

Signature PTSA Meeting Minutes
March 13, 2019
6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Signature School

Introduction of Speaker: Mr. Sean Riley, University of Evansville, Financial Aid Counselor/Student Financial Services

FAFSA & Financial Aid – What is FAFSA 2018-2020

- FAFSA – Free Application for Federal Student Aid
- Collects demographic and financial info about student and family
- Only way to apply for financial aid in Indiana – must file in order to receive federal and / or state loans or grants.
- Can also use the CSS profile (College Scholarship Service through College Board) – some colleges will use this service
- When going online, make sure you use fafsa.gov – the .gov extension is important; there are other fafsa services that will charge for their service. The .gov does not charge.
- EFC – Expected family contribution – this is calculated by a grid by the financial aid offices of the college
- A change in family circumstance may allow a school to re-evaluate your aid packages, but you must have filed the FAFSA for this to occur. If a change would occur, you would want to contact the college financial aid office.
- Prior tax year is what is used for the calculation
 - Senior 2017 return
 - Junior 2018 return
 - Sophomore 2019 return
 - Freshman 2020 return
- Many myths exist about “making too much money” – recommend that all apply at least your first year
- Items you will need to have handy to complete the online FAFSA
 - Tax Return for the appropriate year
 - W2s
 - Other earned income
 - Bank statements
 - Record of investments
 - Record of any untaxed income
 - Both Student and Parent SSN
- You will create an FSA ID (login / userID/Password)
 - Student must have an ID
 - One parent must have an ID
 - ID serves as your signature which is needed to submit and if need be edit your information
- There is also a mobile App available. You can enter data on this app but cannot go back and correct any errors. That must be done from a PC
- You can submit your info to up to 10 schools at one time. If you are applying to more than 10 schools, submit to your first 10, log out, log back in and change the schools you have listed and submit again.
- Watch carefully on each question to know are you answering the question as the student or as the parent.
- You can link your taxes directly into the FAFSA system. You will need to know the tax status you filed under as well as the exact address that was on the return.
- You can start completing your FAFSA on October 1st of your Senior Year.
- If you must verify assets, read carefully what is to be included. Home, cars, life insurance, 401K /retirement, family owned business with fewer than 50 people and a family farm that the family lives on and operates are not included as assets.

- The offer of aid is only an estimate until verification is completed.
 - Approximately 30% are checked for verification. This amount varies by college
- If you must make changes to your information – you will want to contact the school directly.
- All colleges are required to have a net price calculator on their websites. This can help you get a rough estimate of costs and aid.
- Important Dates
 - October 1st – first day to file FAFSA of Senior Year
 - November 1st – state merit applications are due
 - April 15th – date to receive aid from IN
- Schools have set criteria for need based grants. Recommendation made to apply early. Many times, those early apps will receive more aid as more money is still in the “pot”. As time goes on, and money has been offered / accepted – there is then less there for the college to offer those later applications.
- Special Circumstance – reach out to the specific college to see if any additional aid is available.
 - Job Loss
 - Change in income for tax purposes
 - Death of parent in prior or current year
 - Recent divorce
 - Large medical bills
 - Private school tuition of a younger sibling
- Cost of aid minus the Expected Family Contribution equals the NEED.
- Colleges who you sent the FAFSA to will contact you during your Senior year about your financial aid package once you have been admitted to the school.
- While the FAFSA does not require you to enter your SSN – it makes it much easier for the schools to match up the application and the FAFSA if you do.

Meeting was called to order by Signature PTSA Presidents Serena Laroia and Kim Wahl.

Attendance – A total of 9 members were present.

Secretary Report – LeAnn Freeman made a motion to approve the February minutes, Serena Laroia seconded. The minutes were approved.

Treasurer Report:

- February ending balance \$21,821.90 in PTSA account
- February gaming account showed a balance of \$87.67.

Committee Reports:

- Give Back Night Fundraisers: LeAnn Freeman
 - Chipotle – March 16th 4pm-8pm – only need to mention Signature when you order
 - Hacienda, West Side – April 10th (w/PTSA Meeting @ 12pm) – will need to have a printed version of the give back slip to give your server
- Spirit Wear: Maria Elena Thompson
 - Spirit Wear: Sale March 6-18th – link to order form on the school website and on Facebook
- Student Appreciation Day: Friday April 26th
 - Will have pizza and ice cream. Be watching for messages on how you can donate items or volunteer for the event.
- Speaker Series: Topic - Preparing Students for College Interviews May 8th, guest speakers
 - Dr. Jensen, Brown University and Dr. Hitchcock, Cornell University
 - Encourage students to attend this PTSA meeting

- Senior Activities:
 - Senior Honors Night – Monday, May 20th
 - Senior Luncheon – Tuesday, May 21st
 - (We would like to borrow 8-9 Ferns for Senior Activities if possible.)
- Teacher & Staff Appreciation Week: May 20-22nd
 - Still looking for a Chairperson for this committee. If interested let Kim or Serena know.
- Officer Nominating Committee – will be comprised of Kim Wahl, Amy Wolf & Angela Bethel

Upcoming Activities:

- No PTSA Fun Friday in March
- Next PTSA Meeting, Wed., April 10th Noon at Hacienda (Westside) 5440 Pearl Drive

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Secretary – Beth Hafele