

Sycamore High School PTO

PTO General Meeting Minutes

Friday, September 11, 2015

The meeting was called to order by Tami Comerford at 9:04am. She thanked everyone for coming to the first meeting of this school year. Approximately 50 parents/officers/staff were in attendance.

Recording Secretary – Molly Polasky

The minutes from the May, 2015 meeting was presented. Tammy Fales made a motion to accept the minutes as written and Linda Constand seconded. The minutes were approved.

Principal's Report – Doug Mader, Principal

- Media center opening soon. Students being surveyed to choose name. Books going in beginning Monday. A collaborative space with new furniture and technology. PTO invited to volunteer as customer service representatives. More to come on duties. Smoothie bar to in area soon.
- New signage on building put up today – Athletic Entrance, Theater Entrance & SHS. Hallway near theater to become student art gallery.
- Student body is great – disciplinary referrals down from last year & those down from year prior.
- Lunch process continues to be looked at.
- ACE bell – ok for students to read and take notes.
- New staff – 13 teachers, 2 administrators, counseling supervisor, athletic director. Staff that left/retired are missed but new team is moving forward. . Energy is high, team is cohesive.
- Science labs due for update.
- Parent asked for ideas to reenergize student body for dances. DM will work on this, possibly do funny videos.
- Aspire test for freshman, letter will come home. It's an ACT practice test that also gives the school data on instruction. Department and building changes can be made in areas students are weak in.
- HS doing 1-1 technology pilot study with 150 students. Will survey students and look at data from Greene school. HS has tech facilitator in building & are working with tech dept on this study.
- Two math and one science teacher working with other staff on how to create instructional videos that students watch as homework. Class time is then used to discuss video topics, problem solve.
- New athletic director trying to be involved with all teams, is working collaboratively with music department & parents. New website AVESATHLETICS.COM has much pertinent info.
- New district website to roll out in approximately 1 month. New district public relations person is great to work with.
- In honor of 9/11, there will be a moment of silence at 9:45am today. There will also be special salutes before home football game at 6:45p but is weather dependent.
- Goal is to create weekly email from HS that includes all sporting and other events happening in the school. Daily announcements still available at bottom of HS page on district website.
- Parent question- With dependency on internet, what is proper procedure if your child can't get online to complete work? Call affected teacher to report issue.
- Graphing calculator was stated as required but is not.
- To reserve a room at HS, contact Phil Poggi, Athletic director, at this time. Joan Shepherd will transition to a new position that will handle this in the future.

Faculty/Staff Representative – Brian Sweeney

- Brian away today. Ann Delehanty-Koenig (Mrs. DK), Counseling Supervisor, attended and was introduced by DM. She has a senior and is going through college admissions process as a parent. Was at Lakota and Mason as head guidance counselor.
- Counseling caseloads equalized by spreading out alphabet.
- Dept has met with juniors and seniors and their parents in large groups. Will meet with each grade level and parents each year.

- Dept is changing how college documents delivered to colleges – using Naviance now.
- Parent question – Anyone on staff specializing in Gap years? (defer college for a year to work/volunteer) No specialist but see Mrs. DK.
- PSAT to be held 10/14 for sophomores and juniors. Register in commons at lunch, now though 9/18. Cost is \$18, exact cash or check to SHS. Freshmen will take Aspire test on 10/14 which is ACT practice. Seniors will job shadow or attend college visit 10/14.
- October 8 is sophomore parent meetings at 4p or 6:30p, choose one. Same night at parent conferences.

Treasurer's Report – Sheila Kidd

- Budget Approval - SK presented the 2015-2016 budget and asked for a motion to accept it. Angela Radakovich moved and Rhonda Augustin seconded. Discussion- Market Day remains on sheet as we are still receiving income from last year's sales. Bookstore budget reviewed – expenses are for supplies & merchandise, fixtures were purchased by district. PTO agreed to spend \$10,000 on chairs and table for commons last year - We will send as soon as we can afford to. Budget approved via membership vote.
- Review of Current Financials - Membership already at \$7380, budget \$7500 so we are likely to meet that. Check book has \$34,490 currently to start the year.
- Bookstore update - Thank you to Jill Whaley, Lisa Tosh, and Rhonda Augustin for all the time and effort they put in to get the store up and running. Thank you to all PTO members who are volunteering at the bookstore.
 - Store will be open after today's meeting.
 - Work transition students are working at store for on the job training before school, at lunch and certain evenings.
 - Facebook and twitter give hours
 - Required reading texts are in the store. Will continue to re order up to the day the text is due. Books are at cover price.
 - Questions? Sycamorebookstore@gmail.com
 - Per Tami Comerford, Donation requests will not be fulfilled at this time as the store is still operating at a deficit. Will revisit when store become more fiscally solvent.
- Community Fundraising - Angela Radakovich announced that the HS is part of the Kroger rewards. Pipkin's receipts also collected. PTO also gets profit from 2 vending machines in building. Suggestion made to identify PTO machines with sticker.

Vice-President – Jamie Green

- Science Fair needs volunteers. Forms provided on back table. Date is 1/30/16.

President's Report – Tami Comerford

- Thanked all in attendance for everything they do to help the school and PTO.
- Sue Schuetz is Web communications and can upload needed info to our current PTO website housed on district site.
- Flyer from HS will go out monthly to families. Person is new to position and still learning but PTO info can be included in flyers.
- Constant Contact is PTO email communication. Info goes out only to PTO families who have given email address..
- Twitter is primary method of HS communication. You can follow and view without posting.
- Senior class has sent emails to parents and is process of planning events.
- Principal Breakfast is once a month for teacher nominated students. Recognition can be for raising grades to volunteering to clean up courtyard to going above and beyond expectation. Staff serves students, PTO provides funding. First breakfast is in October. Breakfasts begin at 7:20am
- Need volunteers to distribute student pictures next Tuesday & Wednesday. Signups on back table.
- Need chairs for Odd Couples and After Prom. Most of committees are returning from last year.

Recording Secretary – Molly Polasky

- Proposed placing draft copy of minutes online and in display case so members can get information in timelier manner. Suggestion to post snippets of key points and dates made and accepted.

- Membership – Jada Hill sent report of 68 staff members and 308 families as of 9/8/2015.
- Volunteer Coordinator – Stephanie Janssen still collecting forms. Are available on back table.
- Directory – Mary Wynn Haupt & Colleen Davies report that initial prep work has begun. Hope to be out in October.

Corresponding Secretary – Suzanne VanDenBrink

- Thanked Mary Tyler, Missy Reardon, Maria Wright & Sonya Khatana for work they have done with Hospitality, New Family Welcome and Staff Appreciation.
- Note conference times are changed this year, 3p-8p.
- Reviewed thank you notes received and will post in display case.

New Business

- Carrie Gause announced Jr High Flight Fest is in conjunction with Homecoming this year on October 3. There will be a 5K walk/run and a 10K run.
- Homecoming parade will travel down Remington to Zig Zag to Cooper to the Jr High around 5pm. HS Student Council will sponsor a tailgate of some type at the stadium after the parade.
- District Green Team has helped get new plastic reusable lunch trays at HS. Hope to employ some work transition students with the new process. Waste has been reduced by 50%.
- TC reminded members to check Counselor tab on HS site on district webpage for meetings, college visits, etc.

Upcoming events –

Sept 11-18	PSAT registration during lunch bells
Sept 23, 9:00-10:00am	Coffee with Counselors
Oct 2-3	Homecoming/Band Night & Homecoming Dance
Oct 8, 3:00-8:00pm	Parent Teacher Conferences
Oct 8, 4:00pm & 6:30pm	10 th grade Parent/Guardian meeting with Counselors
Oct 9, 9:00am	PTO meeting

New Business - none

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25am

Next PTO Meeting is Friday, October 9, 2015 at 9am