

# SLHS ACADEMIC BOOSTERS

**October 27, 2011**

Attending: Juli Westfall, Yolanda Maldonado, Patricia Hall, Opal Cotton, Sofi Cahoon, Susan Zaboji, Joan Burkhart, Nancy Boyd-Mattern, Maria Robles, Anh Dang-Vu, Kim Shoop, Joan Lynch,

I. Introductions and Overview (J. Lynch and K. Shoop)

II. Review of Recent/Current Events

a. Directory (K. Shoop)

This year has been a bit of a struggle getting the directory finished. There is no single staff listing and the Special Ed department has high turnover. Additionally our key volunteer had a work deadline move back a month. We are hoping to get it printed and distributed in November. We are still looking for help with distribution so if you know of anyone who can help with this logistical piece let Kim know.

b. College Application Essay Workshops (K. Shoop)

The workshops are going pretty well. The 3<sup>rd</sup> was today. Students who come find it beneficial because they can ask questions and have dialog about their ideas. IB English writing is more technical and college essays are short stories so transitioning to an essay is difficult. We would like more students to participate so Kim will ask Bruce if we could offer a pilot class during LS in the beginning of the year to "hook" kids. Kim will also ask about the incentive of receiving English extra credit for attending the intro/overview presentation. Volunteers, including some with college admissions experience, have been great. Ideas to increase participation discussed included: food, donuts/cookies before, pizza after, gift certificates, English extra credit, send a senior class KIT on the theory that if more parents know about it there might be more students attending. Food is not allowed in the Career Center. If anyone wants to investigate the gift certificate idea please speak to Kim. Sofi will contact Chad Lehman about sending a message before the next workshop on 11/21. The final workshop is scheduled for 12/12.

c. TOK Writer's Workshop (K. Vita)

TOK volunteer training was held on 10/20 and 10/24. The training covered the basics of TOK and then discussed the strategy for this years' coaching with the students. The focus this year is in two phases - 1- Framing their argument around the prescribed title, and 2-Essay draft review. A total of 13 volunteers have completed the training. Yay! (last year 7)

The framing session with students was held on 10/26 during the TOK Wed. evening class. The energy was great between students and coaches, spirits were high, and we are getting great feedback about this new approach, from our new coaches and from the students. Matt (Ravenstahl) has already heard from 2 students who are very excited and complimentary about how much they respect their coach! The next meeting of students and coaches is scheduled for 11/30 to review first drafts.

Matt, Kim, and Krista are always thinking about ways to build upon these great experiences, capture the students' enthusiasm in these moments and carry them over so they can keep their energy and inspiration up to succeed on this assignment. We've got lots of ideas on how to keep building organization and momentum, more to come. It's exciting to see folks really capturing the spirit of TOK and the program is off to a great start again this year!

Matt's class grades went up last year so he had ideas on how to improve process this year Krista and Matt are investigating expanding the program next year. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact Krista at [kristavita@hotmail.com](mailto:kristavita@hotmail.com).

d. Mock SAT/ACT Tests (K. Shoop)

Mock SAT's are scheduled for Saturday morning with the review session on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. 50-60 students are signed up which leaves room for walk-ins. All registrations were through PayPal this year and that was better to administer. A final total of 67 students took the mock SAT.

Mock ACT's are scheduled for November 19<sup>th</sup>. So far there are 55 registrations, with room for 15 more.

Band kids have not been able to participate in either test because of competitions. Kim will try to look at the school calendar when scheduling the spring tests. Asked about taking the test and not going to the review session, Kim feels it is best to try to attend review session – parents can put some context around the score and students can walk away with some strategies on how to improve their score. Test result documentation is very good – check it out on the AB page of the PTSA web site.

e. Academic Letter Ceremony (J. Lynch)

Planning for the Academic Letter Ceremony is underway. The date is November 10 (please note change from previous AB communication.) Sofi Cahoon will be coordinating the “data” piece and has the student listing from Davina. Martha and Mark Fischer will prepare the program again this year. Nancy Boyd-Mattern and Susan Zaboji will be coordinating the reception. Volunteers will be needed to prepare student envelopes (letters/bars/pins), print and collate programs, help with the reception (setup, serve, and cleanup). We are hoping that we will be able to work on the envelopes and programs on teacher workdays. Once that is finalized we will send a signup sheet out.

Update since meeting: We will be stuffing envelopes and collating programs (adding ribbon up for discussion) on Tuesday, November 8 at 10AM in the Cafeteria. Signup for this session and to help on the night of the ceremony, November 10 by clicking on this link:

<http://signupgenius.com/go/volunteers1082>

f. Honor Roll Breakfast (J. Westfall/Y. Maldonado)

The first Honor Roll Breakfast is on 11/18. Whole Foods will be donating juice again. It's too early to get other donations. KSB needs a tax exempt letter and asks for 2 weeks' notice. Juli will be looking for help to pick up donations. They are going to try Signup Genius for donations and are thinking about it for volunteers. They don't want to limit the number of volunteers so anyone who wants to may help. Suggestion was made to ask for 50 volunteers so that it won't “fill up.”

Last year Dr. Apt, Reston orthodontist, made a significant donation to the PTSA/AB. Joan Burkhart will follow up with his office to see if he would like to donate water bottles and/or the \$100 BUG donation.

III. Discussion of Upcoming Events

a. BUG (P. Welker/M. Delahaye)

We discussed different motivators for participation and the target audience for this program. We came to the consensus that the program should focus on those students that are NOT part of the HRB crowd. This would be anybody who improves from an F, D or C to something higher (1 letter grade better than what they had). No conclusion reached on what the program should look like, but changing from the current gift card approach should be considered. One possible suggestion was to focus on the Remediation population...maybe the Remediation teachers send qualified students to some central location and they get a reward (food?) and a chance to do an on-site, must-be-present-to-win gift card drawing. Can discuss further at next AB meeting – need to include program sponsors (Welker & Delahaye). Should probably also discuss w/ an SLHS rep (Davina? T. Gallanti? S. Brownsword?) to better understand how Remediation works and how to best reach our target audience.

b. Directory Distribution

We really, really do need a point person for directory distribution. This person interacts w/ the administration to get student info; they create labels and then coordinate w/ the school/teachers (through Davina?) & parents (through KIT) to advertise directory distribution strategy and date.

IV. Comments, Questions and Suggestions on Future Activities

Can we get a Teacher Rep to Academic Boosters? It would be nice to have input from teachers as to what would support them. The rep could report back to their teams about AB activities. If there was one from each department they could rotate coming to the meetings and it would not put a large burden on any one teacher to attend meetings. (Kim and Joan will investigate and report back next month)

Next Meeting: **November 17<sup>th</sup> @ 9:30 a.m. in the Cafeteria**

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

- 10/29: Mock SAT Test, 8:45 (Kim Shoop)
- 11/2: Mock SAT Feedback and Strategy Session, 7:00 p.m. (Kim Shoop)
- 11/10: Academic Achievement Ceremony (Joan Lynch & Nancy Mattern)
- 11/18: 1Q Honor Roll Breakfast (Juli Westfall & Yolanda Maldondo)
- 11/19: Mock ACT, 8:45 (Kim Shoop)
- 11/21: College Essay Assistance, 2-4 (Kim Shoop)
- 11/30: TOK Writer's Workshop student draft essay review, evening (Krista Vita)
- 12/7: ACT Feedback and Strategy session
- 12/12: College Essay Assistance, 2-4 (Kim Shoop)

**Useful Emails:**

Joan Lynch – [Joan.Lynch1@verizon.net](mailto:Joan.Lynch1@verizon.net)

Nancy Mattern – [tobeoneself247@gmail.com](mailto:tobeoneself247@gmail.com)

Kim Shoop – [kjshoop@aol.com](mailto:kjshoop@aol.com)

Krista Vita – [kristavita@hotmail.com](mailto:kristavita@hotmail.com)

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