

February General Meeting

Minutes 02/07/24

In-Person: Career Center

- I. Meeting Call to Order - 6:35pm
- II. Welcome
- III. Spotlights:
 - A. Students - Best Buddies Program - helps students with disabilities, build social skills, attends many national events that Best Buddies puts on in the community; South Lakes Best Buddies works in a group instead of 1:1
 - B. Teacher- Chelsea Swasey, runs the WAT (Work and Transition) & faculty advisor Best Buddies; Special Ed Teacher, graduate of SLHS, her class is for kids with IEPs to build job skills, vocational training, work-based learning internships, teaches soft skills and building confidence; works a lot with Food Pantry that students coordinate;
 - C. Volunteer-
- IV. Approve Previous Meeting Minutes (December 5, 2023)
 - A. Motion Made, seconded
 - B. APPROVED**
- V. Treasurer's Report - Kristen Chaddock, Recording Secretary (sitting in for Ashley Kowalczyk who was unable to attend)
 - A. Motion made, seconded
 - B. APPROVED**
- VI. Committee Updates
 - A. Pantry - Abbe Pascal, Pantry Rep - gave us a review on all the students and families served since December, numbers are increasing; now added clothing (once per month) and continuing with books too; Simple Gesture update; update on ways to volunteer and donate
 - B. All-Night Grad Party - Michelle France, ANGP Chair - updates on event, ticket sales, lawn signs, call for volunteers; upcoming

- fundraiser dog wash with Weber's Pet Supermarket in March;
- C. Hospitality - Vicky Stacy - talking about celebration of life for Liz Knapp coming up, need for volunteers; upcoming Valentines Day Staff Appreciation event - Nothing Bundt Cakes are providing the sweets, still need some volunteers to help out
 - D. Scholarships/Mini-Grants - Sarah Hobson - putting scholarship form online; still have mini-grants to give away
 - E. Fundraising - Nandini Rao - upcoming Dining4Dollars (our first for the year) at Noodles & Co on 2/20, International Cookbook to coincide with International Night on 2/29, Senior photo shoot in March/April
 - F. Advocacy - Larry Howell - invited by Dr. Reid to participate in focus group, discussed common topics that are coming up, wants feedback, input from parents; will put out a google form to solicit feedback
- VII. Guest Speaker - Kathy Luongo, College and Career Specialist
- A. Speaking about Summer opportunities; Important to understand your student's needs, they may need a break and downtime; others may be ready to jump in and work a lot to make money or be involved in something outside of school, others may need to be doing Summer learning, SAT/prep or getting ready to apply to college or visit college campuses; Something else to think about - Summer reading! Something that gets less focus in high school but still super important (Ms. Luongo has opportunities list with ideas of things you can do throughout high school - things that can help organize their time for upcoming things for the next year; Job Fairs/resume workshops (there is one for Teens too in March, and at SLHS on April 5th for Summer jobs; Enrichment programs which can supplement areas of interest or career path, if on a college campus can help them get a feel for being on campus and more independent; all of these things can help with college applications as they help students explore and deepen awareness in areas of interest; going to a program on a campus is NOT a guarantee to admission to that institution, it is also not

required to show interest in a school - but can be a great opportunity if it fits your needs;

- B. Discussion on College Admissions process - shared results of survey of what students thought was important to colleges for admissions, then compared to what colleges actually consider. Students thought test scores were higher in importance, however the reality is most colleges care more about your extracurriculars and showing who you are and what you're interested in than test scores; they want students to be balanced and to show who they are as an individual; discussion of standardized testing and its importance (or lack thereof) in applications - all schools are different so be sure you know what's required for the schools you're interested in
- C. Things parents can do - encourage kids to use Naviance, visit career center and review weekly emails, register for college rep visits, look into scholarships (understand if scholarships are "stackable" or "displaced")
- D. Discussion around curriculum, IB, AP, CP, etc as parents are negotiating course planning right now

VIII. Principal's Report - Kim Retzer, Principal

- A. Superintendent coming out with proposed budget soon - no updates yet on what is included; updates on recent events in the school - science fair, Snowball Dance, Ethics Day, sporting events, Theater/Chorus, DECA/FBLA, upcoming recognition events for MLK Day and Black History; Tardies & attendance concerns are at an all-time high - hard to keep up with, staff-intensive to monitor; both excused and unexcused absences count against us!! Reviewed ways for parents to know what their students status is; summaries will go out to parents via email; working on way to incentivize kids to be in school; Parent Project initiative run by parent liaisons - classes to educate families on how to navigate public school system, some in other languages to serve broadest audience as possible - serves families with 5th-12th grade.

IX. Meeting Adjournment - 8:40pm