



## MSA Boosters General Meeting Minutes Sept 11, 2024, 6pm Innovation Center & Zoom

### Attendees:

**Online:** Hayley, Mike W, Eric, Stefanie Cuene, Jen, Liz Hughes, Nicole Torres, Springborn, + 1 more with no name posted. (Apologies for not getting full names of all those online. We went with your "Zoom name" as needed)

**In-person:** Shelly Jin, Candice Gimbel, Mike Caruso, Shanda Carrithers, Melanie Abts, Swati Ghorpade, Sara Uribe, Alix Wilson, Jackie Bartoletti

**Staff:** Chris Brandt, Mariann Kline

Melanie called the meeting to order at 6:05pm

- (Melanie & Shanda) **Welcome**
  - Thank you to all who attended the meeting. It was great to see new faces and have families interested and engaged.
  - Barro's fundraiser took place Sept. 11.
  
- (Melanie & Shanda) **2024 - 2025 Board Elections & Chair Positions**
  - The current Booster Board was voted in to serve the 2024-2025 term. Shelly Jin made the motion and Candice Gimbel seconded. The Board members are:
    - Co-Presidents: Shanda Carrithers, Melanie Abts
    - Vice President: Swati Ghorpad
    - Treasurer: Sara Uribe
    - Co-Secretaries: Alix Wilson, Jackie Bartoletti
  - The Boosters are seeking a Fundraising Chair and Parent Class Reps per class - we welcome co-Chairs and co-Reps as well!
    - Please reach out to [saguaromsa@gmail.com](mailto:saguaromsa@gmail.com) if interested in these roles.
    - Responsibilities for the roles include:
      - **Fundraising Chair:** identify grant opportunities and write grant requests (with support from the Board); identify restaurant nights; promote Frys partnership and Tax Credit campaign; partner with the Board and Mr. Brandt to identify other opportunities; attend the monthly Booster meetings
      - **Parent Class Reps:** attend the monthly Booster meetings; support subcommittees and events; champion events and messaging in the MSA community

- (Mr. Brandt, Mrs. Lindberg, Ms. Kline) **Staff Updates, Events & Needs from Boosters**
  - MSA Program Recruitment
    - MSA program currently has ~320 students
    - Middle school outreach includes All Saints Roundup, Mohave outreach, Info Night at Saguaro (Nov 13 at 7pm, Innovation Center), word of mouth
    - **Candice Gimbel** offered to do other outreach to schools and programs - Thank you Candice!
    - **Swati Ghorpade** suggested a social media video campaign to promote MSA, leveraging hashtags and student testimonials. The Boosters will discuss logistics and timing. Thank you Swati!
    - The group discussed:
      - The Saguaro MSA program message is one of inclusivity and to support students in developing their STEM skills and minds.
      - Students can join the MSA program and graduate as part of the program and most any stage of their high school journey if they meet the requirements.
  - Cyber Patriot is getting busy; Club Rush brought 8+ new students. Interested students can reach out to Mr. Brandt or Ms. Lindberg to get connected with the club: [cbrandt@susd.com](mailto:cbrandt@susd.com), [slindberg@susd.com](mailto:slindberg@susd.com)
  - Sisters in STEM is a student run organization and just elected its officers.
    - Community event on Sept 21 from 10am to noon is recruiting more MSA volunteers. We currently have 40 students onboard and another 20 to run the booths and engage the youth in science experiments. Email [slindberg@susd.com](mailto:slindberg@susd.com) if interested in supporting. Go here for more info: <https://www.sistersinstem.net/>
    - Mr. Brandt needs 6-7 additional tent/pop-ups for the event on Sept 21. If anyone has one to share please reach out to [cbrandt@susd.com](mailto:cbrandt@susd.com).
  - PSAT practice test offered on Sept 25 from 2:30 - 5:30pm in the Innovation Center. Check the Saguaro MSA Website for details. Note: students can use their own calculators!
  - Mr. Brandt shared the updated Saguaro MSA Website and calendar - suggested we all go there for more event info and updates: <https://saguaro.susd.org/academics/math-science-academy>
    - Most events are noted. Some student run events are not included (yet) - including an annual Funsgiving, holiday, and Cahoots events
  - MSA just elected student board members - more info coming from them soon.
  - Abbott Laboratories field trip coming soon. Will be after school and include a tour. Students check Google Classroom for more info and to sign up. More about Abbott: <https://www.abbott.com/>
    - Fun fact: an MSA student is doing a fall break program at Abbott to fulfill their MSA field assignment credit.

- Call to action: All MSA families and friends - please share program opportunities or internship/job opportunities (from where you work or contacts you have) that our MSA students can participate in for their field assignment credits.
- **(Sara) Treasurer Update; Grant Updates**
  - In spring 2024 we submitted a grant to SRP to support our Melody Makers program. We did not get the grant.
  - The Board would love support from a fundraising chair - or anyone - who would like to help by writing grants. Please reach out to [saguaromsa@gmail.com](mailto:saguaromsa@gmail.com) to volunteer or offer support.
- **(All) Tax Credit Campaign**
  - Reach out to your family and friends with the tax credit campaign letter (attached to the email with these minutes) to encourage our community to benefit from the dollar for dollar AZ tax credit. It's a win-win-win for donors, students, and the program.
  - Hand out as many copies of the letter as you wish.
  - The letter will be posted on the MSA websites as well, stay tuned.
  - Please reach out to [saguaromsa@gmail.com](mailto:saguaromsa@gmail.com) with any questions.
- **(Swati, Alix, Students) MSA Booster Website Updates**
  - An MSA student would like to support the MSA Boosters Website design.
  - More to come! <https://www.saguaromsaboosters.org/>
- **(Melanie) Events - i.e., Welcome event, other fall events**
  - Welcome Party on Sept. 14, 4-6pm at the Abts residence. Come for swimming, games, snacks and drinks.

Meeting concluded at 6:45pm.