognition, to be held on 4/16
 - Dawn Haynes, for collecting and updating the membership data and running the various grade level reports
 - Denise Elliot, for maintaining the technology platform including updating the College Essay Workshop page
 - Erica Kanj, for managing the budget planning and finances, including Venmo transactions
 - Amanda Musick, for compiling the meeting minutes.
 - Nominating committee for completing the slate for 2024-2025

Treasurer's Report

Amanda Musick for Erica Kanj

- February - low activity this month
- Main income for February:
 - Check from Solon Board of Ed for second quarter books for almost \$13,000.
 - \$1,100 in Venmo sales deposited from January.
 - \$388 from Paypal from January transactions.
- Main Expenses for January:
 - Two smaller checks for rising stars expenses totaling less than \$200.

- Uncashed check for \$650 for a May 2023 scholarship: Multiple attempts have been made to reach Meena Chandrasekharan to ensure they were aware. Bank confirmed it could not be cashed after 90 days and it was finally voided this month.
 - In case this individual reaches out in the future, we should be aware. This has also occurred to the athletic boosters and they determined not to reissue checks.
- Need to discuss with Carol in the bookstore a plan to implement a Square system for next year. We really need a way for kids and parents to pay electronically.
 - Noted during tonight's meeting that Carol has been approached for at least 3 years on this topic. Consideration has been given to wait until Carol retires before a new system can be fully implemented.
 - Again, important to note, Venmo is currently a personal account, it can not be transferred to the new treasurer next year. It is something we would want to move away from since it requires the treasurer to log every single transaction for Carol separately.
 - Square equipment should be purchased this year. We will need to have a vote to move funds from our savings into "technology" once we have confirmed the cost.
 - Agreed that a vote at the next meeting on moving funds if costs are confirmed.
 - Square would allow us to add in a small fee to avoid losing money on transaction fees. The current fee is 10 cents per transaction plus 1.9%.
 - Ava indicated that adding these fees seem cost prohibitive

Committee Reports

- **Academic Awards** (National Merit) Candice Walker
 - No report

- **Academic Awards** (Year-End) Ava Farivar for Tera Gross
 - All items are in and now assembling them are in process

- **Academic Teams Support** Emily Johnson
 - No report

- **Agendas/Student Planners** Emily Johnson for Christa Bomeli
 - No report

- **Book Sales** Ava Farivar
 - 4Q books are available
 - Slow start this week plus it is noted that Carol closed the bookstore the last 2 days before spring break

- **Bylaws** Emily Johnson, Erica Kanj and Jody Halley
 - No report

- **College Essay Workshop** Robin Siff
 - Value: to help juniors get a jump start on the college application process via college essay writing
 - Program highlights:
 - Workshop dates run MAY-AUG
 - 4 days length/workshop: 3 days in person at SHS with the group, 1 day online review using Zoom, individual student with advisor
 - Early online registration for ABC members begins Monday, 4/8.
 - Regular registration for all Juniors begins on 4/11.
 - Revised promotional materials with college essay advisors.
 - Received signed contracts from advisors.
 - Junior member email will be sent at the end of March with program promotional materials and reminder of early registration dates.
 - Junior student email will be sent via Ms. Short on 3/21.
 - Junior English classes will have visitations by students who participated in the college essay workshops after spring break on APR 4-5.

- **Corporate Membership** Holly Boykin
 - No report

- **Fundraising** Emily Johnson for Anju Agarwal
 - Spring Fundraiser possibilities are still needed

- **Membership** Dawn Haynes
 - Staff members:
 - 74 staff member YTD 2023-24
 - 53 staff members YTD 2022
 - 69 staff members FY 2021-22
 - 67 staff members YTD 2020 (virtual)
 - 59 staff members YTD 2019
 - Parent members:
 - 176 parent members YTD 2023-24
 - 122 parent members YTD 2022
 - 297 parent members FY 2021-22
 - 111 parent members YTD 2020 (virtual)
 - 155 parent members YTD 2019

- Corporate members:
 - One (expecting an additional one shortly)

- **Rising Stars** Ava Farivar for Anju Agarwal and Candice Walker
 - STARS= Solon Teachers Are Recognizing Students
 - Teachers recognize students: motivation, perseverance, and effort
 - Future Rising Stars Date: April 16th
 - A full lunch will be served

- **Scholarship** Emily Johnson
 - Applications were due on March 14th and have been distributed to the scholarship judges
 - 41 applicants this year - lower than previous years but the classes are trending smaller
 - Judges will read and evaluate before the April meeting
 - Implementation of Z scores to help
 - Recommendations will be made at the April meeting on scholarship amounts and number of recipients

- **Shining Star** Teanna Pollard
 - No report

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

- **Technology** Denise Elliot
 - College Essay Workshops prep has been completed and will continue to manage site with updates
 - Prepared to run appropriate reports as needed
 - Sending reports to booster email (formerly Shannon's role)

Unfinished Business

Open Committees for 2024-2025:

- Academic Team Support
- Corporate Membership

New Business

- Spring Fundraiser possibilities
- Nominating Committee announces slate for 2024-2025 - to be voted on in the April meeting.

- The slate of candidates as follows:
 - President - Emily Johnson
 - Vice President - Ava Farivar
 - Treasury - Laurie Mohler
 - Secretary - Amanda Musick

Meeting was adjourned at 7:36pm.

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:

MEETINGS: Third Wednesday monthly, 7:00 pm: APR 17, MAY 15

RISING STARS: APR 16