

# SYCAMORE HIGH SCHOOL PTO

## General Meeting Minutes

Friday November 13, 2020 - 9:00am

Via Zoom (21 participants) and Facebook Live (12 participants)

### Call to Order

Karen Wolter

- Approval of October 9, 2020 General Meeting Minutes
  - Motion to approve: Missy Reardon
  - 2nd: Amy Courtney
  - October 2020 minutes approved unanimously

### Principal's Report

Doug Mader

- No known spread within the district, all cases have occurred from exposure outside the schools
- Working on developing school planner for 2021-22 school year
- Hoping to have plan for semester exams by next week, still discussing with the district
- Working hard on remodel, phenomenal renderings that will be shared once we are confident they are finalized
  - Work on exterior items will start around the first of year 2021
    - Will not effect students/parking
  - Reworking traffic flow to improve safety and convenience
    - One entrance for parents/students
    - One entrance for busses/staff
- Questions from parents:
  - Will After Prom be held?
    - Not sure, will depend on COVID
    - Currently scheduled for April 24, but will consider moving to May if needed
  - Were students polled about exams?
    - Yes, 87% did not want exams

- 86% of parents did not want exams
  - 65% of staff did not want exams, 25% were indifferent
- Parent Survey will be sent out Nov 19 for commitments to CHANGE to either F2F or virtual, deadline to return commitment is Nov 30
  - Gives school time to rework schedules as needed
  - If student is not changing mode of learning, no action is necessary

## **Faculty/Staff Representative's Report**

Ann Delahnty-Koenig, Counselor

- Change with Coffee with Counselor to December 2
  - Topic is mental health
- Grade level updates
  - Freshman
    - 9th grade parent meeting recorded and distributed this past week, already viewed by 210 families
  - Sophomore
    - Career counseling done during 10th grade English
  - Juniors
    - One-on-one junior/counselor meetings happening currently
  - Seniors
    - Still immersed heavily in college application process
- Counselors in the process of checking in with students who had D or F grades in the first quarter
- Questions from parents:
  - Changes in schedules next semester to accommodate students switching from F2F to virtual and vice versa?
    - Not planning to change teachers for any students staying with their current mode of learning

- Will start planning schedules for those changing modes as soon as survey deadline passes, so we will have 2 months to work those issues out
  - Expect to have to create some new sections for students moving from virtual to F2F and have some virtual teachers with the flexibility to make those changes
- Is there a grade or performance gap between F2F and virtual students?
  - No significant gap that can be measured
- Full remote for district after Thanksgiving?
  - Board and DART team is discussing at next meeting
  - How do parents feel?
    - Worry about college students returning to Sycamore households and bringing COVID home
    - Haven't seen spread associated within the buildings
    - Worry about staff having to quarantine and the schools not having enough adults within the buildings
    - Worry about Thanksgiving gatherings among families
- What is policy if a student has already tested positive and is now a close contact?
  - Need to defer this question to the school nurse, Julie
- Are 8th graders going to get a tour of the school and see synnovation lab?
  - Hope to in the spring, but planning a virtual tour and academic fair for January
  - 8th graders will be the first allowed in as soon as restrictions are lifted and visitors are allowed into the school

## Presidents' Report

Alissa Simms/Karen Ronningen

([hspto@sycamoreschools.org](mailto:hspto@sycamoreschools.org))

- After Prom 2020 recap/After Prom 2021 (Angela Radakovich)
  - After Prom 2020 monetary collections from senior parents used to give Seniors gift certificates at Nanny Belles
  - After Prom 2021
    - Touching base with committee members about coming back, looking for additional volunteers to serve on committees
    - Discussing theme ideas that can use materials we already have since we are unsure if the event will be held
    - PTO may need to make a bigger than normal contribution since fundraising will probably not be able to take place due to social distancing restrictions and asking for money for an event that may not occur is difficult
- OGB Giveback
  - [Holiday Donations](#)
    - Bins inside SHS main office to collect donations
  - [STOCK THE SHELVES CANNED FOOD DRIVE SUPPORT OPERATION GIVE BACK!](#)
    - Ends Nov 20th, collection bins inside SHS main office
    - Main request is for canned fruits and vegetables, soup, and crackers

## Treasurer's Report

Amy Courtney

([hsptotreasurer@sycamoreschools.org](mailto:hsptotreasurer@sycamoreschools.org))

- [Treasurer's Folder 2020-2021](#)
- Projects budget from last year brought forward to use this semester, approx \$16,000 overage from 2019-20 school year will balance the deficit of \$16,000 from this semester
  - Motion to amend budget: Carrie Dippold

- Second: Angela Radakovich

## **VP of Operations' Report**

Michele Neat

([hsptovp@sycamoreschools.org](mailto:hsptovp@sycamoreschools.org))

- Fall Projects Update
  - Approximate \$25,000 in requests, over \$16,000 approved
- Next Projects Cycle
  - Will begin in February
- Scholarship Update
  - Starting application process earlier this year, look for them in January
- Nominations Committee
  - COVID is making things very different this year
  - For next years slate, we as a board would like to keep the same executive board for continuity and for a new board to run programs/events of a typical year when they haven't occurred this year
    - President position is currently limited to 2 years per our by-laws
    - If current board stays on, one president would be in her 3rd year so we are looking to amend the by-laws to allow this
    - If you have questions about this change, please contact Michele Neat at the above email

## **VP of Bookstore's Report**

Carrie Dippold

([hsptohangar@sycamoreschools.org](mailto:hsptohangar@sycamoreschools.org))

- Bookstore is doing great despite the building being closed to outsiders, currently only about 7% behind in sales from this point last year
- Nov 24 ~ Deliveries will be made on Tuesday the week of Thanksgiving

- Nov 28 ~ Small Business Saturday will be open to everyone 10am-1pm
- Dec 11 ~ after school - 7pm, Holiday Open House for Staff Only
- Dec 18 ~ 6:00pm - 9:00pm, open for boys basketball game
- Dec 19 ~ 12:00pm - 3:00pm, open for girls basketball game
- If interested in volunteering, please contact Carrie at email above or Amy at the Aves Hangar

### **Recording Secretary's Report**

Karen Wolter

([hsptorecording@sycamoreschools.org](mailto:hsptorecording@sycamoreschools.org))

- DirectorySpot update

### **Corresponding Secretary's Report**

Sarah Baker

([hsptocorresponding@sycamoreschools.org](mailto:hsptocorresponding@sycamoreschools.org))

- Staff Appreciation
  - Box Lunches provided at conferences, served approximately 125 meals
  - Coffee Truck
    - Came to SHS and then went to the virtual commons
    - Served over half the staff at the high school
- Next event
  - Working on sending birthday cards to staff members
  - Looking to send notes of appreciation to staff
    - If you are interested in writing notes to staff members, please contact Sarah at the above email

### **Adjournment**

**Next PTO meeting is Friday January 8, 2021 @ 9am**

