

SOTA PTSA Notes June 13, 2017

Meeting nights for 2017-18

- FIRST TUESDAYS (except September, January, March will be SECOND TUESDAYS)
- PTO Leader next year: Vicky Robertson
- Vicky will be reaching out to active PTO members and others over the summer too prepare for next year.

AGENDA

- Ice Cream Social
- SOTA Happenings
- Vote on SBPT
- Middle School Parent Survey Results
- Title 1 Programs for 2017-18

No administrator was available for today's meeting.

SOTA Happenings

- Monday June 26th Monroe Branch Library: SOTA Jazz Combo/ Eastman Youth Jazz Orchestra

SBPT Parent Representatives

- 3 Parent Representatives, and at least one alternate
- For 2017-18 Year
 - No spots are filled for next year based on current members' terms
 - Need two 1-year term persons, two 2-year term persons, so that there is continuity and overlap
 - Candidates for 2-year terms:
 - Brian Haak (designated as alternate), Allison Bosworth
 - Candidates for 1-year terms:
 - Martin Presberg, Deb Wachspress
 - Nominations raised, seconded, and the above are voted in unanimously

Middle School Parent Survey Results

- Sent home in backpack mail, Spanish version available, sent to PTSA e-mail list, shared on middle school Facebook page
- 48 responses (10% return is not bad; note that industry average is 3-5% returns)
- Top four issues:
 1. Better communication to parents
 2. More opportunities for middle school students in their major
 3. More academic opportunities
 4. More positive school culture
- Two lowest issues:
 - Family Social Events
 - Improvements to fall orientation (this is good news – suggests this year's orientation is meeting the needs)
- Key suggestions for number one issue: communication
 - Monthly e-newsletter e-mailed to parents

- Links to info on SOTA website
- Sports bulletin sent prior to each sports season
 - Try-out dates, coach contact info, when/where practices are, pre-season work-out schedule
 - Schedule is currently on the website – LOVE THIS – tryout dates, coach contact info should be there, too
- Key suggestions for number 2 issue: artistic opportunities in middle school
 - Ideas which could be implemented *without* a disruption to current scheduling / scheme
 - Group sessions during first few weeks, grouped by major
 - Meeting the staff
 - Doing group activities
 - Review what's available in MS in your major
 - Middle school cultural arts family night
 - Spring event
 - Propose this be a title 1 program
 - After school club for creative writing majors (open to others as well)
 - Consider a newsletter club, could be parent run / teacher sponsored
 - Additional interest in the following:
 - Strong desire to bring back 8th grade trip
 - Middle School educational day to replace LaserTron day when high school is doing PSAT
 - Student Recycling Club
- Additional information as an outcome of the survey results and the follow-up meeting is attached

Title 1 Programs for 2017-18

- Rolling Program, the deadline isn't hard and fast
 - Evelyn would like information by July 7th
 - Needs to be a faculty sponsor for each project
 - Desire is to have one or two parents coordinating each project
- Middle School Arts Family Night – Mary Staropoli, Karen Slattery
 - Spring Event – coordinated with the various arts departments
- Event for Parents and Students on Race and Diversity – Terri Miller, Vicky Robertson
 - Starting points:
 - Superintendent's desire to get the movie: I'm Not a Racist, Am I?
 - Starting with central office, then bringing out to the schools
 - Potential partnership with Ghandi institute
- Guidance Counselors will do college applications and Naviance training
- Another idea (maybe more along the lines of a fundraiser, rather than a Title 1 program) 5x5 for \$5 art event

Standing Agenda for PTO 2017-18

- Upcoming PTO events / Status
- SBPT
- Friends of SOTA
- Hot Topics
- Principal's Report