



Monthly Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 0

The meeting was called to order at 6:34 pm.

College and Financial Aid Update - Mr. Anderson

Currently, Southland seniors have slightly north of \$18 million in scholarships. By the end of the school year, the goal is to have \$24 million in scholarships for graduating seniors. If reached, this would be the largest amount earned so far by approximately \$600,000 and would mean that all Southland graduating classes have earned a combined \$100 million scholarships.

College Acceptance Goal

All Southland seniors are accepted to at least one 4-year college or university. As of **April 9**, Southland is 99% "All In." The entire senior class should be "All In" by **April 30**.

Mr. Anderson's Tips for Parents

College changes the dynamic of the family and selecting a college is a family process. Parents and students have to work together to select a school. The goal is not only to attend college, but to graduate from a 4-year college or university.

The top three concerns of Southland parents are:

1. Distance from home
2. The maturity of the student
3. Money

Parents shouldn't discount student loans, stating, "They actually are the best value."

Reportedly 70% of all student loans are forgiven. Teachers, not-for-profit employees, county workers, and many major corporations offer student loan forgiveness. President Obama made it very easy to repay student loan, with income sensitive repayment programs readily available.

The only loan that is not recommended is the Parent Plus loan. As soon as a student finishes college, the parent immediately has to repay the loan and the interest is very high.

Communicating with a college and explaining a family's financial situation may open up an opportunity to obtain additional money from the college.

90% of Southland students attending college keep their scholarships.

The goal is to get students in the best school possible, allowing them to obtain the best credentials. If a student has the option of a full scholarship or attending an Ivy league University (no scholarship), Mr. Anderson suggests the student use student loans to attend the more prestigious school.

Community college is a viable solution for students who aren't ready for the challenges of a 4-year university. It is strongly encouraged that students obtain an Associate's Degree. All community colleges are not the same. Look for schools with strong bachelorette transfer credits.

Treasurer's Report – Clyde Wilson

As of March 31, 2018

Checking Balance: \$8,799.01

Savings Balance: \$2,855.54

Total balance both accounts: \$11,656.55

New payment options – Kristal Davis

Three payment options were considered by the PTSO Board:

- Venmo
- Cash app
- Zelle (which PTSO's bank doesn't support)

The board decided to use Venmo (venmo.com) beginning **Fall 2018**.

It's easy to use: Student's create a profile and then can add a debit/credit card on file to make purchases at school (such as alternative lunch) or parents can preload money on their account.

Activity Report – Bisi Ola-Buraimo/Kristal Davis

Alternative Lunch Fundraiser

Friday, April 20: Villa Rosa Pizza

Please double check that your student is selecting the right lunch period. When marked incorrectly, they are at risk of having their lunch sold as an Extra.

Outreach Committee Update

PTSO Shoe Drive began in April. The donation box is located in the school office. Dress shoes, athletic shoes, and baby shoes are welcomed. All donations should be clean and in good condition.

The Outreach Committee will discuss its upcoming uniform clothing drive immediately following [today's] monthly meeting.

2018/2019 Board Election

Two positions are open for the 2018/2019 school year:

- Assistant Treasurer
- Recording Secretary

The PTSO Board meets monthly via conference call. Interested parents should contact a member current member of the Board.

Senior Week

We are looking for parent volunteers to help during senior week **(The week of May 21)**

Teacher appreciation

PTSO will purchase breakfast (Dunkin Donuts) for teachers on **April 30**.

Southland Administration Updates – Administration

Prom tickets are on sale until **April 28**. Tickets will not be sold the day of Prom.

All students should have the packet and need to return the enclosed paperwork in order to purchase a ticket. Paperwork is due **April 13**. Currently, only have 5 applications are in.

Applications for Prom court are due **April 14**. Recommendations are needed and a 2.0 GPA required)

Speech Team

Southland's Speech Team is having another stellar year.

- The Performance in the Round won first place at the state IHSA tournament
- The Group Interpretation team placed third in the state tournament

- We have two seniors and one junior will be participating in the national speech tournament.
- Speech Team recently performed at Salem Baptist Church.
- Last production is at Freedom Hall **May 11 at 7:00 pm.**

Testing

Juniors take SAT **April 10.**

Week o of **April 15** – All school testing.

PSAT – 9

PSAT -10

Practice ACT – All juniors

ACT – **April 24**

Seniors will meet with Mr. Anderson and Mr. Lane about college options.

2017/2018 PTSO Scholarship Program– Angela Grimes

All scholarship applications have been submitted. Four parents on the committee (a fifth parent was added during the April meeting)

Six applications submitted, four accepted (one missed deadline; one incomplete application)

Three scholarships will be awarded.

Scholarship amounts:

First place: \$1,000

Second place: \$750

Third place: \$500

Students who receive scholarships receive 100% of the funds.

Senior Post Prom Payment Update – Bisi Ola-Buraimo

April 9: Final payment due

April 24: Senior meeting at 7 pm

The prom committee is looking for volunteers to check in students at post prom event

Raffle

Meeting was adjourned at 7:35 pm.

Next PTSO Meeting: Tuesday, May 2.

Can we check when freshman packets are going out

Email- gently used uniforms (Kristal)

Robo call (Krital)

flyer – Tiffany (1 week)

Purpose – fund PTSO fundraisers

What we are taking – blazers, sweaters, logo'd shirts and pants

Incentive - \$50, \$25 (Ms. Washington)

Deadine: April 23 – May 11