



# COUGAR Parents Club

We're here to help with high school

## Meeting Agenda Tuesday September 4, 2018 7:00-8:30 pm

**In attendance:** Karen Holl, Nicole MacArgel, Lise Brooke, Jeff Calden, Karin Gallagher, Hilde Largay, Peggy Jane Truilzi, Beth Lilienthal, Joan Debus, Morris White, Katie Beverly, Amber Merriman, Kim Pursley

- 1. Welcome and introductions** - Call to order – 7:04 PM – Introductions
- 2. Overview of Cougar Parents Club activities** – Karen provided an overview for the new members of some of the Cougar Club activities – The club is focused on supplementing students' academic education, providing additional educational enrichment opportunities, and supporting the school's college and career projects.
- 3. Treasurer's report and budget for this year** – As of the start of the year, we have \$21,324 in our bank accounts. Our estimated budget for this coming year is \$10,000-\$12,000, which is roughly what we spent last year, and what we hope to make during the fall direct donation drive. The club is aiming to raise all the money for the 2018-2019 year expenses through fundraising and hopefully leave the existing money we have in the money market account untouched. There was one new expense, as the club needed to purchase insurance. The expense was \$155.00, which the treasurer wrote a check for, but which will be reimbursed by the district. A check of \$1200 was also cut to pay for the College bus trips, which was approved by the club at the end of last year.

**SLV Foundation for Education:** Lise attended the SLV Foundation for Education board meeting and provided an update. Balance on July 31, 2018 was \$7,511. Treasure Nicole MacArgel is awaiting a reimbursement of \$2923 which will leave \$4588 in the Ed Foundation account.

#### **4. Principal's report:**

- **Monarch Sexual Awareness** - Jeff emailed Sidney at Monarch with a list of possible dates for the seminars and is waiting to hear back. Jeff suggested the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of October, during English for the Seniors.
- **Diversity Group** – Jeff also emailed Jamie at the Diversity Group to see if they wanted to do their presentation Friday the 26<sup>th</sup> and is waiting to hear back.
- **Back to School Night** – Back to school night will be held on September 13<sup>th</sup>. There will be a Schoology tutorial session for parents from 5:30 to 6:00, then the principals' presentation from 6:00-6:30. Classrooms will be open at 6:30.

**The school has a number of new teachers:** Morris White – math; Bruce Segal – math; Stephanie Beck – Biology; Shannon McFall – PE. There are also some long-term subs for

teachers on leave: Maria Robinson is filling in for Becky McCabe (Spanish); Rebecca Jot is filling in for Sylvie Bezine (French).

5. **Application for non-profit status** – Mindi, the newly elected Vice President is out sick and unable to give a report, so Karen filled in for her. Mindi took on the responsibility, with the support of the Board and the rest of the club, of pursuing non-profit status for the club. The SLV Foundation for Education has been really kind but it does add an extra administrative burden. Mindi is in the process of getting the paperwork done and will do as much as she can on her own, but the club will have to pay a lawyer at some point to help out. The lawyer will cost roughly \$210 per hour, and the work is expected to take ~3-5 hours. Karen moved to approve up to \$1,050 for the expense, Beth seconds. All in favor - Motion carried.
6. **Plan for donation fundraiser** – The club gets money primarily from three sources:
  - **Benefit** – Benefit is an app you can get on your cell phone, through which you can purchase gift cards for hundreds of different vendors (Amazon, Home Depot, Safeway, etc.) at no additional fee, and then when you spend those gift cards, the Club receives donations of anywhere between 2-8% of the purchase. Not widely used, but a good source of revenue, particularly if we can get more people to participate. We are currently raising about \$250/yr with ~5 users.
  - **Wild Roots** – If you use a reloadable gift card to shop at new leaf (using the code # 701), 4-5% of the sale goes to the Cougar Club. Not many people do this, but we have raised ~\$250 the past two years from Wild Roots.
  - **Direct Donation fundraiser** – We have done this for the past two years and ask each family to contribute what they can with the idea that we will not pester them for the rest of the year with multiple fundraisers. Again this year, we have a \$5,000 match so if we can raise the matching \$5,000 we will reach our goal of \$10,000. The club encourages \$20-\$100 donations from each family. We will start advertising/pushing this near the end of September. A notice will go out in Jeff's weekly email, and then at the next meeting, the club will ask members to reach out to other parents they know, and encourage them to donate. Donors can make a payment either via Paypal through SLV Foundation for Education, or they can write a check to Cougar Club. The best way to meet our goal is for members to tell their friends. We need a volunteer to talk to someone at Ernie's to see about putting up a banner. Peggy Jane volunteered to do this. The drive will run from September through the end of October.
7. **Equipment requests from teachers** – This is an opportunity provided by the Cougar Club for teachers to request special equipment/items that will benefit a significant number of students and that is not an expense the district is able to cover. The club has allocated up \$2,000-3,000 to for these requests, which need to be approved by the club. The request form has been sent out to teachers with an explanation, and a deadline to return any requests by October 19<sup>th</sup>. Jeff will talk with leadership and remind them about the opportunity.
8. **Back to School Night** – Last year Diane and Karen sat at a table, but not sure if it is worth the time for parents to come. All agreed that it is probably not worth doing again this year. Karin suggested handing out the benefit fliers at back to school night after Jeff's presentation. Karen will print out some more fliers and give them to Karin for distribution.

## 9. Review of recent activities

- a. College Essay writing workshop – The club sponsored a College Essay writing workshop before school started. The presenter talked about how to answer questions on the UC application. Charlotte has a second writing workshop scheduled for October 24<sup>th</sup> which will also have parent volunteers to help students with the editing process. The club welcomes anyone who has editing experience to volunteer. A brief training will be held from 5:15-5:30 and then from 5:30-7:00 volunteers will help students edit.
- b. Freshman Orientation – The Cougar Club had allocated up to \$350.00 to help pay for lunch for all freshman and link crew at the Orientation, but the district ended up covering the cost, so that money was not spent, and can be used elsewhere.
- c. Senior Sunrise breakfast – This was a big success. Claire and Leslie both attended. Vince and Tiffany coordinated this and decided to make food themselves. Everyone seemed to have had a very nice time. The club budgeted \$200 to pay for the food.

## 10. Planning for upcoming activities:

- a. **Monarch Services** – Date set for October (covered in Principal’s report). Karen gave some background on Monarch Services and the feedback we have had in the past. The presentation is based on relationships, and looks at topics such as consent, healthy relationships, etc.
- b. **Diversity Club** – covered in Principal’s report. Jeff proposed a date and is waiting to hear back. Karen filled new members on the background of Diversity Club and that this is the first time we are doing it.
- c. **Straw Project** – This was going to be our fall film in partnership with the Felton Library, but the project fell through.
- d. **Winter Film** – The idea for this was to do a more positive/empowering film this time around about students/teens making a difference in their communities. Karin and Lise are doing research on this and looking for possible films. Any suggestions/ideas from parents are welcome.
- e. **Lunch panel on Trades** – Claire Hackett proposed this with the idea of doing it sometime in the fall, however at this late date it does not seem likely. A volunteer to spearhead this is needed. Joan Debus was going to contact Claire about what needed to be done. Karen indicated she will pass around a sign-up sheet for possible volunteer opportunities before the end of the meeting.
- f. **Internship Program** – Beth is looking into this, possibly connecting students with internship at local businesses. She had been looking into a local group, “Your Future is our Business”. The group networks with businesses, goes to local high schools, and puts together panels, internships, etc. Beth has tried to call them several times. Karen and Karin suggested meeting with Charlotte because she is working on a lot of these things.

## 11. New business, ideas, and feedback

- Jeff and many other parents/members agreed that they like the idea of doing a positive / affirmative film this time around.

-Jeff also wanted to share that these films and activities do have an impact and that positive changes do come out of these events. For example, after showing the Race to Nowhere film, it led to the administration/staff looking at students' homework load. The Counselors compiled a list from teachers of the average nightly homework time for each course, and then developed a time template where students will list all of the classes that they plan to take, as well as any additional activities they participate in (and the time each takes) so that they can get an idea of the actual time commitment that they are signing up for. This will help students make a reasonable and realistic estimate of able to sign up for.

-Someone asked if we are doing anything related to helping students with job interviews. Karin indicated that this was something that the ASB students had expressed an interest in last year when she spoke with them (i.e. appropriate clothing, types of questions and responses, possibly running through a mock interview). Karin suggested emailing parents to ask if any had experience interviewing and whether or not they were interested. Karen suggested that we table this idea until we get someone to volunteer to coordinate it.

**12. Meeting adjourned – Next Meeting: Thursday October 4, 2018**

**NOTE: Future meetings will be the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month** (Jeff asked if Karen could provide a calendar of all future meetings dates for the year. Karen will update schedule of events/activities to include the list of meeting dates as well).