

MINUTES

Tuesday, March 6, 2018

- Call to Order – Bisi Ola Buraimo 6:40 PM
 - Treasurer's Report – Clyde Wilson
 - Checking \$5,714.45
 - Savings \$2,857.52
 - Reminder regarding **Membership Dues \$10.00** (covers operating expenses) & **Pledge \$100.00** (scholarships)

 - Payment Options (**VENMO/CASH APP**) – Kristal Davis
 - These two payment options were suggested due to parents asking for other ways to pay for alternative lunch fundraisers, dues, pledges, etc.
 - Cash App: download on phone; supported by SQUARE Cash; no fee; takes 48 - 72 hours to post
 - Venmo: Can download on phone or use on a computer; it's interactive such as we can ask what lunch period if this info is missing; we can make it private because some comments can be a bit much; no fee; use it like social media, it's FB for money; if students have a bank account, they can use this option
 - Kristal thanked the parents for the question and wanted to share the follow-up so parents can have a voice
 - Zelle (QuickPay) is NOT supported by everyone; we wanted everyone to access to the digital payment option
 - Parents can track what their kids are buying and it would be "SOUTHLAND PTSO" user name
- *****Majority parents voted on VENMO *******
- Activity Report – Bisi Ola-Buraimo
 - Alternative Lunch Fundraiser- Red Snapper 3/23 **MONEY IS DUE**
MARCH 19th

- **Outreach Committee update/meeting tonight:** discussion topic is Uniform donations
 - **Shoe Drive – March/April:** we are awaiting approval from administration and then PTSO will donate to an organization selected by the PTSO board members
 - Next month we will have a guest speaker to help students "Choose the Right College"
 - **2018/2019 Board Election:** there are 3 possible positions; please let us know if you are interested; benefits are that you know what's going on, especially when your children don't bring home information
- **2017/2018 Scholarship Kick Off – Angela Grimes: Scholarship applications are available and the deadline is April 10th at 6 PM in the main office, BEFORE PTSO meeting;** I will be contacting the committee to go over instructions; We only had 2 applicants last year; It is important that parents review their child's essay for grammatical errors, content, etc.; we will award 3 scholarships this year; if you are unsure of whether or not you made the "PLEDGE", please provide us your name and your child's name; also if you have more than one child, there is an additional \$25 towards the PLEDGE that needs to be made; PLEASE ADHERE TO THE DEADLINE; The Board (Kristal) needs time to prepare the essays for the committee; this consists of deleting (White-out) any information that identifies the applicant; give each essay a number; and make copies for each committee member so that the selection process will not be tampered with and fair
 - **Southland Administration Updates - Mr. Lane, administration representative**
 - 2nd Annual Black History Walking Theater was a great success; Thank you for your children; it looked like Fame and Julliard but it was Southland with talented children
 - Alumni Counseling: Alumnae K. Dumas was in attendance; had a hard road to college however Mr. Lane is proud of her, she's a NIU student and has

reached back to Southland for assistance; prime example that Southland stays in connection with the students beyond graduation; Southland provides assistance with essays/papers and financial concerns

- Senior Family: there will be more than 2 scholarship applications submitted this year because we have stressed to students that there is no more "full-rides" to college anymore; Mr. Lane and Mr. Anderson work with the kids and share that every DOLLAR counts; senior year is busy and not a typical high school senior year; we've shared with the students to apply to as many scholarships as possible and "retool" essays and cater to the specific organization requesting one; this will assist with getting smaller amounts that can add up instead of just focusing on one or two scholarships

March Calendar

* Open houses were well attended

* Application acceptance has ended; this is the 2nd smallest lottery due to automatic siblings

* only 80 slots this year

9th - Quarter ends Friday/can access teachers/grades thru Power School

13th - Final Practice ACT test (late arrival)

14th - Lottery - will be streaming live

16th - P/T Conferences 12:30 - 8 PM Open Door

19th - Board Meeting 6:30 PM

22nd - Spring Concert - 7 PM, \$5; it's early this year because we listened to the feedback from parents

30th - GREAT FRIDAY - NO School

*** Junior Family meets daily

****Mr. Lane shared the success of the Forensic Speech debates which is off to a historic year; 13 students are going to state and 3 have advanced to Nationals in Ft. Lauderdale (Mr. Lane was proud that a young man is going so he can be a chaperone)

Q/A for admin:

1. Is there a plan in place to ease the challenge of Report card pickup?

Admin wasn't aware that a plan was needed; discussion was about parents with multiple students and appointment times on the sign-up sheet being adhered to; admin stated that it would be looked into and will consult with the other admin to see if teachers can integrate some downtime to allow parents with multiple children to schedule a time to meet.

2. Are there guidelines/timelines for teachers to input grades PRIOR to the end of the quarter?

Admin shared that ideally grades should be entered weekly depending on the core discipline and specific assignments/projects may take longer; however some classes have not provided grades until this week which is a few days before the quarter ends; admin agreed that this is an issue and will address it sooner than later with specifics; suggested to email teachers and allow a 24 hour turnaround and keep lines of communication open.

3. Have teachers been allowed to express how they feel about students being pulled out of their class for different events?

This was brought up because some parents stated that teachers are displaying attitude towards students upon return and sometimes information such as notes or assignments aren't given. Admin shared that they have reduced pull out time and most of the time, students are pulled from physical education and other fine arts classes; Mr. Lane also shared that this is the 3rd year for the Junior Master class and that students need this assistance because the Math portion on the SAT test is 50% vs. 25% on the ACT

4. Parent asked if there are "Behind-the Scene" opportunities for students who aren't really savvy for the onstage performances but know how to work the technology for the Southland productions;

Admin stated that Governor's State does a wonderful job for a pretty penny and maybe that will be an idea to share and GSU staff can train our students to assist

5. Parent asked when is the due date for the students 90 volunteer hours?

Admin shared that they meet with seniors starting March 15th and go through their hours to make sure the requirement is met

- **Senior Post Prom Payment:** Payments: March 16th and the last payment is April 9th; Treasurers will take payments
- **NHS Process:** handouts were provided and reviewed for parents; students can apply starting sophomore year
- **Audience question/feedback** - Qs were discussed in admin report: Dr. B. Davis addressed the board and members; she shared that we broke ground for the renovations and there will be a formal dedication; the contractors are ahead of schedule and will be laying the foundation soon; there is an incentive payment plan and they are exceeding the expectation; Dr. Davis said this is one of the strongest years academically 98.3% accepted so far into colleges;
- **Dr. Davis** shared how magnificent the Speech team was when they attended competition at the August Wilson Theatre; she also mentioned the Fine Arts Festival in two weeks
- **Dr. Davis** also spoke highly of Mrs. Norman, vocal coach, and her team of students that went to the IHSA solo/band competition SINGING OPERA!!! 15 soloists participated and 9 placed in Division 1 - Gold level; this was a new venture for the students and Dr. Davis said she may allow some of the students to do a solo for the Fine Arts Festival because they were AMAZING!
- Dr. Davis stated that the SENIOR year is exceptionally strong and the JUNIORS are even stronger.
- The PTSO congratulated Dr. Davis as the recipient of the AASA Women in Leadership award; Dr. Davis was honored and shared how this is a very prestigious award when only 11% of superintendents are women
- Raffle
- Adjournment

Next PTSO meeting **Tuesday, April 10, 2018** @ 6:30 pm (Meeting dates are the **1st Tuesday of the month** and subject to change due to holidays, school events, etc.)



Please "LIKE" us on Facebook @ Southland College Prep PTSO