**Minutes of the SLJ PTA Meeting**

Thursday, January 12, 2017

1. **Call to Order and Welcome**

After establishing a quorum, the meeting of the Parent-Teacher Association of SLJ High School was called to order at 6:12 pm by President Miko Simmons-Jones. The meeting was held in Cafeteria.

Present: Miko Simmons-Jones, President; Beverly Sloan, Treasurer; Marisol Estevez, Deborah John, Suzan Lewis, Linda Lamothe, Cynthia Montgomery, Colette Cross, Ceotasha J. Williams, Lucal Powell, Stacey Williams-Bobb, Isadora Castro, Nicole Nicholson, Shawanna Gordon, Teresa Gonzalez, Abigail Thomas, Adelso Fernandez

Beverly Purcell, Cajuana McCray, Gerry François, Beverley Létts, Jeffery Harvin, Kameka Fuller, and Shakema Barber.

Suzette Dyer, Principal; Merilee Valentino, Assistant Principal of Engagement; Marvin Harris, Parent Coordinator

1. **Minutes of prior meeting** – Minutes from 12/8/16 approved by consensus.
2. **Treasurer’s Report** – Written report distributed. Balance as of 12/31/16 - $1,044.68
3. **Principal’s Report**

Ms. Dyer reported on a free event in honor of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., scheduled to occur on Monday January 16th at BAM.

She reviewed the protocol for Getting Ready for Mid-terms. Mid-terms are Monday, January 23rd for grades 10-12. There will be mock Regents or culminating assessments. Grade 9 will experience preparation as a lawyer for the annual “Dog Bite trial” at Cravath, Swaine & Moore. Students will receive feedback on their performances by attorneys at Cravath.

Principal Dyer introduced student Shakea Bobb who explained the “Curve of Forgetting,” a breakdown of how information acquired is quickly lost. Prin. Dyer then reviewed how studying class notes just ten minutes a day for two weeks enables students to retain this information. By spending no more than 10-15 minutes each night studying notes on each subject area over and over from now till January 23rd will enable students to do markedly better. Simply doing homework is not enough. Study aids also are available at quizlet.com and khanacademy.org.

1. **Financial Literacy workshop**

The workshop was conducted by Ms. Moldovan, Ms. Smith, and Ms. LaCavalla. Two former students, Jessica Augustine and Nia Lopez, spoke of their positive experiences and their challenges as first year college students. They were encouraging about going away to school and the opportunities to meet new people and learn to be independent. The young women spoke of the need to keep busy and recommended that families look for scholarships to help fund students’ educations.

The Workshop emphasized planning and preparation starting with making a list of everything the student wants to do and how to plan for it. Vital to this process is for parents to understand their children.

The Financial Aid presentation emphasized academic, social, and financial needs and goals. Financial aid is need based and/or merit based. Financial aid applications are due in October and are required every year before the next school year begins.

* Important financial aid terms and vocabulary
* Sample financial breakdowns
* Questions & Answers

Important terms: EFC – Expected Family Contribution; COA – Cost Of Attendance; COA – EFC = Financial Need.

FAFSA4caster and Net Price Calculator can be used to help families assess financial need and EFC. A comprehensive handout of materials also was distributed.

Special thanks to the Adams Street Foundation for supplying the funding for the College and Career Office. Many area high schools do not have such a program and those students and families must navigate the process of college applications and the search for financial aid on their own.

The next PTA meeting will be held Thursday, February 9th.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Sloan, Rec Sec.

X Approved as written 3/9/2017 \_\_\_Approved as amended \_\_\_\_\_\_