



SUNCOAST HIGH SCHOOL FOUNDATION

SY2023 YEAR IN REVIEW



SUNCOAST
HIGH SCHOOL
FOUNDATION

growing together. . .

SEPTEMBER 2023

INTRODUCTION

The Suncoast Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization registered in Palm Beach County, Florida, serving Suncoast Community High School (Suncoast). The Foundation mission is to ‘Sustain and Enhance the Academic Mission of Suncoast High School’. Regarded as academically most challenging and high-performing public school in Palm Beach County, Suncoast is an all-choice school with incredible talent and diversity, ranking in the top 100 public schools in the nation (US News & World Report). Since its inception in 2001, the Foundation has provided Suncoast with not only more than \$1.5M in benefits, but also with services students and families may not otherwise have access to. This Report serves as a summary of the school year in terms of members and committees, funds raised, school benefits and return on investment, financials, and will also provide a brief look-ahead to SY24.

FOUNDATION MEMBERS & COMMITTEES

School year 23 (SY23) counted twenty volunteer Foundation members and a paid, part-time administrator.

Officer/ Director Name	Position
Michael DeBock	President
Rupesh Dharia	Vice President
Joline Ziemerink	Vice President
Gregory Bentley	Treasurer
Shirley Stickle	Secretary
John Bruno	Board Member
Kimberly McCarten	Board Member
Jeff Turner	Board Member
Salvatore Senzatimore	Board Member
Bahareh Keshavarz Wolfs	Board Member
Brent Whitfield	Board Member
Lanelle Meidan	Board Member
Stephanie Dana	Board Member
Mark Campbell	Board Member
Ali Rehm	Board Member
Matt Rippe	Board Member
Inna Weintraub	Board Member
Whitney Stewart	Board Member
Janna Ronert	Board Member
Steven Kessel	Board Member
Kathryn Koerner, Suncoast Principal	Ex-Officio Member
Annabelle Thompson / Lisa Grimes	Administrator

OFFICERS

President Michael DeBock

Mike is a phenomenal leader, running the Foundation Board meeting agendas and discussions, focusing attention and resources to achieve the Foundation’s mission most effectively. He addressed all Suncoast parents during Curriculum Night, and worked with the Finance committees to consolidate Foundatiopn books. Mike also played an instrumental role in the Foundation’s primary and signature fundraiser, leading the call to the heart and live auction.

Treasurer Gregory Bentley

Treasurer Greg worked hard and successfully to establish an effective investment policy for the Foundation endowment, set up and guided the Foundation through a financial audit, and changed management of the Foundation operational account to be

Vice-President Rupesh Dharia, Joline Ziemerink

Rupesh took over tasks from Mike when not available, and also played an unmissable role in the Foundation Gala planning and orchestration. Joline ran several of the Foundation committees with other Board members.

Secretary Shirley Stickle

Together with Suncoast administrator Annabelle Thompson, Shirley made sure Foundation documents were organized.

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

Chaired by Dr Rupesh Dharia, this committee is charged with several fundraisers.

Annual Fund

SY23 did not have an Annual Fund campaign; the Foundation will rework its campaign format for SY24.

Corporate Sponsorships

No corporate sponsorships were secured as this sub-committee was not active in SY23.

Grant Writing Rachel Docekal

Rachel has phenomenal connections and is a master of grant applications – she secured several grants and a directed donation totaling \$45,000 for the Suncoast Theatre department.

Online Auction Whitney Stewart, Ali Rehm, Matt Rippe

The online auction was a great success. Online auction items were brought to the auction by most board members, and included travel, beauty products and services, educational consulting and test preparation, art, sports, dining, and uniquely Suncoast items. Whitney, Ali and Matt did a phenomenal job uploading the items to the BidPal platform and managing the items and auction subsequently. The virtual silent auction raised \$10,500, a tremendous accomplishment.

Suncoast Gala Janna Ronert, Bahareh Wolfs, Rupesh Dharia, Michael DeBock, Keith Ferry

The second annual Suncoast Gala, *A Night at Saint Tropez Club 55*, was privately hosted by the Ronert family on April 29, 2023. It was an incredible evening, orchestrated by very hard work of all committee members and Foundation administrator. The evening included entertainment by exceptionally talented members of the Suncoast community: five times Grammy winner and Suncoast alumnus Dru Castro, and Suncoast students Kennedy Williams and Eli Ferrell. Alana (former Suncoast valedictorian, Princeton), and Justin Ricketts (perfect SAT score, Harvard) also addressed the attendees. Foundation President Mike DeBock led a call to the heart and a live auction, which were tremendously successful. The event raised a magnificent net amount of \$143,000. The Foundation looks forward to another signature gala in the next school year.



FINANCE AND ALLOCATIONS COMMITTEE

Finance

Greg Bentley

Since joining the Foundation Finance Committee in 2022, Greg Bentley has worked tirelessly to make sure Foundation financials are sound and organized. Greg reconciled the books with the Foundation administrator. Some of the Board dues had to be written down, as well as the endowment funds investment had to be written down to market value to arrive at the Foundation's net income of close to \$88,000.

A general fund audit was conducted in January 2023; significant time was needed to locate documentation. The audit identified two areas in need of improvement: centralization of decision-making/ documentation, and greater follow-through with the school regarding spending of the allocated Foundation funding.

The Foundation endowment has a life to date performance of -10.13% as of May 19, 2023, which is in line with financial benchmarks but lags the S&P 500 index due to July 2021 bond performance. The 2023 portfolio shifted from bonds to stocks with a gradual increase in equity. Greg has been instrumental in managing the Foundation endowment and drafted an accompanying Investment Policy Statement, currently under review and expected to be voted in place in Sep 2023.

Foundation tax returns were successfully filed in May 2023 by Moss, Krusick & Associates, Inc.

Going forward, Foundation accounting and endowment governance duties are suggested to be split from the administrator role. Additionally, Finance and Allocations Committees, previously separate, have been combined to increase participation.

Allocations

Joline Ziemerink, Jeff Turner

Jeff and Joline obtained funding requests from the school. The first cycle of SY23 funding was approved in the fall of 2022 and the second one in Jan '23. Items funded are below under School Benefits'. Funding cycle #3 was brought to the May '23 Board meeting, but additional information was needed to be able to make determinations. Those requests rolled over to SY24.

In Jun '23, the Committee met with principal Koerner to reiterate the Foundation's mission driving the prioritization of funding requests, revisit the procedure for the Foundation to identify school funding requests / common District shortfall areas, and to develop a procedure to regularly receive feedback from the school regarding how Foundation funding is applied.

PROMOTIONAL COMMITTEE

This committee was not active in SY23 but is ramping up for SY24.

ALUMNI COMMITTEE

Brent Whitfield and his committee have worked to increase the alumni contact list. Foundation participation in the SY24 Homecoming event will be the next event to engage with (future) alumni and gather contacts.

WEB AND SOCIAL MEDIA COMMITTEE

No activity in SY23. The Foundation website needs updating, which will happen early in SY24.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Chaired by Joline Ziemerink, this Foundation committee helped deliver the following programs to Suncoast students:

- **Pre-Calc Jumpstart Summer Math** (Jul '22) ~100 incoming 9th grade MSE students recharged their algebra and geometry skills ahead of their freshman pre-calculus course. Teachers helped by volunteer higher grade students interacted with the new Chargers Monday through Thursday 9am to 3pm.
- **College Admissions Bootcamp** (Aug -Sep '22) Over thirty families came out for five Saturday morning sessions with educational professionals from Judi Robinovitz & Associates to work on their: Common Application, Self-reported Student Academic Record (SSAR), College Essay, Resume, College List, Asking for Letters of Recommendation, Identifying and organizing Supplemental Essays. In addition to the five three-hour sessions, students received three 20-minute private writing conferences to perfect their college essay/ resume.
- **SAT Strategy and Prep Course** (Jan - Mar '23) Eighty-two students attended seven Saturday morning classes sharpening their SAT skills. Students took an initial simulated full test after which students were divided into like-scoring groups so they could work on building up skills that needed improvement, and further strengthening the overall SAT performance by learning test-taking strategies.



The Pre-Calc Jumpstart is fully paid for by the Foundation in terms of teacher salaries. The SAT

Strategy and Prep and College Admissions courses are offered as a 'pass through': the Foundation negotiates rates with educational consultant Score At The Top, and then sets tuition levels for the students, differentiating between early sign-ups, regular tuition, and a strongly reduced tuition for Free and Reduced Lunch-eligible families. The Foundations signs a lease with the school, paying for custodial presence during weekend sessions, and, since SY23, for a lease coordinator.

While the Foundation aims to break even for the two courses, sign-up numbers, and the ratio of regular to FRL-eligible registrants, fluctuate from year to year. In SY23, the College Admissions Bootcamp closed at a small loss, while the SAT Prep course was very well attended and closed at a gain.

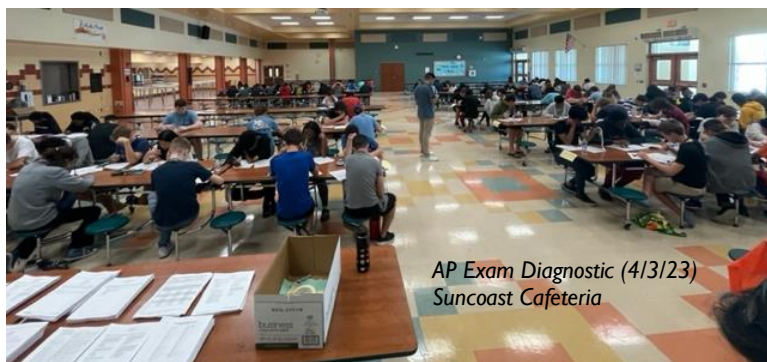
CAREER SHOWCASE & BEYOND SUNCOAST COMMITTEE

Beyond Suncoast Joline Ziemerink, Lanelle Meidan, Inna Weintraub, Stephanie Dana

The Committee organized several Beyond Suncoast events for families with their students to engage in and gather resources and information related to the complex college admissions journey. The Foundation partnered with the Suncoast PTSA to utilize each other's networks to advertise events, bring in new college admissions resource firms for Suncoast families to benefit from, and give PTSA business partners the opportunity to showcase their expertise and answer questions from the community. All events were free to attend.

- Evening sessions by Foundation educational partners / PTSA business partners (Sep '22– April '23)
- Soft skills session focusing on communicating effectively and confidently (Jan '23).

- AP Exam Diagnostic (Mar '23): 165 students joined the Foundation and business partner West Palm Test Prep on a Saturday morning to take a full AP exam diagnostic of their choice. More than fifteen different AP exams were taken. Participants received a score report in their email, showing where they're strong, and in which areas they can improve their mastery of the subject.



AP Exam Diagnostic (4/3/23)
Suncoast Cafeteria

- Spring 2023 Beyond Suncoast Newsletter outlining building your brand toward the college of your dreams in simple steps for each of the high school years (Apr '23).
- College Admissions Readiness Event (CARE, Apr '23): The Foundation brought together area college consulting and test prep firms. Although this second CARE was not as well attended as the first one, in SY22, where more than 250 parents, guardians and students came out, participating firms and families were thrilled as the conversations they were able to have, were valuable and in-depth. In SY24 we plan to roll CARE into the Suncoast PTSA College Fair in October.

Oct 26, 2022	Greene Education – Barbara Miller, Ken Tolchien	Financial: Saving ON College
Nov 15, 2022	The Good Tutor - Steven Long	Bright Futures (virtual)
Dec 1, 2022	C2 Education – Shayla Smith	Affirmative Action
Jan 12, 2023	Score At The Top – Judi Robinovitz	Understanding Test Scores
Feb 1, 2023	West Palm Test Prep / Apply Sideways – Andreas Stamatakis	Maximize Your GPA
Feb 15, 2023	West Palm Test Prep / Apply Sideways – Andreas Stamatakis	Early Decision (virtual)
Feb 21, 2023	Confident Life Coaching – Melissa Jacobson	Effective Communications Workshop
Mar 4, 2023	AP Exam Diagnostic Event – West Palm Test Prep	
Mar 7/8/9	Admissions Empowerment Consulting - Tania Marzec	Early Decision
Apr 4, 2023	Score At The Top – Judi Robinovitz	Stand OUT! Get IN!!
Apr 13, 2023	College Admissions Readiness Event (CARE)	

Career Showcase

No activity in SY23.

FUNDRAISING

In addition to the very successful Online Auction and Suncoast Gala, raising more than \$150,000, the Foundation received directed donations:

- Mrs Alice Hudson donated \$2,000 toward the Suncoast science program.
- The Stewart family donated \$5,000 directly to advanced English program readings.
- The Greenspan family donated \$1,500 to Suncoast baseball.



Michael DeBock, Janna Ronert
Foundation Gala (4/29/23)

Lastly, the Foundation secured a \$45,000 Theatre Grant, bringing total net funds raised to just over \$200,000.

SCHOOL BENEFITS

In addition to the pass-through courses and free Beyond Suncoast resources for Suncoast families, funding to the school amounted to \$129,600 in SY23., itemized as follows.

Funding Item		Benefit
Endowment Contribution	\$10,000	Annual portion of funds raised added to build Foundation endowment.
Pre-Calc jumpstart Summer Math	\$8,000	Great four-day summer algebra/geometry refresher for ~100 incoming 9 th grade pre-calc students.
Professional Development Teacher Training	\$20,000	Suncoast staff attendance: Florida Association of IB World School (FLIBS) spring 2023 Professional Development, AP Spanish Literature & Culture training, AP Literature & Composition training, College Board Annual AP Conference, IB Chemistry workshop, Bethune Cookman University Band Director camp, Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) State Conference, Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) State Conference
Textbooks – AP Statistics	\$10,000	PBCSD does not pay for advanced course materials. Books benefit 100-120 students each year for 5+ years.
Reading books – English Department	\$8,150	PBCSD does not pay for advanced course materials. Books benefit ~700 AICE English Gen Paper (9 th), AICE Engl Literature (10 th), AP Lit (11 th), IB Lit (12 th) students annually.
Software – Gizmo Science Labs	\$3,450	Directly supports all IB, AP, MYP Biology students toward exams.
Software – Kuta Math	\$1,660	Three-year license for all Suncoast math teachers to generate worksheets and tests from Pre-Algebra through Calculus.
College Admissions Bootcamp	\$950	Course budget shortfall covering school lease (custodian).
StriveScan App – College Fair	\$1,000	Cost share with PTSA for College Fair: Paperless info exchange between ~95 colleges and ~1,000 fair participants, database access.
Theatre Grants & Donation	\$45,000	Funding benefits theatre productions, and AP Theatre class.
Annual Writing Lab	\$10,000	Open to all students: individual tutoring support for writing assignments, from brainstorming to final revisions. Mon-Thu, 3-4:30pm.
College Tour	\$6,000	Three-day all-inclusive college tour of all Florida public universities for 96 students. Funding helped make trip affordable for FRL families.
Science Fair	\$2,000	Funded equipment for Suncoast student science fair, SECME projects.
Football helmets partial	\$7,800	Supplement to students' own fundraising to refurbish helmets.
Gym floor cover partial	\$5,600	Supplement to floor cover to keep students safe during testing in gym.

LOOK-AHEAD SY24

In addition to our current annual programming, the Foundation plans to explore the following in SY24.

- Michael DeBock will start handing over the Foundation presidency over the next two years and will actively help with his succession.
- Allocations policy update – per the original Foundation mission and donor preference, evaluation of funding requests to merit Suncoast improving its place in national rankings.
- Associated mission-related proposed offerings -all subject to School approval and Board vote- may include:
 - Offer college-level course support: World History, Physics, Calculus, more classes as desired
 - Digital SAT prep with AI-generated simulation tests
 - Mock AP exam practice with professional scoring
 - School counselor training to better equip them so they can, in turn, help more Suncoast students into top colleges.
- Periodic reports regarding Foundation allocations and their impact (Allocations Committee).
- Work with Suncoast accounting to update Foundation-related accounts and account names.
- Make sure the Foundation website stays more current than it is at this point.

- Work to make the Foundation more visible for Suncoast families (Promotional, Alumni Committees).
- Continue to be the catalyst between Ms Alice Hudson and the Suncoast science faculty to enhance the school's science activities: Science Fair, SECME, class science labs via the Alice Hudson Fund.
- Continue to meet with area school Foundations to learn and collaborate.
- Expand alumni network via events and teacher contacts.
- Seek out and build relationships with area family foundations to seek grants.

IN CLOSING

The Foundation and the entire Suncoast community are immensely grateful for the generosity of all our donors who support the iconic school for which we work hard every day. We were proud to learn last week that for the 2023-2024 school year Suncoast is ranked #70 in the nation by US News & World Report!

Feel free to contact the Foundation for additional information regarding our funding and programs. We welcome suggestions regarding how to add to our mission of making the Suncoast High School experience even more *ICONIC*.

Thank you again, and feel free to reach out any time!

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