

**Sycamore High School PTO
General Meeting Minutes
Friday, February 8, 2019 - 9am**

Board Members in Attendance - Alyssa Schmeling, Angela Radakovich, Missy Reardon, Carrie Dippold, Elizabeth Bruggeman, and Alissa Simms

Call to Order - 9:10am

Approval of January 2019 Minutes - Alissa Simms

- Minutes from the January 11, 2019 meeting were approved as read by Tami Comerford and Victoria Parks
 - [Http://tinyurl.com/quickminutes](http://tinyurl.com/quickminutes)

Board of Education Representatives - Paul Balent, Melissa Weiss, and Diane Adamec

- Diane Adamec -going into her 14th year on the board - 2 daughters who graduated from Sycamore
- Paul Balance (President) -going into his 5th year on the board -2 children attending Sycamore schools
- Melissa Weiss (Vice President) -4th year on the board -2 daughters attending Sycamore schools
- Election year this year (2019)
- Board's duties include hiring and evaluating the district Superintendent and Treasurer, voting on policy, hiring and firing of employees, and salary schedules, financial overview of district, and informing the public concerning progress and needs of the schools -board is not involved in day to day decisions
- Sycamore is in a strong financial position due to the levy that was passed recently -next operating levy is in 2022 -tight budget that grows around 2.5% each year
- Exciting things going on in district -it is time to invest money into our buildings-new Chemistry and Physics science labs at the HS -beginning to talk about work on the second half of the science wing including getting bids -did work in the HS Synnovation Lab in 2018 with amazing feedback
- Master Facility Planning(presentation is about an hour long) -the board has been assessing the district's needs for the last 2 ½ years -used a bond levy to build Montgomery and Blue Ash schools -there needs to be something done at the JH (original building is from the 1920s) and EH Greene -it's too expensive and doesn't make sense to renovate these buildings -presenting 3 options to the community and wanting feedback -board will look at this feedback in March/April 2019 to make a decision -capital improvement levy looking at 2.5 million
 - Feb. 12th Master Facility meeting at Montgomery will be live streamed and presented on the website
- 70% of our community does NOT have a child in a Sycamore school
- We don't want to increase taxes, we have low tax rate, but we need to stay competitive and make sure our school environments are set up for learning
- In the fall 2019 there will be a levy campaign -a levy that's a bond issue -when using as bond issue it is for a limited period of 30 years -only used for capital assets
- School Board meetings are typically the first and third Wednesdays of each month and are open meetings -there are some date changes in March due to spring break and in July -meeting dates are

posted on website -2 board retreats a year when the board looks into detailed finances -Oct. 2019 retreat will focus on academics

- The community can always reach out by email

Principal's Report - Doug Mader

- Currently state superintendent is in the building -students emailed and invited him and he wants to see what we are doing
- Board approved us to look into bids for science wing -downstairs portion is a 27 week project hopefully done in 10 weeks -we have a cap on the budget
- Counselors meeting with students over the next month to finalize schedules
- Several retirements
 - Margaret Stone -Chemistry
 - Helgeson -Math
 - Wittman - Social Studies
 - Shrimpton -Social Studies
- HS Soccer coaches -boys' varsity soccer coach was recruited back to his alma mater so there was an open coaching position -HS ended up picking the Sycamore girls' varsity soccer coach, Brian Fallon, for the boys' varsity soccer coaching position because he had an extensive boy background and wanted to coach the boys -to fill the open girls' varsity soccer position the HS went with an internal candidate, Jeremy Pletz -Pletz was chosen because he was an internal candidate and is already familiar with how Sycamore communicates and disciplines students
- English -we wanted to look at creating a preAP program because accel classes are typically not preAP -\$5200 for every course you label preAP -we have decided to keep English Honors at its rigor and we can pull the achievement of everyone up by having students work together -accepted English proposal changes because they were first but there will be changes in all core classes -have to pull the rigor up for all students -Honors classes are not weighted but accelerated classes are weighted -if a student struggles at grade level, he/she will go to English 9 as a co taught class with physical ed -looking to do this co taught physical ed class with 10th grade math as well - English options will be: English 9, English 9 Honors, and English 9 Accel -10, 11, and 12 will be the same as the above English 9 -leaning on teacher recommendations and drafting a contract for parent overrides -by law we have to accept the override but the student has to remain in the requested course through all of 1st semester before a change of level will be considered
- Synnovation Lab has a 85% retention rate for next year so there will be 150 kids in that space -in science wing we have allocated a room with retractable wall so we can have 2 science classes being taught at the same time and a quiet space for the Synnovation Lab -Kroger is sponsoring an area near Synnovation Lab as a makerspace/design center -Kroger has an extensive technology area(cyber security center) -this center is a whole wall of tvs where Kroger can monitor weather and emergencies around the country and divert trucks to avoid certain areas depending on what is going on -we want Kroger to come in and help design that makerspace for us
- more teachers in Synnovation lab next year 1 ½ more Math, Social Studies, and English teachers -want to keep 2 science teachers -want more academic coaches like Hank Ray who is in there currently
- Average class size in the traditional classrooms is 18-22 students

- Want more of a college model in Synnovation Lab -how do we personalize for every student? -what do we need to make an impact and change education?
- Counselor appreciation week this week (Feb. 3rd-8th, 2019)

Faculty/Staff Representative's Report - Ann Delahnty-Koenig, Counselor

- Scheduling -counselors starting one-on-ones during study halls and aviator bells -Synnovation Lab started one-on-one meetings on Wed., Jan. 30th
- Chelsea Rose and Megan Brenner are 9th grade counselors next year so they are headed to the JH for one-on-one meetings there
- Next year will be the first year where we don't have the additional seniors
- Local scholarship link has gone live -it's a google form -through this link students can apply for any of the local Cincinnati, Montgomery, rotary award, etc. scholarships -link was sent to seniors and is in counseling newsletter
- Coffee with the Counselors is March 6th(moved from the 27th) @ 9am
- Ann DK and Brian Sweeney will have all the seniors next year but we won't have to do scheduling with seniors
- Colleges are putting an emphasis on first generation students(first in their family to go to college)
- Leader in Me has been moving along -introduced in class meetings -consultant from Stephen Covey came in -we approached it with our theater department who helped present it

President's Report - Angela Radakovich/Alyssa Schmeling

- Overflow parking for PTO meetings/Coffee with the Counselor meetings is the bus ramp
- PTO survey -in newsletter today there is a link to a PTO survey -quick survey -interested in member and non member responses -surveys are different school to school
- Budget change request (Odd Couples) -\$1000 to \$2000 -Angela makes motion Tammy Fales seconds motion and all in favor of increasing the budget for Odd Couples from \$1000 to \$2000
- Odd Couples
 - PTO sponsored event that is open to everyone -has no other sponsorship besides ticket sales
 - ticket price has been \$25/person for a very long time and we don't want to raise the price but the cost of a catered dinner has gone up -only small amount of money left for the committee to create a party after paying for the caterer
 - there are some new expenses this year because using a new online program to register tables and using PayPal for payment
 - Odd Couples Committee has implemented cost saving measures such as mixing old paint to save money -Committee has to work with this small budget and they don't know how many tickets they are going to sell until a week before
 - Maybe Odd Couples should be part of the General budget -PTO will look into this and potentially move it to the General Budget -Odd Couples has no fundraising of its own -it was the event of the year (largest number of people attending) and a huge event in the past
- Senior Class -goes to zero balance at the end of every year and donates any remaining money
 - March 8, 2019 11:36am-12:36pm Counselor lunch

- April/May TBD - Senior Seed packet project -seniors write a letter to staff members who stood out to them over their years at Sycamore -that staff member gets the letter with a seed packet attached and an invitation to attend graduation
- May 3rd, 2019 11:36am-12:36pm Launch Day
- Graduation practices are Tuesday, May 14th at Cintas in the morning and Friday, May 17th at the HS -both are required days for seniors and if they do not attend, they are not allowed to walk
- Odd Couples - Elizabeth Bruggeman is co-chair of Odd Couples this year with Lindsey Johnson and needs a co-chair for next year -theme is Boogie Wonderland -its been in the social media -next Friday, Feb. 15th tickets will be for sale online and at lunch -Feb. 19th Doug will send out an email with links to register a table -only 1 person from each table should fill out a registration form -once the form is filled out and submitted, everyone registered will receive an email message about how to pay -ultimately that will be a unique link and we will know who has paid -we are having decorating nights -looking for volunteer chair -set up sign up genesis which has already been done -making name tags and making sure people sign in the night of the event for set up ,clean up etc.
- After Prom -Tami Comerford -adding Mary Deppert -Leanne Berke and Elizabeth Bruggeman doing casino -meeting Wed., Feb. 20 7-8pm and Thurs., Feb. 28 7-9pm -no skills required to help with decoration -Under the Sea -senior Sammi Miller helped create logo -pirate inflatable -looking for someone to chair 2020 and Tami would like to have someone to shadow her -starting business solicitations -off and rolling and super excited

Treasurer's Report - Carrie Dippold

- Financial Report -\$104,112.70 Total Assets
- On track when looking at budget versus actual - Tammy Fales commented that there is a lot of money in the PTO and the PTO is currently looking into ways to spend down our balance -need startup money for the bookstore at the end of the year -staff member could use a photo printer(should fill out project request)
- The Hangar Report - doing very well -open during parent/teacher conferences (2/21/2019 from 3-8pm) and Pancake Day(3/2/2019 from 8am-3pm) -Pancake Day was the single biggest sales day last year because art exhibit as well for grades K-12 so pulls in everyone -now have mylar balloons for grad parties and popsockets with the Aves logo -lot of great sale items have been added to clearance rack -promos for Feb

Vice President's Report - Missy Reardon

- Spring Project Request -we had a little over \$5000 leftover from what we had budgeted after doing the fall cycle so we have decided to do a spring cycle -going out 2/8/2019 in Newsletter (all requests due Feb. 22, 2019) -parents and clubs can make requests as well
- Sycamore Superhero Luncheon (formerly known as Bridge Builders) -in April 2019 -encourage students to nominate teachers because that is the only way they can be recognized -English department makes forms available in classrooms -asking counselors to encourage students to do this as well -means a lot to the teachers -forms due right after spring break -put out in social media including instagram and have Counselors and/or Mader tweet it out

- PTO Scholarship in Smore today -4 \$1000 scholarships available -info in 2/8/2019 Smore -application form can be obtained in the counseling office or on our website and there is a link in the Smore -must be handwritten -due March 1, 2019
- Nominating for next year's PTO slate will be presented next month

Recording Secretary Report - Alissa Simms

Corresponding Secretary Report - Elizabeth Bruggeman

- "Shed the Excess Threads" Textile Recycling Competition
 - Feb. 1, 2019 - March 31, 2019
 - All 7 Sycamore Schools competing
 - Collect the most textiles during the challenge period
 - Textiles include: shoes, clothing, rags, towels, blankets, sheets, backpack, purses, etc.
 - Winning school will be recognized with an award and featured on social media
- Trex Recycling Challenge Nov 15 - April 15, 2019 -collecting and recycling plastic packaging

Announcements

- **Upcoming Events**
 - Cabaret Sat, Feb. 9 @ 7pm at Sycamore High School Tickets \$12
 - Sycamore Athletic Booster' Annual Winter Social Feb. 23 7-11pm Mardi Gras theme -games -2 tournaments -great event -valet parking or use Lyft/Uber -open to anyone -benefits JH and HS athletics
 - Prevention Action Alliance Thurs, Feb. 28, 2019 7-8:30pm in Synnovation Lab
 - Coffee with the Counselor March 6th @ 9am -Career Exploration

Adjournment 10:50am

Next PTO Meeting is Friday, March 8 @ 9am