

**Sycamore High School PTO  
General Meeting Minutes  
Friday, Sept 13, 2019– 9:00am**

Call to Order

Angela Radakovich/Alissa Simms

Approval of May 2019 Minutes, <http://tinyurl.com/quickminutes>

- Angela Radokovich explained that board meeting minutes were located at the url and took a moment for people to take a look. She asked for any change. No one suggested any. Angela asked that the meeting minutes be approved as presented.

Principal's Report

Doug Mader, Principal

- Homecoming parade route changed from EH Greene to Junior High through neighborhoods and end at the junior high school.
- Homecoming dance: students asked to wear tennis shoes on gym floor as opposed to heels or bare feet. There will be a shoe check if desired.
- 14 National merit scholars with 55 less seniors this year.

Faculty/Staff Representative's Report

Ann Delahunty-Koenig, Counselor

- Ann is head of counseling department and usually gives an update on staff and student issues. She did not attend today.

Presentation from Superintendent Forsthoefel, Beth Weber

- He gave an overview of the steps that have been taken to this point where we are asking for a levy from the voters. First, the buildings were assessed for age and what the challenges were. Data was collected and spring of 2018, district went into the community and presented the status of the buildings and asked for reactions. Reactions were collected and from those recommendations the district took the results (1000 touchpoints), and 3 plans were ultimately decided upon to present to the public for reactions. More forums were conducted and feedback was taken. Lots was learned including people like the early childhood notion, but not busing pre-k kids to other schools, people like community schools, people also like grade level configuration as is.
- District is recommending a rebuild of Greene, rebuild of the Junior High, renovate the high school and Symmes Elementary, build a new stadium on the high school campus contingent upon raising 2.5 million (half) from community donors. Frank presented some models of each of the schools that will be rebuilt/renovated. Those are subject to change and are general right now, but good ideas of where things will be headed if the levy passes.
- Beth Weber explained about the specifics of the levy, how the levy will be structured. She presented 2 videos about how bond issues work and the cost of the levy to the tax payer. These videos are located on the district website. Beth suggested we share these videos with neighbors and/or members of the community. The bottom line she said we should share is \$84/100,000 of property/year or 2.4 mils.
- 40% of property value in our district is business property.
- Look for 2 community wide forums on Oct. 7<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> to invite and engage community members.

Presentation from the Yes for Sycamore Co-President

Jonathan Friend

- Community group that encourages others to invest in the community so we remain a destination school district
- Parents need to get out and vote. If you can't make it, register as an absentee!
- Get informed. There is a high level of transparency.

- Website is yesforsycamore. There is also a facebook page.
- Yard signs can be requested on website.

Treasurer's Report, 10:09 A.M.

Carrie Dippold

- Budget approval for 2019-2020 budget
  - Budget looks similar to the past.
  - The bookstore numbers have changed to show an increase in income and that we will be paying for an employee moving forward.
  - Community Rewards have increased.
  - Membership went down because we are only asking for \$10/membership
  - We added another scholarship
  - Odd-couples has its own operating line now.
  - New Family welcome bags have been added.
  - Carrie opened up the meeting to questions. One questions was asked about Kroger Rewards and if families need to reenroll every year. The answer was no, you remain enrolled unless you opt out.
  - Motion to approve was taken by Carrie. Motion was seconded by Jen Smilg. All if favor of budget were asked for their assent. It appeared that the approval was unanimous from the floor.
- Financial report
  - Bookstore is still in the red due to ordering a large number of items at the beginning of the year.
  - Kroger and coke machine checks have been issued
  - New family welcome bag money was used.
- Audit. We are currently in the process of the getting taxes done. Then the audit committee will get doing. Presidents will ask some people to help with this.
- The Hangar Report [www.tinyurl.com/avesstore](http://www.tinyurl.com/avesstore)
  - Thanks to volunteers who have helped with set up

President's Report , 10:20 A.M.

Angela Radakovich/Alissa Simms

- New board was introduced
- We were reminded to park in PTO parking or the bus ramp if those spots are open.
- Communication from PTO will be in Aviator update, website, or the new Facebook page.
- Sycamore Proud magnets were purchased and have not come in yet, but should be available soon. Look for them next week at Coffee with a Counselor. Board spent 120 for them which will come out of discretionary fun
- PTO will sponsor a speaker on October 7. The speaker is a parent of a blue ash student who currently works as an admissions counselor but has also worked for admissions committees at the college level. The topic will be tips for helping your teen apply to college. It will be held at 7 P.M. in the HUB.
- Coffee with Counselor dates/topics are all listed on the PTO webpage, first one Sept 18 (next Wednesday). The first one is a Q&A session.
- Senior Class representative, Kenna Wahlquist reported on the senior class activities. They decorated the school on the first day. Senior lunch was first Friday of school. Parents of senior class have been very responsive and they have been volunteering and they've collected all the necessary money to fund their activities. College visit day is Oct. 15. Senior service day and Halloween parade will both happen on Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>.
- Yearbook pictures for seniors due on November 26. Baby ads are due in March (optional).
- We got side-tracked by a yearbook discussion. The yearbook is pretty late this year due to some mistakes. They should be sent directly to homes

- Elizabeth Bruggeman will be taking on Odd Couples. She is looking for a co-chair, but especially with a younger student. She is also looking for a volunteer chair for that event. She is open to changes and ideas. She is putting out a survey to get feedback. She is very excited to have a budget. The dance has existed on sales, but the costs keep going up and it is hard to predict how much money they will have. It is a great event.
- There are 2 new chairs for after prom. Leigh Cummins and Patricia Barros. They met with Tami Comerford, last year's chair. They are still looking for chairs for raffle prizes, sponsorship, volunteers, games. Please contact Leigh or Patricia if you are interested.

#### Vice President's Report, 10:36

Karen Ronningen

- Academic Achievers is an opportunity for the PTO to honor leaders during football and basketball games. The counseling department selects the achievers from the senior class and they are presented with a certificate, gift card, and shout out. The chair is Cathy Isakson.
- The PTO has decided to wait on the project cycle until the levy has been voted on. The application process will start on November 6<sup>th</sup>. They will be due on the 18<sup>th</sup>. The application will be opened up online for students, teachers, and/or staff. Look for announcements in the S'more. The committee will meet during the first week of December. A suggestion was made that students and clubs should be made aware that they can apply for project money. Leigh Cummins suggested using the school newsnetwork which is only in its 3<sup>rd</sup> year. They film Tuesday and air on Thursday.
- Community Fundraising. Pipkins receipts collected in the front office. Make sure to sign up for Kroger Community Rewards!

#### Recording Secretary Report

Camilla Millar

- New Sycamore HS FB page. It is a closed group. Anyone can post
- Picture day went really well. Thank you to our chair, Patricia Rohr and the volunteers.
- Membership -Thank you to chair Anne Lumby -have membership list here if you need to check if you've joined.
- Thank you to our chair Lisa Berry for organizing the volunteer lists
- The directory chairs have met and we are waiting on information from the district. The directory should be going out mid-October!
- Angela asked Camilla to do a tutorial on the invite

#### Corresponding Secretary Report, 10:42

Sarah Baker

- TIPP coffee is a program with the special needs kids in the building. You can leave them some money.
- Hospitality at Open House -Thank you to Missy, Becky and Maria
- Staff Appreciation -will serve dinner to staff during conferences on Thurs., Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup>. Look for sign ups if you'd like to help

#### New Business

- Elizabeth Bruggeman has a passion for green initiatives on the district Green Team. They have a new program for composting. It is a community based program partnering with GOZERO. They are a commercial compost hauler. You can subscribe for \$10/month and get a bucket that you can drop off at any of the schools when it gets full. There are green compost carts which are hauled weekly or biweekly. By getting community subscribers it offsets hauling costs at the district level. Website is gozero.org
- SAC has a research committee to study topics for BOE. They studied limitations on families who move into the district. We can get a copy sent to the board.

- Good Shepherd has some people that fix up computers and send them to families in need. If you have old computers. We can send them there. [oxygenfarm@gmail.com](mailto:oxygenfarm@gmail.com) (he can take them to Good Shepherd for you).

#### Announcements

- Upcoming Events
  - Sept. 18<sup>th</sup> – Coffee with the Counselors - Q&A with the counselors
  - Sept. 27<sup>th</sup> – NO SCHOOL
  - Oct 7<sup>th</sup>- Evening program, 7pm
  - Oct. 11-12<sup>th</sup> – Homecoming weekend

Adjournment, 10:52 A.M.

**Coffee with the Counselor is Wednesday, Sept. 18<sup>th</sup> @ 9am**  
**PTO Meeting is Friday, Oct. 11 @ 9:00 am**