

## Solon Academic Boosters Club

September 18, 2024 Meeting

Officers:

- PRESIDENT: Emily Johnson
- VICE PRESIDENT: Ava Farivar
- TREASURER: Laurie Mohler
- SECRETARY: Amanda Musick

In attendance via SHS Room 176B: Emily Johnson, Amanda Musick, Tera Gross, Denise Elliot, Candice Walker, Ava Farivar, Teanna Pollard, Laura Cohen, Sarah Asbury, Dawn Haynes and Carol Mann

### **Call to Order**

Emily Johnson

Meeting was called to order at 7:05PM.

### **Secretary's Report**

Amanda Musick

Minutes from the May meeting were approved and posted to the website. Please send any reports to [kelsey.musick@gmail.com](mailto:kelsey.musick@gmail.com).

### **President's Report**

Emily Johnson

- Welcome and Introduction
- Mission: To promote, recognize, and reward Solon High School students for their academic achievements
- Explanation of Committees during Committee Reports
- Thank you to the following individuals:
  - Teanna Pollard, for managing the Shining Stars program and recognizing SHS faculty and staff.
  - Ava Farivar for arranging summer reading book distribution and all the volunteers that sorted books including Amanda Musick, Leah Stroom, Laurie Mohler, and Carol Mann.
  - Robin Siff and Denise Elliot for managing the college essay and supplemental essay workshops.
  - Erica Kanj, for coordinating the Fourth Quarter Strive for 0.5 Award Recognition program.
  - Audit Committee including Laurie Mohler, Denise Elliot, and Teanna Pollard who completed the audit on 8/6/24 during a tornado warning.
  - Christa Bomeli for overseeing student planner sales
  - Christa Bomeli, Ava Farivar, and Candice Walker, for working the student planner sales displays during new student orientation and in the cafeteria the first few days of school.
  - Ava Farivar for speaking about Academic Boosters at several Parent Principal Coffees.
  - Ava Farivar, Laura Cohen, and Carol Mann, for stocking the SHS Bookstore for

- First Quarter required reading books.
- Dawn Haynes, for collecting and updating the membership data.
- Laurie Mohler, for managing the budget planning and finances and learning the new Square system.
- Denise Elliot, for hosting the technology platforms for the online store, membership, summer reading, college essay workshops, and general web upgrades, including updating online store to Square compatibility.
- Denise Elliot and Dawn Haynes, for their collaborative work on membership sales and membership database maintenance.

## Treasurer's Report

Amanda Musick for Laurie Mohler

- August:
  - purchased the MoneyMinder treasurer software to build our reporting
  - Set up the budget and reconciled last year with this year
  - Agenda sales and 1st Quarter books.
  - Venmo payout and reimbursement to Erica because they sent the money to the wrong account
  - Finished up essay workshops and payments (all last years books)
- September:
  - Met with Emily to build out the new budget for 2024-2025
  - Transferred 10,000 from savings to checking - given checking is giving us better interest.
- Treasurer report highlights:
  - Agendas: Aug/Sept 2024 sales: \$1,036.49, exp \$965.57 = \$70.92 May 2024 sales: \$651.70 Total profit \$722.62
  - 1st Quarter books 2024 sales: \$1,275.96, exp \$0 due to money back for returned books
  - Summer reading sales: summer \$9,820.81, fall 124 = \$9,944.81, exp \$8,080.55 Total profit \$1,740.26
  - Last summer essay workshop sales: \$35,607.95, exp \$28,440 Total profit \$7,167.95
- Adjustments from last year's budget:
- Income:
  - Increased Essay workshop sales to \$26,000
  - Increased general donations to \$500
  - Created a separate corporate membership line \$500
  - Savings transfer went from \$900 to \$10,000 (better interest)
- Expenses:
  - Created a new general student recognition for \$5,000
  - Increased scholarships \$5000

## Committee Reports

- **Academic Awards (National Merit)** Candice Walker
  - 
  - National Merit Recognition
    - 49 students recognized in 2023
    - 27 Semi-finalist, 29 Commended, and 10-12 Hispanic and African American National Merit Scholars projected to be recognized in 2024
  - This Year's Date: November 5, 2024 (to be reviewed given conflict with voting)
    - Awaiting names from administration
    - Sign-up genius for volunteers
  - Budget increase may be needed for the increase of students awarded
  
- **Academic Awards (Year-End)** Tera Gross
  - Quick review of the end of last year, only notable are the pin issues that were resolved and now we have extras available
  - Year-End Awards Assemblies for each grade
    - Honor Roll: Students with cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher
      - 1st year winner: chenille letter
      - 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> year winner: different pins
      - 4<sup>th</sup> year winner: graduation medal
  - Year-end Awards, 2024:
    - underclassmen received academic letter awards
    - seniors received graduation academic medals
  
- **Academic Teams Support** Emily Johnson for Robin Siff
  - Support academic teams that submit a mini-grant request to offset competition fees and equipment purchases.
  - Eligible teams include:
    - Academic Challenge
    - Chess Club
    - Future Business Leaders of America
    - Future Problem Solvers
    - Math Club
    - Mock Trial
    - Model United Nations
    - Science Olympiad
    - Speech and Debate
  - Provided \$250 mini-grants to 7 Academic Teams in 2023
  - Questions about opening up and extend to middle school teams to be discussed with Robin Siff

- **Agendas/Student Planners** Christa Bomeli
  - Sales during new student orientation, at lunch the first few days of school, and at the SHS Bookstore
  - Include Solon specific information (i.e., Solon phone numbers, school maps)
  - Cost: \$10, cash, check, online store (Square rather than PayPal)
  - Ordered 275 (pre-COVID ordered 600)
  - Sales through 9/20: Estimated \$2,200
  - Sold out before Curriculum Night last year, but have some remaining
  
- **Book Sales** Ava Farivar\*
  - Sell summer reading books and supplemental quarterly books for English, AP History, AP Spanish, Yoga classes at SHS Bookstore
  - Biggest fundraiser, historically
  - Encourage your students to purchase for the SHS Bookstore, located just outside the cafeteria and senior commons
  - Stock roughly 75% of class size
  - 2nd quarter books to be selected next week
  
- **Bylaws** Emily Johnson\*
  - Update standard operating procedures for group
  - Bylaws updated in 2024
  
- **College Essay Workshop** Emily Johnson for Robin Siff
  - Held five sets of in-person workshops to help juniors begin their college application essay
  - Conducted by SHS College Essay Advisors (3)
  - Signups in April with sessions held May-August
  - Academic Boosters members have 1<sup>st</sup> priority signing up for sessions
  - Offered 2 hr supplemental essay workshop
  - Filled all the Main Essay Workshops and had 26 and 29 in supplemental workshops
    - Robin noted a follow-up group should meet with the instructors and review what went well, what we need to improve or change for next year.
  
- **Corporate Membership** Teanna Pollard
  - Purpose to appeal to Solon businesses to invest in Solon Academic Boosters
  - Corporate support to increase income
  
- **Fundraising** Emily Johnson for Anju Agarwal
  - Income generators:
    - Membership
    - Donations

- Supplemental Reading Books at SHS Bookstore
  - Student Planners
  - Fundraising events
- Fall Fundraiser?
  - Dine to donate?
  - Other ideas
    - Suggestions were Mavis (being new draw) or Burger2Beer

- **Membership**

Dawn Haynes

- Staff members:
  - 68 staff member YTD 2024-25
  - 75 staff member YTD 2023-24
  - 53 staff members YTD 2022
  - 69 staff members FY 2021-22
  - 67 staff members YTD 2020 (virtual)
  - 59 staff members YTD 2019
- Parent members:
  - 95 parent members YTD 2024-25
  - 192 parent members YTD 2023-24
  - 122 parent members YTD 2022
  - 297 parent members FY 2021-22
  - 111 parent members YTD 2020 (virtual)
  - 155 parent members YTD 2019
- Corporate members:
  - One
- Paper and electronic memberships
- Membership Drive
  - In person: Parent Principal Coffees, Curriculum Night, Community Tailgate
  - via emails to: prior members, college essay workshop participants, those who placed summer reading book orders, and after Rising Stars events and National Merit events.

- **Rising Stars**

Candice Walker

- STARS= Solon Teachers Are Recognizing Students
- Teachers recognize students: motivation, perseverance, leadership, citizenship, academic performance
- Recognized over 900 nominations last year
- Rising Stars: OCT 24

- **Scholarship**

Emily Johnson\*

- Seniors complete scholarship application for Solon Academic Boosters Scholarship
- Parent must be member by December 31st for scholarship consideration

- 23 scholarships for \$14,000 total awarded during Senior Award Ceremony
- Laura Cohen is volunteering to take over for Emily
  - Plans to revise and streamline the process for readers
- **Shining Star** Teanna Pollard
  - Seniors recognize SHS teachers who have made an impact
  - Teacher receives certificate with name(s) of nominating student(s)
  - 109 faculty/admin/coach/advisor/staff were recognized
  
- **Strive for 0.5** Emily Johnson for Robin Siff\*
  - *Recognized 78 students for the Strive for 0.5 Award in April*
  - Students raised their GPA by 0.5 or greater from Second Quarter to Third Quarter
  
- **Technology** Denise Elliot
  - Added a cart to the website for returning to the site
  - Paid Hosting
  - Continued Equid and Square pairing in the works
  - Investigate new email addresses

### **Unfinished Business**

- None

### **New Business**

- Audit Report
  - Everything was very clean and well kept
  - One minor note on prior checks not deposited yet and to keep savings
- Proposed Budget
  - Reviewed 2024 budget in detail and will look at this again at the next meeting before final vote - need to increase National Merit line item from \$800 to \$1,000 due to the increase in awarded students.
- Committee Volunteers

Meeting was adjourned at 8:31pm.

### **CONTACTS:**

Emily Johnson, [emmyedwards@hotmail.com](mailto:emmyedwards@hotmail.com) to email newsletter and meeting updates

Ava Farivar, [afarivar@hotmail.com](mailto:afarivar@hotmail.com) for Bookstore inquiries

Amanda Musick, [Kelsey.musick@gmail.com](mailto:Kelsey.musick@gmail.com) for meeting notes

email:[solonacademicboosters@hotmail.com](mailto:solonacademicboosters@hotmail.com)

Web: [solonacademicboosters.com](http://solonacademicboosters.com)

Facebook: SOLON ACADEMIC BOOSTERS CLUB,

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/656443948747070/>

### **UPCOMING DATES:**

**MEETINGS:** Third Wednesday monthly, 7:00 pm: OCT 16, NOV 20

**RISING STARS: OCT 24, JAN 23, APR 8**  
**NATIONAL MERIT RECOGNITION: NOV 5**