

Sycamore High School PTO

PTO General Meeting Minutes

Friday, January 8, 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 November, 2015 meeting were presented. Patty Banzhaf made a motion to accept the minutes as written and Rhonda Augustin seconded. The minutes were approved.

Board of Education Presentation-Jean Staubach & Paul Balent

- Mrs. Staubach thanked PTO for raising funds, supporting students through efforts. Board members meet with each PTO once a year to share info, have been doing for 6-7 years. Had 4 children successfully go through Sycamore. Was elected to board 1997 & is current board president. State of school address online and is topic oriented to watch in short bursts. State legislature awarded TPPT funds back, 9 million per year for Sycamore, for 2 years. Risk of \$ being < 1 million per year until gone. May be levy in 2016 as want to be prepared in case funding cut. No decisions yet. Last operating levy 2004. Are full time assistant principals in each elementary building now & Karen Naber is over all curriculum k-12
- Mr. Balent was appointed in May 2015 and was elected this past cycle. Has been in district 10 years and has 2 children in a Sycamore elementary school. Board mtgs 1st & 3rd Wednesdays and are open to public. Board NOT involved in day to day operations but set direction of district and work with admin & treasurer. Hire & evaluate superintendent and treasurer. No additional costs to district for all recent staff changes at district due to restructuring.

Principal's Report – Doug Mader, Principal

- Starting scheduling now. Timeline accelerated to allow HS time to create correct schedules, predict staffing levels and provide those considering private schools equivalent information.
- Academic fair Jan 19 for students and parents. Showcasing courses and activities. Will begin with group meeting to update on learning communities & other topics then release to fair.
- Current 8th graders had recommendation day yesterday & forms are in transit to HS, will go home on Monday so can bring to academic fair. Had 1 meeting for parents to ask about HS curriculum, another coming up.
- AP info night coming up for all grades.
- HS recommendation day is Jan 15. Form looks new, copy to student Jan 19 but encouraging kids to take picture with phone so can discuss over long weekend. All summer requirements will be available at academic fair. Goal is for students to know scheduled courses for next year before leave the building for the summer.
- Flags of 54 nations representing student body going back up in commons. Proud of our diversity. PTO will fund additional flags if more countries represented.
- Parent Question – What do honors, accel & academic labels mean at HS vs JH as they appear different? District looking at the flow from HS down and what courses cover and how they are labeled.
- HS holding freshman camp in May over 2 days. HS student leaders will act as “counselor for the day”. Rising freshmen also coming Jan 15 for short tour and quick forum.
- Next school year, semester ends before winter break. No homework to be assigned. Some students had choice of when to complete a project or turn in a paper since semester ends today so if they chose an after break turn in/ presentation, they may have been working on that over break. Contact DM if your child had homework assigned over break.

Faculty/Staff Representative – Brian Sweeney & Mrs. DK

Mrs. DK

- Counseling dept met with juniors this week to review SAT & ACT dates, timelines. Reviewed that focus on GPA this year is key as grades from end of junior year is what colleges see. Slides from presentation emailed to parents.
- PSAT scores out yesterday, all electronic, students created accounts and log ons. Go to counseling office if problems. College Board having trouble with their website.
- Feb 6 ACT registration ends today. Next ACT offered in April. SAT end of January.
- Course planner updated. Has all requirements, rules, course offerings. Will be online next week & will be interactive. All current 8th graders will receive paper copy and will have limited # of paper copies for HS families. Will notify when loaded onto website.
- Counselors will meet with every student to review courses in February.

Mr. Sweeney

- May 15 is last day to make schedule change requests.
- Students receiving hard copy of 2nd semester classes today. Will go to 2nd semester classes when return to school on Tuesday.

- College Credit Plus will continue but state no longer allows AP classes to be applied. We still have a number of classes that can be used.
- Government course is required, is yearlong and can be taken as junior or senior.
- Speaker series continuing as "Career every other Tuesday". Mr. Millet looking for speakers. Mr. Riddick is next speaker.
- Scarlet Oaks field trip on 1/29 for sophomores. Today last day to sign up.
- Summer school info will be out after spring break.

Treasurer's Report – Sheila Kidd

- Review of Current Financials - \$43,857.86 in operating fund. \$5,609.89 profit from bookstore.
- AVES Hangar (Bookstore) update:
 - Jill Whaley thanked members who helped with before holiday break hours. Had good volume of sales.
 - Kite Runner book order due next week for all sophomores.
 - Gearing up for 2nd semester supply needs.
- Angela Radakovich (AR) reminded members to turn in Pipkin's receipts at front desk. AR will follow up with Pipkins as receipts turned in but no check received yet.

Vice-President – Jamie Green

- Projects (PTO gifting) – PTO will grant up to \$5000. Requests coming in now. Volunteers needed to review requests. Will meet late Feb/early March. JG will contact those who indicated interest at beginning of year but contact her if you are interested as well.
- Nominations Committee- being formed soon. Let JG know if you would like to part of process.

Recording Secretary – Molly Polasky

- The HUB – Mary Tyler reported need for more volunteers. Is a customer service position & can be done with a friend. Can use someone 3rd Tuesday at lunch, 11a-1p. Would like to fill before and after school on Thursdays as well. Smoothie bar not open yet.

Corresponding Secretary – Suzanne Van Den Brink

- PTO provided staff treats before the holidays that were well received.
- 22 PTO members baked desserts for the Home for the Holidays staff and alumni lunch.

President's Report – Tami Comerford

- Senior class event Jan 11 at Scene 75 in Milford has 206 signed up. Bus leaves school at 7pm, returns at 11pm. All administrators are attending.
- Odd couples will be "The BIG EASY" theme. Committees meeting and moving along. For all grades, includes dinner followed by entertainment in the commons. Date is March 12.
- After prom is 12:30a-4:30a May 14/15.
- GEAR offering "Stress and Students" on Tuesday, Jan 12 at Blue Ash Education Wing. HS student to student forum on Feb 3, 7p-8:30p at JH.

Announcements

- Alumni lunch-SAFA invited retired staff and many new grads. Was full house and were enthusiastic about the Hangar.
- Jen Smilg's son Jacob, 8th grader at JH was featured on WCPO for creating a device to help his friend communicate.
- Meeting for current 9th grade families Jan 12th at 6:30pm at HS. Mapping

Upcoming events –

Jan 11	Senior Night at Scene 75
Jan 12	10am GEAR Coffee/Conversation Students & Stress
Jan 12	6:30pm 9 th grade parent meeting with counselors
Jan 14	7pm Band concert
Jan 15/16	7:30pm, Almost Maine theater production
Jan 19	6:30pm Academic Fair
Jan 30	Science Fair
Jan 30	SAFA Hall of Fame dinner at Montgomery Inn

Old Business - none

The meeting was adjourned at 10:47am

Next PTO Meeting is Friday, February 12, 2016 at 9am – Green Team presentation

Respectfully submitted, Molly Polasky