

Sycamore High School PTO

Minutes of 2nd General Meeting

Friday, Oct 13, 2023 - 9:00am

Room 1809

Call to Order

- Reference files posted online- *technical difficulties delayed start*
- Introduce Superintendent Chad Lewis

Principal's Breakfast Honorees-

Brought back principals breakfast first since 2018, teachers nominate students for exemplifying great Aviator core values.

Principal's Report

Taylor Porter (portert@sycamoreschools.org)

- Homecoming feedback- *exciting to get back to having a parade- enjoyable and fun event for those able to attend. TP- 6-7 food trucks - some local vendors and bonfire. Great week of engagement- districtwide. Pep rally on Thursday- loud and fun. Dance- huge turnout. Lesson learned about parade scheduling- they are currently exploring options Sept. 20 2024 or Sunday prior- do parade and kick-off event (Sept. 15th). They know there is room for improvement. From the audience- Sunday afternoon could be great with less conflicts. From a logistic perspective- high school has to have a permit for the parade from the city. Police limit on the number of floats per the city- had to keep it to high school. No adults. No candidates.*
 - *Student council plan the week but adults have final say*
 - *Gym vs Commons- people may have preferred gym- gym no shoes- commons can wear any footwear*
 - *Dance Ending? Lights may have come on early but it did not officially end*

- *Water- not enough- ran out at 9 pm- some people may not have used responsibly. School did buy 3000 bottles.*
- *Positive feedback- special needs- school was proactive in providing support- best homecoming experience yet personally for that event.*
- *Parade route- candy did not all get picked up after parade in neighborhood*
- *6th grade orchestra wanted to participate*
- *Suicide Prevention - tabled for next time*
- *Committee Reports - tabled for next time*
- *MTSS and Aviator Appreciation Notes- tabled for next time*
- *Graffiti- working to identify the person or persons involved. Still investigating this incident. If you have any info, please share.*

Open to questions from audience:

It seems from the audience that kids don't have a historical perspective of long standing conflicts and how they lead to recent events and therefore may be at increased risk of falling victim to propaganda. Can the school help explain the long standing issues? TP - teachers have to teach the Ohio standards. Aviator Bell has opportunities for discussion if needed. CL- teachers may not be experts in leading a discussion on sensitive topics.

Audience - can we have an open discussion- maybe host an event with local rabbi or holocaust museum to share information vs only news and media outlets? Maybe an open discussion from these experts - which can give direct facts. CL- High school students need to be educated because they may not understand the meaning of their words. Need to focus on humanity- being good human beings. Hate speech will not be tolerated by Sycamore.

Superintendent's Report

Chad Lewis (lewisc@sycamoreschools.org)

- *Community support- He consulted and continues to consult with local Rabbi's for wording and support , 700 WLW said we increased police*

presence for trouble- not true- increased police presence as a preventative measure and to let people feel safe, communication was so police presence would not be alarming. It was a proactive measure.

- *Report Card/Niche Data- we are 58th in the nation of 10,000 students, ranked highly in SW Ohio, and we increased our performance index*
- *District Communications/Operations- there is some frustration in the community, he reminded us that there are some legal reasons that all information cannot be shared publicly. There is not an intention to hide any information, the district wants to be proactive. Tentative thoughts on bringing back town hall meetings.*

VP of Operations' Report

Kenna Wahlquist (hsptovp@sycamoreschools.org)

- *Update on Projects and put to a vote- Kenna explained the process. Accept requests through September. Her role and committee made sure requests match guidelines. Total ask 13,000. 10,000- fits guidelines. Some requests: books for classrooms, outdoor benches, flexible seating, blenders for food classrooms, storage items for teachers. 2 pending projects that will be put online to be approved- one the person is investigating to see if funds exist elsewhere. Another teacher needs to provide more information.*
 - *Call to vote- can be in the room and open online. Document will be posted online. 3 days for questioning*
 - *Karen R. motioned and Ann Berg seconded*
 - *18 yes-es in room 0 no's*
- *Academic Achievers- tabled for next time*

Presidents' Report

Brian Laughlin (hspto@sycamoreschools.org)

- Odd Couples - March 16, 2024 @ 7pm- *not a scare tactic- but if we can't get leadership on this event- then we cannot have it. Have main chair but need to fill decorating chair(s)*
 - Need co-chairs (decorating) ASAP
 - Lots of support lined up to help
- Prom/After Prom - April 27, 2023
 - Chairs: Wendy Andersen & Dana Pischotti
 - Looking for a Junior class parent to learn for next year

Coffee with the counselors- *co owned by PTO and counselors. 1st meeting was college aps, 2nd CANVAS. Dec 6th paths and resources moving forward- planning for junior year. Karen R.- strongly encouraged to attend lots of great info. Recommend publishing the coffee with the counselors - should be on the website- may need to be published wider. Grade level meetings were not as widely published as well. Benefit for attending very much a two way dialog and things can get addressed. Some Canvas issues are not all IT issues- parents may need to encourage the teachers to do Canvas.*

Can we share the Canvas coffee with the counselors video? Looking into a way to share other than facebook.

Board Updates

- Treasurer: Shiri Ayalon (hsptotreasurer@sycamoreschools.org)
 - [Updated Financials](#)
- VP of Bookstore: Christa Lloyd (hsptohangar@sycamoreschools.org)
- Corresponding Secretary: Paige Rodgers (hsptocorresponding@sycamoreschools.org)
- Recording Secretary: Lisa Thomas (hsptorecording@sycamoreschools.org)

Community Partners

- SBOB - Carrie Christos [flier](#)- SBOB- *no membership fee. All parents of band orchestra are automatically members. Current president - it's*

her last term. Flier is a graphic of where the money goes.
Fundraisers- tag day, craft show, pancake day. There are many
volunteer needs. There are increased the number of trustees. By
default the trustees end up doing a lot of the work. In need of certain
trustee positions- controller, pres, VP need to be filled for next year.

Email: President@sbob.org with questions.

- Ann Berg- co chair craft show - community building event.
 - Questions: How do you market SBOB to parents- now have
school representatives for each school; craft show vendors are
kinda locked into weekends- there is a circuit and can't really
move the date- it has been considered.
 - Signup genius may be updated for smaller slots. Important for
loading and unloading at beginning and end of show. Could
always use extra help.
- Updated [SPEAR flier](#)- paper copies available in person - Jennie

Adjournment

Next PTO meeting is Thursday, Nov 9th @ 9am