



Stone Bridge High School PTSO
43100 Hay Road, Ashburn, VA 20147

9/3/19 PTSO Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Jen Cramer-Marden, Jeanne Murck Meyer, Saige Burns, Lori Steger, Gini Howard, Dan & Emily Rittenhouse, Veena Sajjan, Aundrea Foster, Mike Marden, Jen Underwood, James Hashell, Carmen Topper, Jeannine Rotzler, Robin Pinto, Jen Andos, Jessica Clark, Darrel Foster, Ann Rourke, Robin Knowles, Syed Ashraf, Jeanette Fehr, Magn & Bob Wright, Cynthia Frias, Meaghan Tracy, Kalliopi Angelidaki, Nikos Syrtariotis, Elizabeth Provencal, Sharon Chiat, Shannon & Shawn MacCormack, Sue Fuller, Heather Jolly, Marsha Emch, Jerry Emch, Jennifer Buckner, Catherine Boyd, Svetlana Betlack, Bill Wilkin, Mary Reilly, Shahrazad Kablan

President Report: Jen Cramer-Marden - 3 minutes

- Introduction of officers and administration
- Updates from last meeting - WE HAVE THE RUG!! New SBHS logo mat has been installed in the foyer - it was a major project from last school year and was sponsored by the PTSO and the Stone Bridge Boosters
- Premier Parking fundraiser outcome -
 - Seniors were able to pay \$40 to pick & paint their own spots
 - Sold over 100 to students plus 5 teachers (goal was 40)
- Calendar of events
 - PTSO meetings will be 1st Tuesdays of the month in library at 6:30 pm - dates are posted on PTSO website (some vary due to holidays, next meeting is October 1st)
 - Back to school night is Thursday, September 12 -We will be having a PTSO membership drive that night
 - September 21 is a SAT Practice Test for Huntington
 - Bazaar has been postponed
 - October 31 - PTSO will provide Halloween goodie bags for staff
 - December 16 - PTSO will provide holiday desserts to teachers and staff - we will need PTSO volunteers and donations
 - Feb 14 - PTSO provides Valentine's day treats for teachers
 - March - PTSO assists with Senior Ethics Day breakfast - donations and volunteers
 - April - PTSO will host a staff breakfast - donations and volunteers
 - May -PTSO will host teacher appreciation luncheon - donations and volunteers

Secretary Report: Jeanne Murck-Meyer - 1 minute

- May minutes posted and are approved unless changes are needed

Hospitality/Fundraising Report: Saige Burns - 3 minutes

- August: Staff breakfast and Student Orientation-

- both went really well
- student orientation was a fun “party” - popsicles provided by the PTSO & spontaneous dancing occurred
- Grab & go treats for incoming teachers were provided
- Tissues for Teachers was a success - thank you to all for donations!
- Fall Bazaar - canceled - date unfortunately fell on the same day as a big festival in Woodbridge so we had very limited vendor interest
- We had planned a raffle with clubs for the bazaar; We will still have a raffle and are working on obtaining donation items to raise funds via the raffle for scholarships and staff and club support
- We need your help - Look for sign-up genius emails; please volunteer to help with Halloween treats and other upcoming events
- Mr. Lucas - sends important emails regarding PTSO activities

VP Programs Report: Lori Steger - 2 mins

- Huntington SAT Prep - \$25 practice test on **Sat.9/21 from 9am to 12pm in the library**, parent results meeting Wed.9/25 in the evening (approx.1 hour to find out results and what your child needs to work on). PTSO receives all \$25 of the registration. Email has been sent out with sign up link or go to:
<https://huntingtonhelps.com/registration/isep?type=grouptest>
- Turbo Tutoring, Test prep classes: ACT on 9/12 at Briar Woods, SAT on 9/28 at Westfield, **SAT on 10/2 at Stone Bridge** - we get a percentage of each SB student registration at any class location; Stone Bridge PTSO receives a portion of the tutoring fees for any Stone Bridge student; Classes are one day for 2 hr 45 min class for test prep. <https://turbo-tutoring.com/>
- We could use help with advertising for our test prep programs if anyone wants to volunteer!

Treasurer Report: Gini Howard - 2 minutes

- Review of treasurer's report
 - We've collected \$1828.92 for membership and \$4348.69 for the parking space fundraiser so far.
- Venmo and PayPal
 - PayPal Account created for payments to PTSO
 - We are also looking into Venmo

VP Membership/Webmaster Report: Dan/Emily Rittenhouse - 2 minutes

- As of tonight, we have 71 family members and 39 staff members
- Tonight we had a drawing for two gift cards for PTSO staff members. Two numbers were selected by attendees: 17 and 25. This corresponds to Jeanette Fehr and Melanie Stender. Congratulations!
- Comments on membership forms:

- Be more inclusive of children with special needs. They are often overlooked with regards to school events.
 - Encourage teacher engagement with parents for the benefit of the student.
 - Help advocate for students, parents and teachers. Keep all informed of LCPS changes and advocate in light of impact to quality of learning environment. Ensure that the school remains a place that is welcoming, collaborative and celebratory of our teachers and students.
 - Keep up the great work
 - You are doing an AWESOME job :-) Thank you!
- Still don't have access to the website to make updates. Heidi Hayes has made some for us as needed (thank you!).

Scholarship Report: Jeanne Murck-Meyer

- Applications accepted in the spring for PTSO scholarships (# of scholarships depends on PTSO fundraising activities - last year it was 3 - \$1,000 scholarships)
- Scholarships are for seniors who are going into college, the military, or a trade school
- We need volunteers to read applications and help select winner (parent volunteers cannot have a senior child)
- Parent of child must a PTSO member for them to apply

SEAC Report: Veena Sajjan

- Veena - was SEAC rep past 2 years at Trailside and has led the autism & climate/culture subcommittees
- SEAC first meeting is 9/4/2019 with special education supervisor at 6pm
- SEAC meets every month
- Special Education boot camp back to school night 9/12 at 6pm

MSAAC Report: Aundrea Foster

- MSAAC mission statement was read - see <https://www.lcps.org/Page/211614>
- MSAAC meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month (9/18 is first meeting)

ANGP Report: Jen Cramer/Mike Marden

- ANGP meetings are after immediately following all PTSO meetings
- We need volunteers and a shadow for senior parent leads
- ANGP is a party on the evening of graduation; it's a lock-in and kids really enjoy all the activities (obstacle courses, casino games, karaoke, food, prizes, etc)
- Big fundraiser for ANGP is the sale of White House ornaments
- Parents of underclassmen really needed as volunteers to "pay it forward" because parents of seniors will have a hectic day of graduation
- 75% of kids attend - it's an amazing night & we need volunteers!

Administrators Round Table - Tim Lucas - Director of Guidance Counseling

Mr. Tim Lucas was our guest and discussed the following:

Beginning statement: We've been here 20 years and he's glad to see so many people at a PTSSO meeting!

Mr. Lucas updates the school counseling web page almost daily with up to date information.

Counselors are assigned by last name so that after 4 years, they are well known to provide advice when the child is a senior. Each counselor has about 300 kids in grades 9-12.

Each counselor also has an assigned activity in addition to their kids (Sources of Strength, SSID, PBIS, etc. - responsibilities are delegated)

All LCPS websites including Stone Bridge's page are being updated.

Counselors will meet with seniors next week in their government class to discuss the application process and to find the best fit for students. Starting Mon/Tues they will review the "Senior Checklist" which is on the website. The night of September 10th at 7 pm, counseling dept will also give the same presentation to parents.

There is a Calendar of Events on Tim Lucas's page with college fair date, SAT dates, important dates for seniors.

College rep visits will be announced via email (naviance) -from Mrs. Jolly, Career Center.

Mr. Lucas encourages people to do their homework early with regard to college admission requirements ! (for example, must have a fine art for a California college)

1. How does my senior start the college application process?
 - a. Get to know what colleges want early -
 - b. At end of junior, get a sense of what school they want to attend; a check-list is given to juniors at end of year to organize thoughts on what they are looking for in a school
 - c. Order transcript from school to be prepared
 - d. Pay attention to and meet deadlines and timelines.
 - e. For your top Top 5 schools, know the deadlines - and request letters of recommendation and discuss with counselor
 - f. All instructions are in the senior check-list packet they will receive
2. What if my child is not college bound? What are his/her choices after HS? Trade schools, apprenticeship programs.
 - a. There will be an apprenticeship night at Heritage High School after the New Year. Students can find out more regarding trade and apprenticeships through NOVA community college.
 - b. There are also 1 and 2 year programs at Monroe (MATA)- they can get certified and go right to work after those programs!
3. Where do we find the list of college recruiters who visit SBHS?
 - a. Last year 70 recruiters came
 - b. Visits will be announced via email (naviance)
 - c. it's a great opportunity - The admissions person who comes to the school is often the same person reading the applications from Stone Bridge for that college. The student can follow-up with the particular person after applications sent.
4. What classes should my child take to have a better chance at getting into college?

- a. Students should take the classes that they are interested in and that they have a passion for & the classes in which they will do well.
 - b. Recommended: 5 core areas to go as far as they can in - English/Science/Math/Social Studies/World Language; take Honors or AP or dual enrollment in areas where students have a passion
5. What if my child wants to enlist? What does he/she do?
- a. SBHS has military recruiters visit the school during lunch
 - b. Students can only go so far without parents involvement if under 18
 - c. Military is looking for solid academic students
 - d. Mrs. Jolly has contacts if your child is interested
6. What are some technical training classes offered after HS?
- a. there are several technical training programs at MATA that can continue after HS or at NOVA. Counseling office has more information.
7. What's the difference between AP and Dual Enrollment classes?
- a. AP is advanced placement - can get college credit if student scores a 3 or 4 or 5 on the AP exam depending on the college
 - b. Dual enrollment is a college level class in the high school - if child earns a C or higher, they get college level credit. Example: 6 credits for a dual enrollment history; 8 credits for dual enrollment science
 - c. Some competitive schools like to see more AP than dual enrollment due to money issue - if credit is earned in high school, less revenue to the college
8. What happens if my child fails an SOL?
- a. Depends on what year - if the student is a 10th or 9, only 5 verified credits are needed for all of HS; if 11th or 12th, 6 credits or 9 verified credits required (depending on regular or advanced diploma)
 - b. Re-testing is available.
9. If my child takes an AP exam, how are the scores sent to colleges?
- a. by November, the student needs to decide if they are going to take the exam or not

Do they count as college credits? It depends on the college - some colleges will if 3 or higher, some only take a 5; some don't award any credit regardless of the score. Mr. Lucas recommends to make the commitment and take the exam if you are in the class. SBHS has AP/DE hybrid classes - Take AP exam or not? If child gets a C or better, they get the college credit. But some colleges want to see the student take the exam, even if the dual enrollment credit is awarded

10. When should my child begin to apply to college?
- a. If a senior, now!
11. What's the difference between Early Action and Early Decision?
- a. Early Action is getting work done early and finding out early
 - b. Early decision is a binding contract. Student should be absolutely sure that that is a school they want to attend and that they can afford to attend. (Always wanted to go & money isn't an issue)
 - c. Mr. Lucas does not recommend Early decision. A student may receive a better offer or scholarship money from a different school after the early decision has been made.

12. What services do you offer if my child is having emotional issues? For the first time this year, SBHS has a school social worker and a school psychologist full time. See counseling office for help.
13. What does the counseling office do if my child is getting bullied? Child should talk to their guidance counselor for help.
14. How does my child change classes if he/she doesn't like the class? When is it too late to drop/change a class? Up to 11 weeks in, student can drop a school as if it were never there; after that, it will say withdraw pass and withdraw fail on the transcript.
15. Do all seniors take early release? It should be a family decision; It usually takes the place of a study hall; study hall can be large so it can be helpful to work at home.

Please Like and Follow us on Facebook at Stone Bridge PTSO
PTSO Membership - <https://www.lcps.org/domain/4657>
PTSO Meetings - every 1st Tuesday of the Month in the Library @ 6:30!