

April General Meeting

Minutes 04/17/24

In-Person: Career Center

1. Meeting Call to Order - 6:30pm
2. Welcome
3. Spotlights:
 - a. Student- Asian Club presented by club President; goal is to combine learning and volunteering to celebrate Asian culture in and around South Lakes community; lots of focus on volunteering such as Lunar New Year project with Reston Library, a Social Justice group called Dear Asian Youth (national group of students and young adults) which does advocacy with Senators/Reps among other things; works with Hamkae Center to advance asian immigrant justice in Virginia
 - b. Teacher- Max Beckhard, math teacher who was nominated by a student as he inspired her this year from hating math to enjoying it! His love of the subject and teaching changed her mind.
Thanks Mr. Beckhard!
 - c. Volunteer- Grace Gibbens, PTSA Student Ambassador
Communications Lead for 2023-2024 school year
4. Approve Previous Meeting Minutes (March 6 2024)
 - a. Motion/Seconded: **APPROVED**
5. Treasurer's Report
 - a. Report through March 31 presented by PTSA Treasurer, Ashley Kowalcyk
 - b. Full report posted on PTSA Website for anyone who wants to see more detail
6. Guest Speaker- Erin Sikes-Thurston, AP of Intervention (not in charge of a particular grade, in charge of academics, behavior and wellness for ALL grades)
 - a. Presentation that covers topics impacting issues that she oversees such as: Kiss and Ride/Arrival/Dismissal safety, process

for dropping off items at the main office, Attendance/early dismissal/late arrival process and the absence codes that go on the student's Attendance Report, importance of updating Emergency Care Cards and how to update (within SIS or via paper copy or email), processes and current documentation process for custody orders, "Trust but Verify" trust your kids but verify what they say/do, partnership with school counselors - reach out to school counselor if you feel like something is not right, partnership with school on Social Media - if you see something, or hear about something happening on SM with kids, please let school know if it's something that will cause issues at/with school or students

- b. Full presentation will be shared on PTSA Website after meeting for those who want to see more details

7. Committee Updates

- a. Pantry- Abbe Pascal gives updates on recent numbers they are serving, we got a new fridge/freezer purchased by a grant which are now being put to use for fresh items, Simple Gesture collection update, next collection is June 1, how to donate
- b. All Night Grad Party- Michelle France - party is coming up in 7 weeks! Sold lots of tickets so far but encouraging people to buy them in advance to make it more smooth on the night of the party, last lawn sign sales are coming up, prom flower fundraiser going on this week, Nando's D4D coming up (40% of sales during a 4-hour window), sign up genius for party volunteers coming up
- c. Hospitality- Ashleigh Dorfman - Teacher Appreciation Week luncheon event sponsored by PTSA is coming up on Tuesday May 7th, sign up genius is up for donations and volunteers as well as an Amazon wish list, NWCUCU is sponsoring! They are helping offset some of the costs, still need lots of donations and volunteers to make it a success
- d. Scholarships/Mini-Grants- Sarah Hobson - scholarships are open and so far we have 4 or 5, we will offer 2 scholarships; deadline is May 2nd

- e. Fundraising- looking for a Fundraising Chair for next year!
Biggest fundraisers this year were our photo shoots, but others fell short and we didn't have a full-time Fundraising person to come up with ideas to make up the shortfall; would be great to find someone to take on this role
 - f. Nominating Committee-Priya Padhke announcing nominees, so far we have Larry Howell nominee for President, Joseph Selner nominee for Recording Secretary, Erin Gibbens for VP Communications, Nandini Rao VP Programming, Ashley Kowalczyk Treasurer, Priya Padhke will be Hospitality, still need chairs for Membership, ANGP (Shadows) and Membership as well as Fundraising
 - g. FCPS Families of Fairfax County Group - not South Lakes specific, Larry Howell sits on it to represent South Lakes - no updates since last meeting as they have not met
8. Principal's Report-Kim Retzer
- a. Provided updates on recent things she's been working on - had a meeting with Dr. Tyson, SRO, local police to talk about safety at South Lakes and in Reston in general that is impacting students; updates on recent hate speech incidents; recent article on juvenile recently arrested for sexual assault (not one of our students); IB testing is right around the corner, outlined process and attendance rules for IB testing days in particular don't be late or you cannot take the test, no phones or you will get a zero on the exam; Prom coming up on 4/27; updates on spring trips for orchestra/chorus/theater; upcoming theater performance for Big Fish/Cappies; Spring sports are doing well; Graduation ceremony updates; guest speaker coming on Tuesday - Benny Blanco; no Summer school here this year, it will be in Centreville, but there will be buses here for that; SLHS is providing a new summer pilot program, an in-person Geometry class for rising sophomores who are currently in Algebra 1 (by invitation only for now) - who want to accelerate their math progress in order to be able to access upper level math and science classes their remaining years in HS;

also running an in person Summer PE class kids can take (does not cover the physical aspect of PE but the other topics covered in that curriculum), so they can then use elective time to explore other classes during the school year

9. next meeting is moved to May 8th in the SLHS Library (due to space issues). Will be a celebration of the year and a welcome to rising SLHS families from Hughes/Carson/Herndon MS
10. Meeting Adjournment - **8:30pm**