

Socastee Middle School PTO September 2023 Meeting Agenda

Tuesday September 5, 2023 9:00am-10:30am @ SMS

Meeting called to order at 9:02am

Present:

Rhona Williams, President

Cori Lamb, Vice President

Ashley Stathos, Secretary

Lyndsay Layton

Melissa Martin

Tiffany Roderick

Anna Quilter, Treasurer

Melody Spencer

Rebecca Hart

Lisa Melchione, Principal

Mike Macheski, Instructional Coach

- Introductions, welcome new members!
- Principal/ Administration Report – We have had a good start to the year. We have 538 students (had expected 550) this year. We utilized e-learning on Thursday, August 31, for Idalia. Everyone is marked present until the deadline to turn in work. We are still in the process of hiring two teachers. We have some long term subs in place and will continue with those until we find the right fit. The new road is open and the traffic pattern is different. We need to have the left turn lane re-painted and someone from the district is coming out to take a look at it. We will be sending home a permission slip for those who are closeby and can potentially bike to school with a sidewalk available all the way to their neighborhood. Biking/walking privileges will be revoked if they have too many tardies and cannot be responsible to get to school on time. We would like to have at least one more bike rack for 10 bikes. Football starts on Wednesday, September 6, at SJMS. We will be having a lockdown drill today, and we will have them once a quarter. Our bus drill will be on Friday and we do those every semester. Our earthquake drill will be in October and we will also do tornado drill which we actually had to put in place last year. Our first dance will be soon, possibly a day after a football game. The students have already been asking when that will be. We had our first set of class meetings on the first Friday, August 25, and we do those once a quarter. We have great scores for SC READY and SC PASS and our iReady scores are looking really good. We have MAP testing for language

arts tomorrow, September 6. We also now have flag football as an option for recess (7th and 8th, 6th not yet). We are looking at larger net options for soccer and there has been a request for volleyball as well. Melody Spencer mentioned that there are PVC goals with nets on Amazon for \$140. Lisa Melchione added that perhaps soccer and volleyball equipment could be something that Student Council could work on.

- President/ Vice President report:
 - Membership update: 118 PTO members. Rhona needs to add 16 staff who have requested to be added. We added 66 new members from Open House. Old members removed as requested.
 - August Fundraising Update: raised \$1,036.25
 - Smoothie King: \$134.25
 - Spirit Wear Sales: \$366.00
 - B-Team Football Concessions: \$536.00 – SHS boosters will cut a check at end of football season to go to Lisa to be deposited in the football student activity account
 - 6th grade t-shirts provided (free) at Open House. We still have some left over if students did not receive one. We had a lot left over so there should be some 6th graders who did not receive theirs.
 - 600 earbuds for SMS Testing purchased and delivered on 08/29/23. We did duplicate efforts but now we have extra for whatever need arises or for next year.
 - SMS Staff Survey results (closed on 09/01/23 EOD)/Visa gift card winner: Nicole Wilson wins the gift card. We had 23 responses; 56% plan to sponsor a club/sport; things that worked well included: Crazy mason spirit night, DJ Bingo, pretzel sales, teacher appreciation, movie night, fundraisers on school property. 13% said they would be interested in representing their grade on PTO and would come to the evening meetings
 - Review of bylaws, discussion for amending, vote on bylaws. PTO Members present voted and Bylaws stand
- Treasurer report:
 - Review 2023-2024 operating budget, votes on budget for the year. PTO members present voted to move forward with the budget as presented – motion by Rhona, seconded by Cori
 - PTO Financial report update. – pretzels are the biggest profit maker but the actuals after cost is about \$6000-6300. Anna Quilter reported that we actually brought over \$2400 from last year which is more than we have had to start with in a while.
 - October expenses – we will need to stock concessions, pay Drama Club, Mrs Melchione requested money for CPR/AED training for gift cards for

the trainers, restock spirit wear. Anna has also created an expense form for reimbursement if PTO members incur a cost that should need reimbursement.

- Secretary report:
 - Approve May 2023 minutes – there were none in May 2023
- Concessions Update:
 - Melody Spencer suggested charging more for items – everything was \$2 last year but kids are willing to buy no matter the price as was evident at the football scrimmage game
 - We still need some coverage for football home games. Use the sign up link please. Volunteers get in for free!
 - Fall Back to School Dance: September TBD (a Wednesday?) – it was discussed having this on a Wednesday after a football game on a Tuesday and Mrs. Melchione will talk to the football coaches about this possibility
 - Amazon Wish List for concessions items. – maybe a pizza warmer for keeping nacho cheese warm and other things. It was discussed that having a wish list that is viewable to parents might be a way for parents to donate without having to volunteer time and still feel involved
 - Texas Roadhouse Roasted Peanuts: 40 ct. Box for \$24, sell for \$3 each. Same size and price of SHS. First box is free to try out. Lisa Melchione felt that we should not do this because of peanut allergies.
 - Hot items to be added: Hot Dogs, Nachos. It was discussed that nachos might be easier because they will keep past one game if they are not all sold since they are pre-packaged. The hot dogs would need to be tossed if they are not used. We will see how it goes with the hot dogs but would like to try to add these hot item options and assess later.
- Spirit Wear Update:
 - Volunteer T-shirt design options - we do not have a budget item for it. Cori suggested that we possibly pay for them ourselves. Melody suggested that we just use the student shirts that we have in excess. We could maybe tie dye them to make them stand out from the student shirts.
 - Need to place a new order to stock up for fall/winter. New ideas for items? Anna mentioned that the athletic dry fit shirts were most popular. Cori suggested considering youth L/XL. Sweatshirts should maybe only be a presale because we end up holding on to them for a while if we order in bulk. Josh has made a website that will have the spirit wear link to it so maybe we can just order in batches. Rhona mentioned that she would like to have car magnets as an option because a lot of people asked for them at Open House. Rhona mentioned that she would like to use Sweet-Ts which is a local vendor option with a quick turnaround and they can also

help with design. Lakewood Elementary also uses them. There was a discussion about selling clear bags with a logo and we just need to make sure that we do not have the same logo that SHS uses on the clear bags they sell at football games.

- Online store for year round purchasing through PTO website: will launch by 10/01/23.
- Hospitality Update:
 - We provided snacks for SMS Staff for the first day of school.
 - PTO sponsored staff breakfast for training day (grab and go).
 - Next event: Christmas/December build up to Christmas soup day, etc. We will discuss specific scheduling for these events/weeks at a later meeting. Texas Roadhouse does offer free salad/bread for one event that could be used for a teacher lunch
- Pretzel Sales Update:
 - September dates: 9/13, 9/20, 9/27, Wednesdays at end of day.
 - Price increased to \$4/each due to increase by Auntie Anne's from \$1.50 to \$2.50/each
 - Pretzel Punch cards: sold online PTO website. We have two options this year: 5 punch (\$20) & 10 punch (\$40) options. Lyndsay requested that we add verbiage to Cheddar Up and the website about needing purchases by 5:00 on Monday the week of if the card is to be used for that week's sales, otherwise, the punch cards will be available the following week.
 - volunteers/ sign up – Rhona suggested maybe open up the sign up sheet to try to gain new volunteers?
 - Lyndsay suggested running the reminder earlier on social media – Josh was planning on running it over the weekend
 - Juliet will place the orders on Mondays and either Juliet or Lyndsay will take bags back
- Spirit Night Update:
 - Marco's Pizza in Publix shopping center will have SMS night every 2nd Thursday of the month September-May. 15% back, dine in, carry out, delivery, all day. Includes coupons for specials on flyer. Lisa Melchione suggested designating one of these a month for a certain club to avoid having club spirit nights that conflict or add to the ones that we are planning.
 - SMS Marco's Night: Thursday September 14th, 2023. Mention SMS when you order.
 - Welcome Back Spirit Night at Crazy Mason: Monday September 18th, 2023 3:00pm-9:00pm w/ SMS Warriors mason jar (while supplies last*). 10% back.

- Trying to get Walk Ons for October
- Texas Roadhouse offers to have spirit wear sold and flyers, etc. during a spirit night with them but only 10% – could be a lot of work for just a little bit of return. It was decided that this may not be a viable option
- Rhona reported that we will get TGIFriday's and Mon Cafe
- Rhona has been talking to Mrs. Patel about having their spirit night at The Hangout Drama. She will circle back and find out what the decision is on that. The Hangout would really like to host a spirit night for us.
- Social Media/ Website Update:
 - Josh is creating a social media calendar to schedule event/ informational posts for September.
 - Meet Your PTO Team posts for FB Instagram, run through September/ October.
 - Website has been updated and more updates are still to come.
- New Business:
 - Fall Community Sponsor Drive – This effort last year brought in \$1700 – Rhona would like to offer two levels: Level 1 – community business partner level (\$500) with ad space on website all year, in programs, and social media posts throughout the year with possibly a banner in the gym and also maybe give them a swag bag; Level 2 – warrior family sponsorship (\$100) with no perks, but names on a sign in the gym – Sponsor Drive will be September 25 through November 3 (6 weeks)
 - Texas Roadhouse Community Partnership – a gift card sale could be a possibility
 - Lowes Foods Cart to Class/ Publix Partners Program – Rhona needs to make sure Lowes Foods is set up and running for the year and also get this started at Publix
 - Boo Grams October TBD – this effort may be run by Drama, not us. This has been a Drama fundraiser in the past, we only took it over during COVID
 - Boone Supply for fall fundraiser – We will revisit, Rhona will look into it
 - Sell concessions at conference night – Conference night will be Sept 26 and it was suggested that this might be an opportunity for concessions or spirit wear
 - Family Night options – Possibly doing DJ Bingo. Anna will check with DJ to see what dates are available in October

**Next Meeting: Monday October 2, 2023 5:30pm-7:30pm @ SMS,
1st Semester Updates for Membership**

**October Agenda items/ Reports/ Unapproved September Minutes due by Friday
September 22, 2023**