

Sanderson High School PTSA
Minutes from January 3, 2011

The SHS PTSA held its January meeting on January 3, 2011 in the Media Center of Sanderson High School. This was a change from the original planned date of January 10.

Present: Veronica Black, Dr. Greg Decker, Judy Dove, Burt Driscoll, Jami Elizondo, Irene Jasper, John Kinney, Elizabeth Voiers.

The meeting was called to order by John Kinney at 7:00 p.m.

The minutes from the last meeting were discussed and approved as written.

Principal's report:

- Dr. Decker reported that over \$20,700 had been raised or donated to the Clicker Campaign. Dr. Decker recognized the great team effort by the PTSA and the Academic Boosters in accomplishing this.
- During 2nd semester, Sanderson will pilot a national study to measure the impact of the Clicker technology on student achievement and growth. All SHS teachers will be involved. We are twenty-four classroom sets short of all classrooms being outfitted with Clicker technology. Dr. Decker would like to have all classrooms completely outfitted for the national study, which will be a blind study.
- We will pilot this spring for four teams that are ready: Algebra I, English 9, Biology Honors and AP, Civics and Economics Honors and AP. This semester, all staff will be trained so that in the fall they will all be ready for the three-year national study.
- Exams are approaching and teachers are reviewing. Things are going exceedingly well. Dr. Decker will soon look at E.O.C. test scores.
- Elizabeth Voiers was thanked for her work leading the No-Fuss Fundraiser. She credited the generous donor families including an anonymous donor.

Elizabeth Voiers reported that Teacher of the Year banquet funds are a part of the Hospitality Fund in the PTSA budget, according to Anne Sherron. The "Teacher Banquet" that is listed is for the Teacher of the Year fund.

Burt Driscoll, Student Government President, reported that

- the SHS Student Government is applying for National Honor Council and must complete twenty-three guidelines to do so. They have been on Gold Council for four years, where one must meet 26 of 53 additional guidelines. So far, SHS has met 52 of those 53 guidelines.
- The Jr. Class Council was praised for their exceptional work on the prom. The need for extra fundraising due to budget cutbacks was discussed.

Cindy Jones was thanked for her exceptional work on the e-newsletter. **Jami Elizondo** led a discussion on the possible variety of ways that e-newsletter information could be made available to the SHS community, including whether we should send out one long weekly e-newsletter, or several shorter weekly ones targeted at specific groups. Ideas were generated and Jami will discuss options with Cindy.

Irene Jasper presented the budget. She suggested that we investigate whether we could sell our remaining candy at cost to the Athletic Boosters, and then let them sell it for profit for their group.

John Kinney

- **thanked Irene** for the extra time and effort that she gives to be sure that checks get out on time.
- John will go to the next board meeting at noon tomorrow, January 4.
- He discussed the challenges and progress of shifting school boundaries.
- John has made contact with new WCPSS Superintendant General Tata, and has invited him to visit Sanderson at a future date.
- We need to begin identifying PTSA officers for next year. A committee will be formed to create a slate of proposed officers for next year. We need the names of the new slate of officers by April.
- There will be a student reassignment meeting at Millbrook H.S. on Tuesday, January 11, at 6:00 p.m. There was discussion as to whether there would, at this time, be any benefits to the SHS parents going as a group, or if this was a necessary step at this time.
- A parent asked for discussion of the academic performance of students who are on Free and Reduced Lunch. Growth indexes were pointed out, as well as the facts that we have the second highest Special Education population in the county, and that 32% of incoming freshmen are reading at a fifth grade level. In response to the question of what parents could do to help raise the scores of the Free and Reduced Lunch population, Dr. Decker indicated the need for students to feel motivated, to want to succeed academically. Mentorship and tutorials are two of the interventions that Sanderson currently has in place. We also have a full-time person to work with teachers to differentiate instruction. There was further discussion on behavioral assessments vs. grading assessments.
- **Dr. Decker thanked John Kinney** for his efforts to build positive relationships with the school board.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Upcoming PTSA meetings are Feb 7, Mar 7, Apr 4, May 2, June 6.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Dove
Secretary