

**Socastee Middle School PTO January 2024 Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday January 23, 2024 9:00am-11:00am at SMS**

Attending:

Rhona Williams, President

Cori Lamb, Vice President

Anna Quilter, Treasurer

Ashley Stathos, Secretary

Lisa Melchione, Principal

Lyndsay Layton

Juliet

Matt Duke

Josh Williams

Melody Spencer

Lauren Griffin

Rhona called the meeting to order at 9:08am

- Principal/ Administration Report - Lisa began by talking about the beginning of second semester. They have settled any necessary schedule changes and completed class meetings yesterday. Lisa has met with the new HCS K9 contracted to come to middle schools twice a month and she made students aware during class meetings that he would be coming to do classroom checks with the K9.
  - She has also been coordinating an info night for parents to discuss vaping. Lisa has been working with Capt. Wyatt. The info night will be to target parent awareness of what vapes look like and their dangers. She envisions it to be similar to the old DARE program. She is also considering asking a physician to talk about the medical side of vaping and what it leads to in high school and beyond. She is working with their community relations department to coordinate this program and the current goal is to try to have the event sometime in February.
  - Lisa will be attending a training on Feb 8 called High in Plain Sight which will discuss ways teenagers are getting high with household items
  - Basketball for both boys and girls is going really well. Parent night is January 24, then both teams are expected to play in the playoffs. Our girls have 6 wins and the boys have only lost 1 so far.
  - Second quarter awards are next Tuesday 1/30. Report cards will be distributed today.
  - On Feb 1 SHS will hold the NHD pre-judge competition to determine school level winners to advance to CCU for the regional competition.

- The HCS job fair is Saturday, 2/3. We do not have any positions available. Our school will be down about 40 next year in enrollment so Lisa may be asking for an additional allotment so that we can continue to provide the same classes.
- The school will attend the SHS musical, *The SpongeBob Musical*, at the end of February. 8th will go on Wednesday, 2/21, 7th will go 2/22 and 6th will go 2/23.
- The Spring Dance will be on 2/13
- The 8th grade dance date will be determined after sports schedules are released for spring sports. Mrs. Melchione told 8th graders in their class meeting about plans for the dance so that they can start looking for dresses and making plans.
- Spring testing is coming up with MAP in March, NAEP for 8th grade, and SCREADY will be in May. We should probably plan for MAP rewards after spring break.
- President/ Vice President Report: (Provided by Rhona)
  - Nominating and Elections Committee Slate (PTO Bylaws Article VII Section 3) Rhona addressed the Bylaws that state that the PTO should have a nominating committee. She announced two parents who are interested in being on that committee, Stacey Herriott and Krista Alley. Ashley also mentioned that Nada Couture had been interested as well. Lisa will head the committee and choose two teachers.
  - Review bylaws Article VII Section 3 and 4: Nominations and Elections, Term of Service - Rhona discussed this section of the bylaws that states that officers cannot run after two consecutive years but they can be a committee chair
    - Discussion on amending bylaws to change that officers can hold office more than 2 consecutive years. Anna would like to research wording for Article VII, Section 4b. We will finalize verbiage at next meeting
    - Discussion on which offices we would accept nominations for and vote for - officers only or officers and committee chairs? We will finalize at next meeting
    - Discussion on possibly adding verbiage on position qualifications and will revisit at next meeting
    - Rhona would like any research for verbiage emailed out by Jan 30 for next meeting Feb 6
  - PTO will operate our elections process as outlined in our bylaws for the 2024 nomination and election process.

- Spring Community Night ideas - is there a date that doesn't conflict with Drama Production in March? Maybe April? Need testing and sports and 8th grade end of year dates in order to determine
- PTO voted on 01/19/24 to purchase Math Counts shirts (8 total) from Sweet Tees for quote of \$198.00. Their competition is 2/3, t-shirts should be ready 2/2
- Fundraising:
  - Texas Roadhouse Holiday Gift Card Sale recap - altogether, more cash and check sales (\$502.50). Online sales still to be added. Texas Roadhouse put the packages together to be distributed. A couple of students won the incentive of Roadhouse for a year
  - Review options for Spring Fundraising: (ideas provided by members)
    - Good Will Fill the Truck Day: Saturday 02/24/24  
10:00am-1:00pm w/ Student Council. Rhona discussed that we will split with student council. Perhaps we can use to help fund 8th grade dance/ picnic, then student council goals. PTO helping organize this with them. Mrs Wood is organizing event and student volunteers. Ashley questioned the date because of the South Carolina Primary that day if SMS is a precinct. (Update 2/2: SMS is not a precinct so the date should be okay) Anna suggested possibly having Smoothie King here during the event.
    - Boone Supply for spring items - it was discussed that this fundraiser doesn't do enough. We are tabling that plan for now
    - Krispy Kreme (suggested by Mr. Macheski) - table the idea for now
    - Rhona mentioned that Saussy-Burbank has offered to be Drama Sponsor for purchase of Drama t-shirts. Quote: \$760.00 from Surf Water. Waiting for confirmation on sponsorship from Saussy-Burbank. (Post-meeting update: Saussy-Burbank is not able to help with this purchase at this time.)
    - Mr Dobell is applying for a DAP grant for SMS band, orchestra, chorus and drama, and art
  - Review of PTO Bylaws Article XI Section 2: Conflict of Interest. Rhona discussed that a couple of parents had concerns with process of voting in the last meeting for pizza at concessions. They feel we are not making best financial choice and should be opting

for a cheaper option. Rhona explained that at the beginning of the year concessions called around for pricing. A concern was brought up with using the business of a parent in school. Matt Duke presented reasons why they have been involved in the school. Other businesses of school parents in the past have been used (Subway, Fun Warehouse). Discussion was held regarding conflict of interest and it was decided that there is no conflict of interest based on the general consensus of the intention of the bylaws and the interpretation.

- Game 1/24: concessions will sell hot dogs (15), pizza (4 cheese, from Mellow Mushroom), nachos
- Spring Dance 2/13: pizza (Mellow, all cheese. Depending on ticket sales, maybe order 18)
- Treasurer Report: (Provided by Anna)
  - Review of Financial Report: December and updated Operating Budget
  - [Treasurer Report](#) (December/ January in progress)
  - [Operating Budget](#)
  - Website annual renewal 2/17 - do we want to keep it? Decide at next meeting; Sharepoint or Linktree might be a better option?
  - We are within our expenses and profits, if we continue like we are, we will zero out the year. We do have clubs who have not claimed their money yet. Have asked about Diamond Dell but no answer yet and if we do not do that, we would have \$1800 extra.
  - Rhona asked what the process is to roll Leigh Ann off of account. Does she still want to continue to donate time and help manage accounting?
- Secretary Report: (Provided by Ashley)
  - Review of Unapproved December Minutes, Call for Discussion.
  - Call for vote to approve December Unapproved Minutes.
  - Motion to approve, Cori, Second Anna, motion voted and approved
- Pretzel Committee Report: (Provided by Juliet and Lyndsay)
  - There were 4 (10) punch cards sold in December
  - There have been 4 (10) punch cards sold in January so far
  - February 7, 14, 28
  - March 6, 13, 20, 27
  - April 24 will be last sales date
  - Dates for January sales 1/10, 1/24, 1/31
    - 1/10 ordered 100, sold 100
    - 1/24 ordered 115, sales tomorrow
  - 12/6 ordered 125 had approx 23 left
  - 12/13, ordered 100 pretzels and we sold out

- Need info from November sales dates for shared document — this information has been updated by Juliet
- There was a suggestion to sell pretzel cards and put out info at open house in the spring and schedule pickup in August.
- Concessions Report: (Provided by Melody and Christina)
  - No report provided for agenda.
  - Need info from basketball dates for spreadsheet:
    - 11/30/23: sales \$736
    - 12/11/23: sales \$641.85
    - 1/8/24: sales \$422
    - 1/10/24: sales \$559
  - One more home basketball game for January: 01/24 (\*family night).
    - 01/24: covered for volunteers
    - Will stock up on certain things for tomorrow (drinks) and will inventory for dance
  - Spring Dance: 02/13/24 5:00pm-7:00pm at SMS/ Sign-up will go out soon. (last PTO dance)
  - Plan to narrow down concessions items as basketball season ends with goal to sell out of current stock.
- Spirit Wear Committee: (Rebecca/Danielle)
  - Idea to have winter close out sale to move stock from 01/24-spring break.
  - Can sell spirit wear at Texas Roadhouse spirit night.
  - [Current Inventory as of 01/19/24](#)
  - Close out sale on hoodies (\$20) left and old t-shirts (\$5), will have new shirts left to carry over to 5th grade tours (t-shirts and stadium bags), could have some for schedule pickup and new board can decide in summer what they want to do for that event
- Hospitality Committee: (Melissa/ Tiffany)
  - Saussy-Burbank provided SMS Staff lunch or breakfast for the 01/16/24 Teacher Workday.
- Spirit Nights: (Lauren)
  - No report provided for agenda.
  - January Marco's Night: 01/11/24 designated for PTO fundraising. Waiting for amount.
  - February Marco's Night: 02/08/24 (still available for clubs)
  - January 29, 2024 4:00pm-8:00pm Texas Roadhouse, 10% back, can use gift cards for purchases.
  - TGIF follow up: planning for April.
  - Wonderworks May (\$10 ticket, we get \$5) - will be a Friday
- PTO Website/ Social Media: (Josh)

- [January Social Media Calendar](#)
- Teacher Reps:
  - No report provided for agenda.
- New Business:
  - Discussion about a soccer goal fundraiser requested by a parent.
  - Decision was made to deny the request as a PTO fundraiser. A concern was raised with a parent individually fundraising for something as it could conflict with fundraisers that the PTO still needs to have in order to fund our budget. It was suggested that maybe it could be brought up as a PE equipment item or a Student Council request

Items for next agenda: Pi Day, Teacher Week (Texas Roadhouse will do lunch)

Next PTO Meeting: Tuesday February 6, 2024 9:00am-11:00am at SMS  
Draft of January Minutes and Agenda Items/Reports due by 01/26/24.