



SHHS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION • P.O. BOX 152742 • ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76015
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November General Meeting

Wednesday, November 11, 2020 at 6:30pm

Location: Hosted live on Zoom

Board Members in Attendance: Laura Heymann, Darla Peznell, Erica Garcia, Jayme Thomas

Board Members Not in Attendance: N/A

Additional Attendees: See Sign-In Sheet

**The President and Secretary were present at the meeting.*

- Welcome and Call to Order was at 6:37pm, followed by Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence.
- Laura Heymann announced that September Minutes were posted online. Laura Heymann moved to accept the minutes as posted; minutes approved unanimously by attendees.
- Jayme Thomas shared September-November Treasurer's Report. Nicia Dibben motioned to accept the report as shared; motion was seconded by Dennis Brown; motion approved.
- President's Announcements – Laura Heymann
 - North Texas Giving Day Recap
 - Great results this year! We raised over \$5,000 from donations, earned over \$700 as part of the Arlington small non-profits grant pool, won a \$5,000 video bonus, as well as received \$1,500 from a donor's company matching.
 - Although the board was unsure about how much would be raised due to the pandemic, election year giving, etc, it was a great turnout. We hope to continue our fundraising method and expand it to include additional volunteers next year.
 - Fall Fling Recap
 - Positive feedback from those who attended the event at J. Gilligan's. It gave reassurance to those who are used to attending in-person events that the alumni association is actively working and taking in donations to help the SHHS community. Cover charges raised over \$400.
 - The online silent auction raised over \$1,700 this year! Thank you to those who donated items/baskets, and Gerry Thomas for arranging packages with Jayme Thomas and Erica Garcia.
 - In addition to these funds raised for scholarships, the alumni association expects \$3,000 to be donated for the privately-funded Laurie Cree Flynn Memorial Scholarship and Benavides Semones Scholarship.
 - Strategic Planning Recap
 - The alumni association received a grant from North Texas Community Foundation for capacity building. The Toolbox Grant is not to be spent on a nonprofit's mission, but rather to assist their growth as an organization.
 - With the grant, consultants were hired and the board put together a group comprised of grads from multiple decades. The strategic planning committee met three times over the month and put together the following strategic directions...
 - Catalyze and position alumni for unified success.
 - Build an empowered leadership for longevity.

- Maximize financial support to fulfill the mission.
 - Pursue equitable resources by advocating for the SHHS community.
 - Final plan with actionable steps will be received from the consultants in a few weeks, and info will be shared with the membership in January.
- Additional Grant Updates
 - The alumni association submitted an application for a grant back in September, and there is a new grant to apply for in December. There is also an outstanding grant from early 2020 that was paused because of the pandemic.
 - If you see grant opportunities that may be a good fit for the alumni association, please pass it along to info@shhstexans.org. Thank you!
 - In addition, we are happy to share relevant information (student scholarship opportunities, holiday meals, etc) with the school directly and on social media platforms.
- SHHS Funding Update
 - Texans Helping Texans covers our most vulnerable students – those who are part of the PEP (Pregnancy, Education, & Parenting) and FIT (Families in Transitions) programs. When the program first started, it was known as the food pantry. Laurie Cree Flynn and Karen Fox both played major roles in setting up the food pantry. Since its inception, it has grown to include clothes, personal hygiene items, and emergency needs.
 - Requests for all other departments/organizations are funded through the Alumni Support Application (ASA). These requests come directly from faculty and staff. Funds have previously been given to groups ranging from Cheerleaders to the Mariachi Band, Girls Wrestling, Basketball, and Business Professionals of America. The program was developed as a way to help make a bigger impact by supporting more kids through one request. We hope to help hundreds, if not thousands, of kids over the years.
 - Since our last meeting in September, we fulfilled two requests through the Alumni Support Application.
 - PBIS (Positive Behavioral Intervention and Support) is a strategy used across the district/school, with each teacher using it to teach and model expectations. The three Rs are ready, responsible, and respectful. The basis of it allows students to receive positive consequences in exchange for fulfilling those expectations. The request was for gift cards/certificates to give out to students/faculty, with names received through nominations every six weeks.
 - Provided certificates to ice skating and roller skating, as well as gift cards to Target, Starbucks, and McDonalds.
 - ELA (English Language Arts) Department requested funds to complete their DEAR (Drop Everything and Read) Den at school. The DEAR Den will allow students to borrow books highlighted by SHHS ELA teachers.
 - Provided funds to cover painting, shelving, and seating.
 - Principal's Discretionary Fund check for \$1,500 was given to Mr. Villarreal for the Fall semester.
- Questions/Comments/Items not on Agenda
 - 2020 Holiday Angel Tree
 - SHHS Student Council is coordinating the adoption of FIT and PEP students for holiday gifts. They are requesting donors and will then assign the angels. If you can't adopt an angel but are willing to chip in gift cards or funds, StuCo is still looking for your help! Information will be posted to www.facebook.com/shhsalumni.

- All American Dream Scholarship
 - Greater Arlington Chamber of Commerce (Foundation Board) has a scholarship opportunity open to undocumented students this year. Information will be shared with the SHHS Counseling Office.
- Congratulations to VP Darla Peznell for her selection to AISD's Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Committee, as well as becoming part of the Selection Committee with the Ladies Auxiliary Board! We are so excited to see Darla in Arlington advocating for our SHHS community.
- Meeting adjourned at 7:17pm.
- Minutes submitted by Secretary, Erica Garcia.