

**Sycamore High School PTO
General Meeting Minutes
Friday, March 10, 2017 – 9:00am**

The meeting was called to order by Angela Radakovich at 9:06

Mary motioned that the November minutes be amended to reflect more clearly the amount of money approved for projects. Tammy Fales seconded, and the minutes were approved as amended.

February general meeting minutes were approved as presented.

Principal's report – Doug Mader

Ashley Warren noted ACT for Juniors will be administered on April 19. Accommodations will be made for appropriate students. Sophomore pre-ACT reports are in with data to help sophomores prepare for ACT next year.

Doug spoke about Mr. Richardson's expertise on testing planning and administration and tracking students needing assistance to keep them on track for enough AIR points to graduate. Doug noted Mr. Richardson looks for opportunities for intervention and then has staff specializing in intervention refresh students on learning and help them be prepared for successful AIR testing. Mr. Richardson reported: The state mandates AIR tests even for students who have already met graduation requirements. AP students must either take AP test or the state test – do not have to take both. Allowing students to take only the AP is a sacrifice for the building because it lowers our test scores to not have AP students taking the state test. Parent questioned why student was denied a field trip due to upcoming AIR testing (in April). Mr. Richardson explained as AIR testing approaches, field trips are limited because the ACT and AIR preparation has begun. There are questions of the day and classroom focused on testing topics that the students should not miss.

Students have registered for classes - will be analyzing numbers and determining where staff is needed before running actual schedules.

Ready for spring break – students doing a great job staying focused. Seniors are also doing a good job staying on task. Staff reminds as needed.

SLOs (student learning outcome) are a student growth measure. Students took a test in each appropriate class at the beginning of the year. Typically, students do not do well on that test as they have not yet learned the material. There is benchmark testing later in the year. Parent expressed concern about amount of testing. Seems like exam week combined with SLO. Some teachers are counting as grade some are not. The tests are intended to evaluate educators. Doug clarified administration continues to evaluate. We are required to follow the state mandates. Shared evaluation (evaluation of staff as group rather than individually) is being discussed, but ultimately, the administration has to follow what is mandated by the state.

Anne Delehanty-Koenig – Counselor report

Finished up meeting with every student (with a handful of exceptions) for scheduling – administrators are running numbers today.

Junior class ACE bell meeting this week - pre-meeting for individual junior meetings in April. Talked about transitioning to senior year.

Monday Tuesday and Wednesday rounded up students who are signed up for college credit plus but not yet submitted letter of intent. 170 kids signed up for the 5 college credit plus courses offered in the building. Applications are due March 15. Students need to fill out an application for every school wanting to take CCP classes from.

March 13 is the pre-testing date for US college credit plus. UC set this date. They come out and administer during the school day. Makes sure they meet qualifications to be in some of those classes.

Counselors are meeting as a committee to determine some of local scholarships.

Counseling staff looking for “at risk” seniors – getting with them and teachers, parents, administrator to help them meet requirements and expectations for graduation.

Counseling department is creating a bracket of all 64 schools in March Madness bracket with facts about college, admission requirements etc. This will be on the counseling department webpage.

Chelsea – The counseling department is surveying serving families about college and career readiness. Looking for parents willing to participate in focus groups Monday March 27 at 1 or Tuesday March 28 at 8. Check S’more for details – will encourage students in ACE bells next week to keep up with Naviance tasks.

Session 1: Monday, March 27th 1:00-2:30pm

Session 2: Tuesday, March 28th 8:00-9:30am

Coffee with the Counselors next week will focus on transitions.

Parent asked if parents have to sign off on student’s schedule. No – counselors evaluate with student if schedule is appropriate. Only time parent signature is required is to override a teacher recommendation.

Treasurer Report – Sheila Kidd

Current account balance \$50,680

Book store made \$7,850 profit on March 4 (from Pancake Day) and over \$20,270 profit to date this year.

Check from Kroger \$485 – reminder after April 1 go to Kroger rewards to designate Kroger community rewards.

Still reimbursing some staff for projects.

Bookstore – Jill – new novelty items – Aves logo magnet, car window stickers, decals, working on restocking hats, new mug – doubled sales from last year on Pancake day – going to upper Arlington next

week similar public school book store, idea share – looking forward to bringing back exciting ideas. Sales running about 37% more than last year.

Jill encouraged parents to consider involvement in the ongoing planning and running of the bookstore and to let Jill, Lisa, or Rhonda know of any interest to be part of the bookstore team.

Vice president report – Suzanne Van Den Brink

Lisa Borchers talked about the Bridge Builders Luncheon. At this recognition lunch, teachers are nominated by students. Nominations are due March 15. Bridge Builders lunch is earlier this year so it isn't so close to staff appreciation. Forms are available online and in the main office. The process is simple. Please encourage students the nominations should be student driven. Need volunteers to provide pasta salads and green salads. There is a Signup Genius in last PTO newsletter.

Scholarships – PTO scholarship nominations come from the local scholarship application process. The committee receives names from counselors from local scholarships and committee meets to determine PTO scholarship recipients. This year's scholarship committee has begun the process of gathering applications.

Officer slate for next year – there are two positions still open – Co-president and Treasurer. A two-year commitment is request for both positions. Please contact Suzanne if you have any interest or know anyone who might be interested.

Co-President – Molly Polasky

Co-President – OPEN

Vice-President – Mary Tyler

Treasurer- OPEN

Corresponding Secretary – Elizabeth Bruggeman

Recording Secretary – Alissa Simms

Plan to vote on slate next meeting

Presidents' report

Odd Couple's Ball is tomorrow - thanks to everyone helping already and through the weekend. Over 500 people are coming. Ticket sales are a little lower than last year – freshmen turnout a little low, will work on that group next year. Students take parent, appetizers and mingling in the commons, then served meal in the gym, band and DJ tag team in the commons, dessert and coffee. This event is completely funded by tickets sold.

Right under your nose – April 9 at 2:30. This is an event geared toward helping parents identify indicators of drug use. The event is organized by a committee spearheaded by Brenda Fisher and including administration, staff, law enforcement, students, and parents. There will be an interactive display to help parents identify hiding places and paraphernalia might not be familiar with. Law enforcement presenting as well as mom who lost son to drug over dose. Will have resources available after presentation. PTO will provide cookie and brownies. For adults only – community event. Additional communication will be coming to parents. There is a staff training on Tuesday that week.

Friday April 7 is a testing day but after testing, students will go to ACE bell and see video - Chasing the Dragon – it is powerful and graphic. Kids have opportunity to ask questions of a panel including FBI, DEA, mother who lost student to heroin battle – will talk about epidemic in community.

After Prom – Jamie Green, Angie Marks, and Angela Radakovich filling Tami’s shoes for after prom. Point of after prom is to spend the night with all their friends in one big controlled party. Parents please encourage students to come here rather than private parties. Do not have to go to prom to come to after prom. The cost will be \$20 or \$25 dollars. Looking for community sponsors, gift certificates or leads on big prizes. There are door prizes at the end of the night. The committee is happy to contact if you just want to submit names.

Come help decorate Tuesday and Thursday nights at 7. No artistic skill is needed. Theme is “Mischief Managed”. Christine has some awesome ideas. Working on sign up genius, but feel free to just show up. Date is May 13/14. Midnight till 4:30.

Eagle scout, Dylan Whittemore is building shelves in the PTO closet (space under the bleachers used for PTO decoration storage – referred to as “the bowling alley”). Dylan is working on costs which might be about \$100.

Next month second Friday of the month is the 14th which is a day off. PTO meeting will be on February 7th at 10:45 in the HUB. That is a testing day, and some students will arrive late that day which might make it difficult for some parents to come to a 9 am meeting.

Corresponding Secretary Report – Elizabeth Bruggeman

Thanks for donations for staff appreciation. The lunch was very nice, and staff was very appreciative.

This is the first year we captured recycling and compost on Pancake Day. There were over 10 bags of recycling. A big THANK YOU to the custodial staff for making this happen.

Announcements

Upcoming Events

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| ○ March 11, 6pm | Odd Couples Dinner & Dance |
| ○ March 15, 9am | Coffee with Counselors |
| ○ Week of March 20 | Spring Break |
| ○ April 6-8, 7:30pm | Big Fish, The Musical |

Meeting was adjourned 10:18.