

Sycamore High School PTO
General Meeting Minutes
Friday, October 14, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 9:09 am by Molly Polasky.

In an effort to be green and print fewer copies of the minutes, a link to the minutes was provided from the white board. There were some challenges with the link but we will continue to tweak the process and make an effort to conserve. Mary Tyler motioned that the minutes of the September 9, 2016 general meeting be approved. Tammy Fales seconded, and the minutes were approved as read.

Principal's Report - Doug Mader, Principal

- Parent teacher conference night was a success. Administration continues to consider how to make each event better. They are exploring ways of getting more parents with more teachers for conferences.
- PTO sponsored Principal's breakfast was yesterday - celebrated 28 kids.
- Last night was a big night for athletic department - won boys' soccer league soccer title for the first time in 8 years. Student leaders demonstrated great sportsmanship.
- Ann and Doug will present to Greene PTO in November. It's never too early to start thinking about college, career path, choices. The district is also working to make district transitions easier.
- Mid-State Band competition is October 22. This is the equivalent of state finals. There will be a Walk of Champions for the band prior to the competition.
- There will also be a Walk of Champions for boys and girls golf and tennis state finalists next week.
- An advisory committee made up of students met with the district to discuss the one to one initiative. Students communicated that they need internet access throughout the night on their devices. The district agreed to turn off the restriction.
- A committee met with 20 band members to discuss what can be done to help the band feel more appreciated. Band members shared their concerns, and the administrative committee is addressing each issue. Band members report feeling validated.
- The traffic analysis is being finalized. Some preliminary ideas have not been feasible from a cost perspective, but the best feasible options are being considered.
- Administration and staff are in the midst of locking in on the scheduling process for next year. A blended model is being used since the software alone has not worked well. In addition to software, human problem solving will be used. A group of students interested in data analysis is also involved and excited to help streamline this process.
- A parent asked how internet works in the building. Mr. Mader explained if students have an authorized device, they access the internet on the BYOD network. They have to use the guest network if their device is not registered. The guest network is very slow. School issued devices are all authorized for the BYOD network. The internet was initially locked down

from midnight to 5 am. Based on student feedback, the restriction was reduced to 1 am to 4 am, but now it will not be shut down at all. The browser is locked during testing which increases test security.

- Another parent asked if information about registering devices could be pushed out again as some students with school issued devices would like to use their own devices but may not still have the information.
- More and more teachers are embracing Mastery Connect. The standard based program consists of formative assessments to give feedback on what concepts students understand and where more learning is needed. The scores from the assessments are not included in student grades. The idea is that teachers can prepare students both as a class and individually for the graded test based on the feedback from the formative assessments. There was discussion about state testing and measuring growth. The information from the Mastery Connect assessments is entered into the state website and used to evaluate educators.

Faculty/Staff Representative's Report - Ann Delahnty-Koenig, Counselor

- There were two sessions of the sophomore parent meeting, and both were well attended.
- The second extended ace bell with seniors was on Tuesday. Counselors checked in with students about the college application process and offered help. Half of the presentation was also on mental health with a focus on mindfulness and suicide prevention information.
- Wednesday October 19 is testing day. Aspire and PSAT will be administered. Seniors will not be at school that day. They are expected to visit a campus or work on college applications or essays.
- The FAFSA information meeting was October 10. A presenter from University of Cincinnati was very informative.
- The counseling department is mired with college recommendation letters. First due dates are October 15 and November 1, then December 1.
- Counselors encouraged seniors to make appointments with them if stressed, worried or stuck.
- Ann demonstrated changes that have been made to the counseling website. The counseling newsletter is getting great response. These are archived on the counseling website. Documents, videos and information from parent meetings can be found on the specific class page. There are also videos and information on various college applications, visits, requesting reference letters, etc. A separate tab has current scholarship opportunities.

Treasurer's Report - Sheila Kidd

- Recent income is primarily comprised of membership fees and senior class contributions
- The Hangar is doing well. New items are on sale, and new inventory is expected soon.
- Thank you to everyone who participated in the City BBQ fundraiser. We raised \$783 for PTO scholarships, and City BBQ offered to do more fundraisers.

Vice President's Report - Suzanne VanDenBrink

- The project cycle has closed. We have allotted \$10,000 for projects. The requests total more than that amount. The projects committee will meet to determine how to allocate project funds.

Recording Secretary Report - Mary Tyler

- Membership has been successful. We currently have 5 more staff members than we had last year and about 20 fewer families. Remember, you must be a PTO member to receive a school directory.
- Volunteer information received with memberships has been compiled, but if you did not fill out a form, please see Elaine Kerr if interested in volunteering.
- The directory is nearing completion.

Corresponding Secretary Report - Elizabeth Bruggeman

- Staff Appreciation provided a staff meal during conferences. Staff response was positive. We received a thank you noted from the math department.
- Academic Achievers were recognized at last week's football game. Drew Schneider and Priya Malla were recognized.
- The student council home coming committee thanked the PTO for making after prom decorations available to them for homecoming.
- Mr. Mader added that there were 930 kids at homecoming. We may need to look at moving to the gym in the future. Parents also gave positive feedback. One parent asked if there was a reason we do not have food at home coming. Mr. Mader stated this is being addressed. Some of the administration has met with the student council, and they are looking into what the price difference would be. The ticket price would likely go up a little, but the student council really likes the idea of having food at the dance.

President's Report - Molly Polasky/Angela Radakovich

- Superintendent Forsthoefel sent letter to all departments and PTOs requesting we "green" our events as much as possible by composting paper products and utilizing reusable products rather than landfill products. Committee chairs will receive reminders, and if you see an opportunity to be green please be mindful of this goal. The district is working to increase composting and recycling at events as well. Angela and Molly asked how many members would like to have a paper agenda. Parent response was that several would still like paper agenda for note taking. A handful of copies of the treasurer's report and minutes will be available but also available via link which will be provided at the meeting.
- Odd Couples- The dance is in March. Boys ask their moms and girls take their dads. It was suggested that parents may want to help their students put together a table (8 people). Appetizers are served, and there is chit chat, a band, and dancing. The committee can use some more volunteers if interested. There are "low commitment" positions also available on the night of the dance (March 11).
- Senior class is looking for contributions from senior parents who haven't contributed. Every year there is a senior outing which will be at Scene 75 this year. December 21 10pm-12am. Dr. Marc Schneider has agreed to sponsor so we can keep ticket prices at \$25.

Old/New Business

- Remember to vote!
- Kathy McClure announced she has one yard sign left in support of the levy. Tammy Fales also has several available in her car. See either of these ladies after the meeting if you would like a yard sign in support of the levy.

Announcements

- Upcoming Events
 - Oct. 17 No School, Teacher Records Day
 - Oct. 18, 3pm Talent Show Auditions
 - Oct. 18 Picture Retake Day
 - Oct 19 PSAT/Aspire Testing & Senior College Visits
 - Oct. 24 Report Cards Distributed

- Oct. 26, 9am
- Oct. 28, 7pm
- Nov. 4, 6:30p

Coffee with Counselors
Senior Night @ Football game
Strike up the band for hunger

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55am.

Next PTO Meeting is Friday, November 11th @ 9:00 am