

# Sycamore High School PTO

PTO General Meeting Minutes

Friday, February 12, 2016

The meeting was called to order by Tami Comerford at 9:07am. Approximately 30 parents/officers/staff were in attendance.

## **Recording Secretary – Molly Polasky**

The minutes from the January 8, 2016 meeting were presented. Angela Radakovich noted an error with her initials. Jill Whaley made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected and Tammy Fales seconded. The minutes were approved with corrections.

## **District Green Initiative Presentation**–Chad Lewis, Sycamore Director of Business Operations & Elizabeth Bruggeman, Sycamore Parent

- Mr. Lewis reviewed how Green initiatives began in district. Began with Planning Commission study & waste audit through AP environmental class. Now we are composting, recycling, using energy changes, green cleaning products, have water bottle filling stations and educational video. Have received grants from Hamilton County for composting which Elizabeth spearheaded and reviewed. District now captures 95% of all recyclables. Task force considers new projects if they are big picture, district wide, sustainable and student involved.
- Responses to questions from members: Mr. Lewis will look into possibility of recycling items such as books, uniforms, theater & dance sets/decorations – are limitations if bought with district money. Paper recycling occurring at every school –some student clubs, others custodians. District has changed electric provider, drops temperature in all buildings after school hours, using solar panels to heat pool. Are not using only recycled paper and other supplies yet as district part of buying consortium but Mrs. Bruggeman is working on this. Water audit has not been done yet but Mrs. Bruggeman will have committee look into it. Small Evergreen trees have been planted in place of the Sycamore trees around the track. Additional Sycamores are to be planted in other locations. Parents would like to see total volume of trees replaced that were taken out. Will be special edition of The Leaf on Feb 26 which will share info on the district green efforts to educate students. Environmental club will offer service hours for help with composting. Closest composting facility is now in Columbus. Hamilton County is seeking more local sites but regulations changed that made it more difficult to accept compost.

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

- Will put out more info on parent teacher conferences.
- Trying to communicate but not over communicate with families. Guidance dept has committee to coordinate what they send out to families, admin has similar committee. The 2 committees will begin meeting together once a week to improve the process and reduce duplication with paper mailings and technologic information.
- Using new scheduling software that is HS friendly. Students will know what courses they are enrolled in before they leave for summer. The bell and teacher will not be assigned, only the courses.
- Winter sports end soon with tournaments. Spring sports ramping up.
- Dates for end of year have been finalized and parents of seniors will receive soon. Preparation for graduation has begun.
- Changes to HS building being discussed. New architect must be engaged. DM working with Chad Lewis on process. Science wing priority at HS and also looking at removing locker bay by pool and adding seating and open concourse area. Hope to repurpose lockers to locker rooms. Also looking at furniture, most from 1974. District levy will not be for renovations. Looking at 1-1 technology next year but will be a tool, not the only teaching methodology. Office area in HUB will be tech support area where repair and instruction can occur – SHS Solutions, like the genius bar at Apple, possibly staffed by students. Getting bids for devices, if student owns a device, can opt out of Chromebook. Will have computers to borrow if necessary for instruction and student forgets theirs at home.
- Tents will be put up for spring sports to provide shade for athletes since trees were cut down. DM will follow up with Chad Lewis regarding plan for a permanent shade structure.
- ACE bell has evolved over year. Wednesdays are now collaboration days for students to meet with teachers & other students.
- Law Studies class proposed one time a month one hour out to lunch pass. DM working on procedure. Currently, out to lunch only for Jr's and Sr's on Wednesdays for 30 minutes.
- Have seen uptick in marijuana use. DM working with Officer Payne. Students will be searched if they arrive at school smelling of smoke. DAB is new drug substance, comes in a small jar, and looks like honey or ear wax. It's smoked through a vaporizer and is dangerous. No heroin seen. Will hold meetings with students before spring break to educate them on dangers.

## **Faculty/Staff Representative – Mrs. DK**

### **Mrs. DK**

- Counseling dept has met with every 8<sup>th</sup> grader, working with 9<sup>th</sup> grade this week, 10<sup>th</sup> grade next week then 11<sup>th</sup> grade last.
- Feb 25 @ 6:30pm is College Credit Plus meeting for parents. Had 50 kids at student meeting. Is same night as parent teacher conference. UC reps will be on site.
- Online ACT pilot test will be offered at Sycamore.
- Activity forum for parents of current 8<sup>th</sup> graders held 2/11.
- Transcripts & report cards have been reformatted. Will be cleaner looking and easier to read. Will be used for 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter grades.
- Summer options not available yet. Recommend scheduling as if you will use summer option. If unable when dates and classes released, will allow schedule changes.
- Current 8<sup>th</sup> graders did not have access to course planner through Naviance due to current Naviance package. This has been corrected for the future. Suggestion made to have Naviance training for JH parents, similar to what freshman parents receive.
- Coffee with Counselors to be held Feb 17 with Curriculum & Scheduling as topic.

## **Treasurer's Report – Sheila Kidd**

- Review of Current Financials - \$45,245.16 in operating fund.

- Received \$201 from soda machine, approximately \$66 from Pipkins. Angela Radakovich will take Pipkin's receipts early March.
- Paid science fair, principal's breakfast and tax prep bills. Books from last year are clear following review.
- Will purchase poly vinyl for Odd Couples and After Prom to replace worn items for \$327.16, with \$106.55 donated by Senior Class of 2015 and approximately \$221 coming from the PTO Board Discretionary Fund. If After Prom has funds left in budget after the event, they will reimburse the board.
- AVES Hangar has \$7096.96 profit! Jill Whaley reports:
  - Selling Fahrenheit 451 for freshman accel English students
  - Hope to be open tonight for Senior Boys basketball night
  - PE locks available for \$7. Students required to purchase if have gym. Can be used on Greg lockers as well. Students keep the locks.
- Angela Radakovich (AR) reminded members to turn in Pipkin's receipts at front desk.

#### **President's Report** – Tami Comerford

- Tami reported an inconsistency in the body of our by-laws with use of President or Co-Presidents. Kathy McClure moved that the terms "President or Co-Presidents" be used throughout the PTO By-Laws document for consistency. Angela Radakovich seconded. Motion approved.
- Tami reported an inconsistency in the Standing Rules for Scholarship amounts. The PTO currently provides four scholarships, each \$750 which the membership voted to do but the current rules were not updated to reflect the change. Kathy McClure moved to amend the Standing Rules for Scholarship amounts to reflect that each of four scholarships will be \$750. Tammy Fales seconded and the motion was approved. PTO Scholarships are not need based. The Counseling department solicits applications and forwards information to the PTO Scholarship committee for consideration.
- Clothing Drive – Esther Adams is collecting gently used business attire for some of her students who need business clothing when dealing with the public. If you would like to donate, contact Esther @ Adamse@sycamoreschools.org.
- Odd couples- Lindsey & Brynn  
 Decoration committee meets Wednesdays from 6p-9p. Volunteers appreciated!  
 Goal is to have earlier sales. Asking parents to spearhead getting tables together by club, sport, grade, etc. Ticket forms ready to go out next week.  
 Can pay by credit card on line this year.  
 Encourage opposite parent & older siblings to volunteer night of. A signup genius is available.  
 Committee has found lots of great decorations that could be shared within the district. TC will share this at ASSPO.
- TC will work on attempting to inventory decorations over the summer.
- After Prom – Fran Bitzer is leading efforts and chairs met to get started. Vegas Nights is theme. Needs parent donations.

#### **Vice-President** – Jamie Green

- Projects (PTO gifting) deadline is today, 15 requests received so far. Committee is meeting week of 2/21/16.
- Nominations Committee getting started. Please let JG know if you will continue with your position or if you would like to try something else.
- Science fair was held. 18 projects submitted, 15 going on to next level of competition.

#### **Recording Secretary** – Molly Polasky

- The HUB – Mary Tyler reported need for more lunch volunteers. Is a customer service position & on the job training provided. There are T,W & TH shifts open.

#### **Corresponding Secretary** – Suzanne Van Den Brink

- Need sides and desserts for Conference Meal for staff on Feb 25. Contact Lisa Higgins if you would like to contribute.
- Paula Gill & Helen White will retire at the end of this month. PTO will purchase a small gift and gift card to acknowledge their service.

#### **Announcements**

- Note Fashion for the Cure is Feb 26. The date on the district calendar is wrong.

#### ➤ Upcoming Events

- February 12-19, Online AP Exam Registration
- February 15 – NO SCHOOL
- February 16, 6:30pm – College Bound Student-Athlete information session
- February 17, 9:00am – Coffee w/Counselors – "Scheduling and Curriculum"
- February 19 – 7pm - SEE1 Concert
- February 20, 7pm - Cabaret
- February 20, 7pm – Sycamore Athletic Boosters Social at Cooper Creek, Officer Payne honoree]]
- February 25 – 3-8pm – Parent/Teacher Conferences – Staff meal provided
- February 25, 6:30pm – College Credit Plus Parent Meeting
- February 26, 6:30pm - Fashion for the Cure

#### **Old Business - none**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:14am

**Next PTO Meeting is Friday, March 11, 2016 at 9am**

Respectfully submitted, Molly Polasky