

Signature PTSA Meeting Minutes
May 9, 2018
5:30 p.m. Appetizer Reception
6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Meeting
Central Library, Browning Room A & B

Meeting was called to order by Signature PTSA President Karen Cinelli.

Welcome and Pledge of Allegiance:

Introduction of Special Guests:

Mr. Robert L. Koch II- Signature School Founder and School Board President

- Congratulations from Mr. Koch on the recent #17 recognition for US News.
- Original Design of Signature School
 - A part time school that other areas schools could come to for the purpose of taking challenging courses for part of their day. The school was located in downtown Evansville. Teachers made proposals on courses to offer, and on average the school welcomed 250 students in the morning and 250 in the afternoon.
 - It was a success, the students and staff liked it. They went back to their home schools and the question became “Why can’t we replicate that here?” The home schools began to balk at the idea, they made it impossible for students to be able to schedule the classes downtown and enrollment dropped. The public school did not want to lose money from the state. They felt it was a rich or elite program and wanted it done away with.
 - State legislation was then passed that allowed for the formation of Charter Schools. Was this an option? A market study was completed, and it was estimated that the program would attract 100-120 students. Teachers took a risk, left their secure jobs and retirements and came to Sig. The EVSC school board sponsored Sig as a charter, although reluctantly.
 - First year—220 showed up. The school didn’t have enough books, desks, chairs, anything...EVSC stepped in and loaned items to help get them up and running.
 - The design was to be Rigorous, Engaging and Exciting. The school is always looking for ways to improve.
- Charter Schools in Indiana
 - Charter schools receive the same basic grant as traditional schools; around \$6800/\$6900 per student
 - Public Schools also collect part of the property tax assessment. That is around \$2800 per student that public schools receive that charter schools do not.
 - Sig runs on a lean budget. Typically, they are short a couple hundred thousand a year and depend on the Foundation to help cover that gap.
 - Parents are encouraged to talk to their Legislators on balancing out the funding between the two schools.
- Regional Cities Grant
 - Sig received \$2.5 million in grant money. Half a million was spent on the lab. There is still \$2 million to be used.
 - The school does not like having a wait list, they would like to be about to expand so those students are not having to wait for an opening.

- Discussions have been held with the Mayor on modifications with the Victory. The city subsidizes the Victory, it doesn't support itself. This is something the board must consider when looking at modifications with the Victory.
- Also looking at a building addition in the area of the teacher parking lot. A commons area would take over the first floor and classes on the second floor.
- Annual Engagement Survey
 - PAR conducts an annual engagement survey with the staff. This year, the scores were extremely high. Shows great engagement with our staff. Biggest requests from those surveys – more space and improvements in technology.

Mrs. Jean Hitchcock: Signature School Principal: PTSA Presentation of Year-End Gift

- \$8000 check presented to the school to be used where needed.
- Mrs. Hitchcock expressed great appreciation to the PTA for the time, activities and wonderful food they have provided all year. Greatly appreciated by the staff!

Attendance – A total of 23 members present.

Secretary Report – Amy Hoon made a motion to approve the April minutes, Amy Wolf seconded. The minutes were approved.

Treasurer Report: reported by Treasurer Amy Hoon

- April ending balance \$17,593.77 in PTSA account
 - Amendment request to the Senior Week budget – request to increase budget by \$700.
 - Amy Wolf made a motion to amend the budget as requested; Maria Elena Thompson seconded. The amendment was approved.
- April ending balance gaming account \$752.67

Election of PTSA Board Members 2018-2019:

Co-Presidents: Kim Wahl and Serena Laroia

Vice-President: LeAnn Freeman

Vice-President: Linda Sartore

Treasurer: Amy Hoon

Secretary: Beth Hafele

- Motion made by Jennifer Potter to accept the slate of officers as presented; Cindi Watkins seconded. The slate was approved.

Presidents Report:

- Student Appreciation Day Friday, April 27th. Thanks to LeAnn Freeman and Amy Hoon
- Thank you to everyone who chaired a project, served on a committee, helped with Fundraisers
- Spirit Wear Available, PTSA Membership Information, Sign-up for Schnuck's cards, Decal Sale

Upcoming Activities:

- Senior Honors Night: Monday, May 21st Linda Sartore and Karen Cinelli Chairpersons
- Senior Luncheon: Tuesday, May 22nd Jennifer Potter and Brooksie Smith Chairpersons
- Teacher Appreciation Days: Lunch on Monday, May 21st, Breakfast on Wednesday, May 23rd
 - Amy Wolf Chairperson. Please see Sign-Up Genius to help with Teacher Appreciation.

Follow us on Facebook at Signature School PTSA

- International Dinner Planning Meeting: June 1st from Noon - 2:00 p.m. Central Library-2nd Floor (Note-meeting is NOT in the Browning Room) Anjanette Sylla Chairperson
- Class of 2022 Events: Summer Social June 5th (5:30pm-8pm), Saturday Study Group June 30th (10am – 2pm)

Chairmen Needed for 2018-2019 School Year:

- 1) Back-to-School Breakfast or Brunch for Teachers and Staff: Monday, August 6th
- 2) Barnes and Noble Book Fair. Held in November
- 3) We would like to add 10-15 people to our Hospitality Committee
- 4) Additional Volunteer Opportunities listed on Handout

Upcoming Activities:

August PTSA Meeting

Wednesday, August 15th
 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
 Central Library
 Browning Room

International Dinner

All-School Pot Luck
 Saturday, August 18th
 Ivy Room at SWIRCA
 16 West Virginia Street

Meeting adjourned
 Respectfully Submitted,
 Secretary – Beth Hafele