

PTSA General Meeting – 10.9.24

Officer Attendees:

Larry Howell, President
Carlos Seward, Principal of SLHS (ex officio)
Ashley Kowalcyk, Treasurer
Sarah Hobson, Scholarships/grants
Nandini Rao, Programming
Joe Selner, Recording Secretary

All Attendees:

per Google/QR code sheet data

- . **Meeting Called to Order: 7:00PM**

- II. **Welcome & Introductions:**
Larry H. welcomes parents, guests and one student and opens the meeting and proceeds through the following agenda points:

- III. **SLHS – JROTC: Col. Bullard** offered a brief overview of the JROTC program at South Lakes. The activities, outside programs and student members are all detailed. It is a positive member of the South Lakes and Reston communities, offers its services to events and ceremonies in this and surrounding communities and competes nationally. The JROTC team placed 13th at a recent national competition. Overall, Col. Bullard and Sergeant Handy steward this program, leveraging their extensive experience in our nation's Armed Forces as they guide 133 students through their program, instilling discipline, skills and community on their students. **Note:** The two refereed the Power Puff game featuring the junior girls versus senior girls later that week, raising money for Breast Cancer research through a sixty-minute touch football game. The senior girls triumphed. The JROTC flag detail was at mid-field for the National Anthem. President Howell presented Col. Bullard with the PTSA recognition certificate and

Principal Steward offered great praise and thanks to Col. Bullard and Sgt. Handy and pointed out the honors bestowed upon JROTC members Marilyn and Allison as emblematic of the success of SLHS JROTC.

- IV. **Principal Steward** updated membership about upcoming changes from the Virginia DOE with respect to protocols surrounding curriculum and efforts designed to facilitate equitable opportunities for students struggling to meet graduation requirements. He also mentioned that FCPS is beginning the process of reassessing school boundaries and pyramid realignments. South Lakes should not be massively impacted but that all members of the community should keep engaged on this issue and the PTSA can play an important role.

- V. **Q&A with Principal Steward:** With questions and concerns offered by junior Layla H., Principal Steward led a discussion about bathroom policies and gender access to the same, cell phone policy and the full membership contributed views on these important topics.

- VI. **Approve Previous Meeting Minutes:** The minutes of the September 11, 2024 general meeting were reviewed and approved by the membership. Sarah H. and Nandini R. first and seconded the motion for approval.

- VII. **Treasurer's Report:** Presented by Ashley K. – transactions were reviewed and progress against approved budget was assessed.
- VIII. **Additional Matters:** Committee chairs offered updates on their continuing efforts (AGNP/Pantry/Programs/Membership). A special fundraiser opportunity was offered to PTSA by Dorie Howell to have PTSA support concessions at the Saturday, November 2nd varsity football game.
- IX. **Meeting Adjournment: Motion to adjourn passes at 9:00PM**