

# Sycamore High School PTO

PTO General Meeting Minutes

Friday, November 13, 2015

The meeting was called to order by Tami Comerford at 9:11am. Approximately 30 parents/officers/staff were in attendance.

## **Recording Secretary – Molly Polasky**

The minutes from the October, 2015 meeting were presented. Angela Radakovich made a motion to accept the minutes as written and Rhonda Augustin seconded. The minutes were approved.

## **Principal's Report – Doug Mader, Principal**

- Staff, students and administration looking forward to Thanksgiving break.
- Ground work being done for scheduling, some courses changing. Will be done by Feb for scheduling process. Students will have courses and bells when walk out the door in May, 2016.
- Had successful fall sporting and band programs. Fall sports awards highlighted all fall sports. Signing held yesterday for students playing sports at college.
- Trees surrounding new track was district decision and was not done in haste. Maintenance has been struggling for past 6-7months to maintain. Will replace with non-leafy vegetation and plant more sycamore trees around the campus. Mr. Mader (DM) apologized for not communicating to HS body and community.
- Parent Question – What is current attendance policy? Examining current practice, daily attendance done at 2<sup>nd</sup> bell with absence list sent to all teachers. Teachers take attendance every bell but don't submit to office. Will go to every period attendance eventually with online report to main office. Need to figure out how to deal with kids at guidance, coach, nurse, bathroom, etc.
- Part of long range plan to change # of security cameras and new infrastructure behind it. Have 1700 teens in building but increasing cameras hopes to decrease theft, unauthorized leaving and letting people into the building.
- Parent Question – What is evacuation drill procedure? There are multiple plans depending upon situation. Drills designed to identify bottlenecks and issues. Staff has all been trained for an intruder.
- Parent Question – What is the out to lunch pass? Only for juniors and seniors or those who can drive. Pass is given when student does something special. Students allowed to use only on Wednesdays. Freshman and sophomore parents can write a note giving permission to their child to go out with an upper classman who also has a pass.
- Parent Question – What is policy on teachers returning tests? DM has emphasized that tests should go home with students but some departments have tests that cannot be restated or reproduced in a different way so those do not go home. Reach out to teacher if a concern. If not resolved, reach out to Mr. Mader.
- Parent Question – What is policy for returning quizzes prior to a test? Teachers should be returning quizzes for students to use to prepare for a test but no policy in place. Timely feedback to students is issue from parent survey. Mr. Mader will be having education on this for teachers. Grades should be put in grade book 24 hours after a paper is graded.
- Parent Question – What is expectation for use of online calendar and blackboard? Mr. Mader is working with teachers. 6 targets resulted from parent survey. Want teachers to survey own parents and kids on how they are doing.
- Welcome home lunch for alumni will be December 17<sup>th</sup>. Will be held in conjunction with staff & retiree holiday lunch. SAFA sponsoring and will have information on the SAFA website.
- No homework to be given over Winter Break.
- New district website has had all content switched over. Hopes to be live around Thanksgiving. HS will have control over own site.
- Rising freshmen will visit high school in January for tour and fly by. May 18 & 19 are days for kids and parents to visit with upperclassmen touring and mentoring.

## **Faculty/Staff Representative – Brian Sweeney**

- Staff is working with seniors on college applications. Almost 80% of class have filled out at least one app. Are asking seniors to request transcripts for Dec 1<sup>st</sup> deadlines and those over winter break by today. Will work with exceptions. Have been reminding of deadlines.
- Career speaker series will be held throughout rest of year instead of the 2 days last year. Have tentative list. Mr. Millet is organizing. First speaker is on Athletic training and will be held next week. If parent interested in speaking, let Mr. Millet know. Possibly held during ACE bell or lunch and learn, open to all students but will have a limit on participants.
- Next Wednesday is suicide prevention. Is 7<sup>th</sup> year sharing information. Different information presented to lower and upper classmen. Held during ACE bell. Have list of students they check on who have some experience with this issue. Can opt out if uncomfortable.

- Will begin meeting with students about schedules in February. Teachers will make recommendations then counselors meet with the kids individually.
- Parent Question – Will summer school schedule be out before spring break? No specific date but plan to have out around that time. Mr. Paletz will most likely be in charge again. Physical Education most popular class to be taken over summer.
- Academic Fair will be held January 19<sup>th</sup>. Parents can come and explore course offerings. All summer reading expectations will be available then.

**Treasurer’s Report – Sheila Kidd**

- Review of Current Financials - \$37,030.06 in operating fund. Have made multiple deposits for bookstore & pop machine. Expenses paid for certificates and speaker.
- AVES Hangar (Bookstore) update:
  - Will be open 11/21 for SBOB craft fair. Restocking & bringing in new merchandise including youth sizes.
  - Book orders delivered today. Last day to order freshman academic and honors required reading. Won’t be stocked in store.
  - Lower schools happy to have Hangar stock youth sizes for the holidays.
  - Chairs are watching funds closely, monitoring stock and expenses.

**Recording Secretary – Molly Polasky**

- Membership – Have exceeded budget. 308 families and 104 staff have joined.
- The HUB – Not open after school yet but before school and lunch shifts going well.
- Directory – Distributed this week. Will email members to pick up if not able to get.

**Corresponding Secretary – Suzanne Van Den Brink**

- Received a thank you for the dinner at conferences.

**Vice-President – Jamie Green**

- Project process (PTO gifting) – Funds available to gift decided in January. Applications due Feb 12. Will evaluate end of Feb and ask for vote at March meeting. Guidelines are in by-laws.

**President’s Report – Tami Comerford**

- Senior class event Jan 11 at Scene 75 in Milford. Like a Dave & Busters place, open only for private parties on Mondays. Hope to be back to school by 10pm. Tickets \$20 thanks to a parent donation.
- Odd couples will be Mardi Gras theme. Need volunteers to help. Date is March 12.
- Fran Bitzer working on after prom and needs a shadow. After prom is 12:30a-4:30a May 14/15. Sophomores and freshmen can attend with a junior or senior. Juniors and seniors do not have to attend dance before after prom but freshmen and sophomores do.
- Carol reported that Principal’s breakfast was great, kids are being recognized for amazing things.

**Announcements**

- SBOB craft show has over 200 vendors. All bands and orchestras perform. Will have auxiliary parking at Shefer corporation. An ATM will be available that day.
- School House Rock performed tonight at Jr. High at 7pm.
- Next coffee with counselors will target juniors but all encouraged to come. Wednesday, 11/18.
- No PTO meeting in December. January meeting will welcome school board members Jean Staubach and Paul Ballent. February meeting will feature Green team presentation.
- To make building reservations, contact Phil Poggi if needed after school and Carol Wolkoff is during school day.

**Upcoming events –**

Nov 18	Coffee with Counselors, 9am
Nov 19	National Honor Society Induction 7pm
Nov 21	SBOB Craft Show, 9a-4p
Dec 3	Orchestra Concert, 7pm
Dec 7	Financial Aid meeting, 6:30p
Dec 8	Choir concert, 7pm
Dec 9	Senior Night tickets on sale
Dec 11 & 12	Theater Improv Show, 7:30pm
Dec 15-18	HS Exams

**Old Business - none**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30am

**Next PTO Meeting is Friday, January 8, 2016 at 9am**

Respectfully submitted, Molly Polasky