

Sycamore High School PTO
General Meeting Minutes
Friday, February 14, 2020 – 9:00am

Call to Order, 9:07 A.M.

Angela Radakovich/Alissa Simms

Approval of January 2020 Minutes

Camilla Millar

<http://tinyurl.com/quickminutes>

Approved as Presented

Principal's Report

Doug Mader, Principal

- He feels that the counselors are ahead of the game in scheduling. After that is done, they compile numbers and do staffing. The software isn't set up to take classes that are single. There are about 70 classes that are run as singles.
- Dr. Mac is going to do scheduling this year so there is more experience all around. This is the busiest time as administrators inside.
- Graduation planning is under way. Doug takes pride in making things run smoothly without mistakes on the big day.
- Meetings with the architect are taking place now.
- They are looking at ways to repurpose areas in the building.

Faculty/Staff Representative's Report

Ann Delahnty-Koenig, Counselor

- In the process of verifying schedules through the end of next week
- Working with the seniors that are close to not making graduation.
- In a month, the senior rev up will happen.
- The 8th grade class has a little over 400.
- Very few 8th grade students will be going private/home school for high school. They have been tracking data on how many kids are going private. The numbers of kids going out of district are going down.
- There was a question about English CCP as a senior. One semester counts as a 3 credit hours which is equal to one credit at the high school.
- Colleges really want to see 4 years of science, even the art schools. Ann shared a story of a student who was conditionally accepted as long as the student took a 4th science class. The junior counselors are advising the kids of this.
- The counselors have changed the way they work. All kids have the same counselor for 4 years. They have learned a lot about how to get kids ready. Ann mentioned they have had to manage a lot of emotions with admissions/etc., but despite that she feels this way of programming is better because they can become experts on each year. She would like to get to a place where most of what they do is proactive instead of reactive. Having said that, it is A LOT of work when the kids become seniors. There are 8 counselors and they play to do it this was as long as that is the case.
- She recommends having kids complete parts of the common app the end of junior year.

President's Report

Angela Radakovich/Alissa Simms

- There will be a fundraiser for the PTO scholarship fund at City BBQ. 25% of profits. It will help next February 21st. The PTO gives \$4500 worth of scholarship money. Questions go to Theresa Ames.
- We met the new bookstore manager, Amy Browns Taylor. Her contract is with the district. The PTO has a contract with the district to pay her salary. She has been spending a lot of time with Lisa and Jill to learn operations. She moved to Sycamore in 2016 for the schools. She has a 5th grader and Kindergartener. Her specialty is marketing/communications. She ran the student center at UC. She managed the bookstore contract with Follet there. She has 3 dogs and is passionate about dog rescue. She will primarily be in the school on Mondays and Fridays. You can reach her at the bookstore email. She will be working on rebranding, etc.
- Last month, we presented a motion to make changes to the bylaws which will be specific to the new bookstore manager. There is a new board position that will be the contact point for the bookstore. That new position is called VP Bookstore. The new bylaws include these changes. The manager of the bookstore can not be a member of the PTO because the bylaws as written state the person can not be benefitted from the PTO. The voting appeared to be unanimous for the presented changes.
- Senior class had an event at Main event. About 150 attended which was too low to cover the cost of the event. There was a \$1000 donation to make it happen. Senior recognition and baby ads are due March 1st.
- Odd Couples is approaching on March 7th. Registration is open. It is online. There is also a link to be a volunteer. There will be some changes. It is Cincinnati-themed. There is a spirit-wear contest. It will be fun Cincinnati food. Registration closes on midnight the 28th of February. A email is sent when you sign up.
- After Prom committee is full. The event will be shifted to earlier 11:30-3:30. You don't have to arrive until 12:30. Kids can leave early, but will require a call home. There is inflatables, casino games, lots of food. Open to all juniors and seniors. Tickets are \$20.
 - The board wants to recommend that the PTO use \$500 to buy tickets for after-prom. The committee will decide how they use
 - Angela made a motion, Karen seconded. Voting appeared unanimous.
- Recognizing our bookstore chair people. They have never even received a thank you card and the board would like to recognize their hours of service and leadership. WE have requested to have them recognized at the Board of Education Meeting.
 - The board would like to get them a gift about \$250 each. We'd also like to bring some food.
 - Tami Comerford, past PTO President, has been asked to start a monetary fund for donations to them. Since Tami is no longer a PTO person,
 - Rachel Horne supported the motion to spend up to \$1000 to support the reception and Jen Smilg seconded. The general membership approved in the unanimous
- Odd Couples, March 7, registration is now open www.tinyurl.com/OCBregister

Treasurer's Report

Carrie Dippold

- About half of the projects have been paid out.
- There is an audit committee set and will meet in March.

Vice President's Report

Karen Ronningen

- Projects total award was about \$7300.
- Nominating committee is active. The biggest holes currently are a treasurer position and a staff appreciation general position.
- Applications are in process for Scholarship. Next Friday is the deadline. There is a slide in announcements and in the counselor email. There was also a text reminder from the counselors. We have 5 scholarships available. 2 are chosen by counselors.
- Bridge Builders lunch has been changed to Difference Makers lunch. April 8th will be the lunch. Deadline will be the 27th of March. Students nominate a teacher to attend luncheon and do a little write up for them. It comes at a great time of the year. Students don't attend the luncheon. Teachers don't know who nominated them till the luncheon. Jane and Lisa will be gone next year so this is a position that still needs to be filled.

Recording Secretary Report

Camilla Millar

- SHS Family Ambassadors had a productive meeting. There will be several committees. If you are willing to serve as a host family that new families can call with questions, let Camilla know.

Corresponding Secretary Report

Sarah Baker

- Staff Appreciation meal will coincide with Teacher Conferences on February 21st. Cindy Lynn and Betsy Rhinehart are working on that.

Announcements

- Shred the excess red contest. There is a textile recycling bin. It is the February 18th-March 27th. There is a small amount of money based on pounds recycled. Blue Ash has won in the past. The bin is located over by the ball field.
- The Community Composing (Go Zero) program is still ongoing. You can sign up on the gozero.org website. You sign up as a subscription and pick up your bin at the district. Then you dump your bin at the designated spot. At the high school, they are bright lime green and located near the loading docks.

Upcoming Events

- February 22nd (next Saturday) SAC Boosters Activity at March 1st Brewing.. There will be yummy food and salads. The price is \$40/ticket. You can also buy them at the door. There is a link in the s'more to purchase tickets. There are about 50 baskets to bid on. There will be burbon tasting (25 for 4 tastings) you have to sign up by this Sunday. They are getting a sneak peak at the athletic facilities. Team baskets get 50% profit from sales.

Adjournment, 10:27 A.M.

Coffee with the Counselors is Wednesday, March 4, 2020 @ 9:00am
PTO Meeting is Friday, March 13 @ 9:00 am