

Sussex Academy PTSA Executive Board Virtual Meeting Minutes 3/16/21

Note: Ann (Secretary) added some comments that she did not state for the record at the meeting. These comments are in italics to identify them as not part of the official minutes.

Members Present: Deborah Nails, Ed Hale, Ann Hobbs, Jenn Consegura

A budget discussion will be tabled until we hear from Carissa.

However it was noted and emphasized that there was zero money left over from the original PTO, they put it all into the science lab.

Increasing Membership and Funds for the PTSA

- Deborah came up with the idea of doing a “Partner Program” for the PSTA and having different levels, where interested donors would donate more than the current dues to join the PSTA in order to support it and get us some funds to work with in an easy manner. Deb said she would write something up.
- Ed said that he could incorporate some sort of link on our PTSA webpage (Facebook page?) to ensure that people could join and pay for membership and/or donate, all online if they wanted to.
- Ann will contact Gina Derrickson to ask about these things

School Dates that we know about

March 24 – SAT/PSAT testing

April 2-9 – Spring Break School, Closed

April 24th – Prom

May 3-7 – Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week

May 24-27 – Senior Exams

May 27 – Last Day for Seniors

May 31 – Memorial Day, School Closed

June 4 - Graduation

June 7-11 – School wide exams

June 10th – 5th grade moving up ceremony

June 11 – last student day; 8th grade moving up ceremony (AM)

Ann will contact Gina Derrickson to see if we are missing anything on this list of dates.

Jimmie Allen concert:

- How about May 8 with a rain date of May 15th?
- will be virtual
- Mr. Anderson was going to review the rules about alcoholic drinks and food trucks
- Ed said that he could figure out how to use a web-based platform to do ticket sales, and we have a person in the school in the Drama Department who can help with that.

Walkathon

- such an easy thing to do
- could be done during school time and kids can get out of class if they get people to sign up for pledges, so kids usually love doing this.
- Can we do it the week of April 20th or 27th, and one period is one hour and 20 minutes, could we do it during 4th period ??

Mental Health: Anxiety and Depression

We thought it would be great to have a speaker come in and talk about Covid-related issues, which could then segue into mental health issues. The idea would be to provide a starting point for thoughts and perhaps a school-wide discussion about these things, and highlight resources that kids and families could turn to.

On February 18th, Dr. Sherry Macbury had mentioned having some contacts with NAMI; has she had time to look into those contacts and provide them for us? Ann will contact her to see.

Ann - My 18 y.o. happened in on this part of the Zoom discussion and she stated that when she was at SA in Middle School the author of 13 Reasons Why came in and did a presentation to the Middle School. She said she thought also that the author spoke to the high school as well. She mentioned a teacher whose name I don't see any more on the school's website but perhaps Janet Owens might recall this event and I will reach out to her to get some more details. My son currently attends boarding school in PA and his freshman English teacher has recently assigned It's Kind of A Funny Story which has high reviews and could be another possible way to broach this type of subject (mental health issues, pressure, stress) with the students.

Ann – I sent separate emails to Dr. Macbury asking her about resources and also Janet Owens who taught when my daughter was there, asking her about how that program was done and if she thought it was valuable for the student body and whether it could be done again, or something similar.

It would be nice to bounce some ideas around about this at our general meeting on March 18th.

Uniform Swap/Uniform Closet

Ann spoke about the Uniform Closet and getting that going again. Her idea would be to get a date approved by the school and a space with tables, and in a Covid-compliant manner (masks, hand sanitizer, occupancy limits) have one or two more “uniform swaps” this year, of which there have been none since she thinks January of 2020. Deborah mentioned that she knows of a program that Rack

Room shoes does in the months of October and April where they give free shoes and she said that it involves just a simple application form that the office fills out. She said that she would work on that.

Teacher Appreciation Week May 3-7

- Can we get restaurants to donate food?
- How many staff are there? Ann will ask Gina

5th Grade Moving Up Ceremony June 10th @ 6:30pm

Is there anything we can do like a table or a booth and hand out flyers? Welcome families to the Middle School? (Get new PTSA members right away! LOL)

8th Grade Moving Up Ceremony Celebration June 11th

- Can we do something, like that picnic Eric Anderson had mentioned, say outside with a DJ?
- Can we charge \$5 a head to cover the DJ and get pay-per food trucks?

Next Meeting: our first general meeting, Thursday March 18th, at 7pm, should be very simple, introduce ourselves, announce that we have no money (LOL) thus the need for fundraising ASAP! Review these dates and events we have planned and ask for help!

Ann will contact Gina Derrickson and ask her to send out two email blasts, one Tuesday and one Thursday. Also to encourage people to join the PTA! There was a question as to who would generate the Zoom link and also if Gina sends Ed a link for the PTA registration and payment he can put it on the PTA webpage.