

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

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

**Call to Order** - 9:09am

**Approval of February 2019 Minutes** - Alissa Simms

- Minutes from the February 8, 2019 meeting were approved as read by Erin Shuholm
  - [Http://tinyurl.com/quickminutes](http://tinyurl.com/quickminutes)

**Guest Speaker** - Lisa Zelvy, Sycamore Pupil Support Supervisor

- Zelvy oversees:
  - a. Positive behavioral interventions and supports (PBIS)
  - b. Mental health services and supports the partnership with Cincinnati Children's Hospital
  - c. Supports for students with behavioral challenges
- Crossover between student services primarily with special ed and student operations -discipline overall for district
- Mental health services -committed to filling the elementary schools with therapists -Cincinnati Children's recommends therapists to Sycamore and then Sycamore interviews these therapists -some candidates did not seem like they would be good fits and those that were have lots of paperwork that has to be approved through a credentialing process at Cincinnati Children's and this committee at Children's only meets once a month -the process is taking longer than anticipated
- Currently 3 therapists in the elementary buildings -March 17, 2019 there is a therapist starting at EH Greene -a therapist is starting in August 2019 at HS, and the JH is interviewing candidates this week -want a full time therapist at every building
- HS was the second building where a therapist was seeing students but then the therapist seeing students at the HS left Cincinnati Children's Hospital so we needed to find another therapist to fill this spot but we haven't been successful in filling the HS spot -HS has students with immediate needs so Blue Ash Elementary therapist comes to the HS one day a week now and the new EH Greene therapist will see HS students one day a week after spring break
- If a teacher is concerned about a student, they go to the counselor, and then the counselor will bring in the therapist to work with the student and his/her family to decide how and if to move forward with the therapist in the building
- Therapists are using a curricular based therapy approach heavy in cognitive therapy which is about teaching skills -teaching skills to manage and work through their anxiety
- Working with Cincinnati Children's billing department so that finances won't be a barrier to care -if Cincinnati Children's is not the right option financially, the billing department can help connect families with other providers so they can have access to care -some students need more help than what can be provided at school

- District is engaged with the 1N5 nonprofit organization founded by Nancy Engel-Miller -1N5's goal is to STOP the stigma and START the conversation by increasing awareness and education about mental health(suicide prevention) -1N5 is helping Sycamore build a strategic plan for drug awareness, trauma, anxiety, depression, and ADHD -what do students, parents, and staff believe we need? -we want teaching and resource components that include content from what the state wants as well -might end up with chronological focus -pick a topic as the focal point of the year and how do the other topics fold in -parent series with speakers from parent feedback
- 4 components of PBIS
  - a. Common language that is respectful, accountable, and purposeful
  - b. Acknowledgment for doing the right thing including feedback from teachers, awards, and privileges
  - c. Teaching expected behaviors -pride in our school
  - d. Accountability -students are held accountable
- Examples of PBIS at the HS:
  - a. Soar(Safety Ownership Actively engaged Respect) tickets -acknowledging students for being positive and making good choices -staff and other students can nominate students they see demonstrating positive behaviors -dropboxes for students and staff -drawing once a week and they would win a gift card -this program was in place but hasn't been used recently
  - b. Principal's breakfast
- For 80%, what we are doing is working by preventing development of new problem behaviors through a high quality learning environment but we need to support for that 10-15% that need more and the 1-5% that need something very specific to them -behavioral programming piece is evolving
- Kim Gregory is working with Lisa Zelvy on her licensure to be a Behavior Analyst -supporting teachers, especially those in resource based classrooms, who are working with challenging behaviors using PBIS teams -helping them be the best teachers they can be in intensive environments -we are learning what other schools are doing and what tools they are using but finding that everyone is using something different -we want to see these different techniques in action to see which we want to implement at Sycamore

#### **Principal's Report - Doug Mader**

- Final days of scheduling and meeting with students one on one then staffing process begins -posted a few open positions of those retiring
- Posting for new Athletic Director -over 80 applicants, Mader narrowed it down to 20, and now 3 staff members and a retired coach will narrow that down to 8-10 -a larger committee will interview the top 3 or 4 applicants -June 30, 2019 is Phil Poggi's last day -we want to start prepping this new applicant because as we remodel, the athletic world will change drastically over the next few years -there is district money set aside that will make the athletic facilities better but HS wants them elite so we will look into private funding as well
- Odd Couples March 9th @ 6pm
- Tuesday(3/5/19) -we changed the out to lunch policy from 30 minutes to an hour because students were picking up lunch and bringing it back to school to eat during Aviator Bell

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

- 2 counselors finishing up scheduling with their students today and everyone else is done
- Scarlet Oaks decisions have been made and were mailed home today -there was a drop in students who went on the field trip to Scarlet Oaks but those that went were committed -Brenner sent an email to the PTO asking us to hold one General PTO meeting at Scarlet Oaks next school year(2019-20)
- March 11, 2019 -UC Blue Ash application event at the HS -primarily for seniors to learn about their programs -they will walk students through the application process -no obligation -students will be able to waive their application fee if they apply this day
- March 14, 2019 -Starts With Hello -Sycamore administrators and staff are at all doors to greet students as they walk into the building -nationwide effort one time a year but we want to do it more often next year
- March 26, 2019 - Spring College Fair @ Cintas Center, Xavier University. 6:30-8pm. Details at <https://www.xavier.edu/collegefair/>
- Moving from scheduling to our at risk seniors -also focusing on our Juniors and what they can do this summer to make the college application process easier in the fall
- With SAT results, once you send to colleges, they can see all your scores
- ACT -some colleges are saying they want to know how many times you've taken it and what your scores were each time -scores are not automatically linked -the State mandates us to test every Junior, you can opt out but it must be done by a certain date
- Thank you from Parents for the Counselor Newsletter

#### **President's Report - Angela Radakovich/Alyssa Schmeling**

- PTO Survey -64 responses -almost all responding are PTO members and those who weren't forgot to fill out the form -data said the PTO should use email to get info out to parents and start a facebook page
- Student directory 2019-20 -we were hoping for a student developed online directory but after creating the online program for the Odd Couples tables, we realized a student developed directory won't be in place for next year because we need better district support for the student working on this -next year do we want:
  - a. Online paid directory (DirectorySpot) for \$850
  - b. Paper directory for \$147
  - c. there is a directory online this school year (2018-19) in parent portal currently and it's free to everyone who can access parent portal but will Bill Fritz create this again?
- Senior Class - Suzanne Van Den Brink
  - a. March 9, 2019 11:36-12:36 -Counselor lunch -senior class parents thank counselors and support staff
  - b. 2020 Senior Class -could use someone else who is flexible
- Odd Couples March 9, 2019 @ 6pm -496 tickets sold including VIPs -clean up is Sunday, March 10 from 1:30-3:30pm -students can help and get volunteer hours
- After Prom (Under The Sea) -Tami Comerford -funding in good shape -NHS students have come in to help with decorations -next work night is Thursday, March 14th 7-9pm meet in the Commons and more after spring break -ticket sales start April 11th -no online ticket sales -April 1st the sign up genius will open up for games, etc. -\$20/ticket -still need an overall chair to shadow Tami

- Wellness Committee -representative is Laura Geraci -the committee's goal is to encourage teachers, students, and staff to lead healthy lives while providing tools and support to the schools -

### **Treasurer's Report - Carrie Dippold**

- Financial Report - current balance (Total Assets) - \$119,872.82
  - Received another Kroger check -budgeted \$1500 and we are at \$1920
  - Moved After Prom and Odd Couples money over
- The Hangar Report -had fantastic Pancake Day, over \$16,000 for the day which is an all time record for the bookstore -had promos just for Pancake Day to bring people in and it worked -great day and very pleased -lots of great marketing and calculated purchases -meeting with vendors and planning next year right now -we have volunteer needs for next year especially in the mornings (6:50-7:20 am)
- PTO balance has been higher because of the great success in the bookstore -we need to spend down what we have made this year -this is what the PTO would like to do:
  - Motion to increase our budget for Projects to \$21,500 -Tami Comerford seconded the motion
    - Projects had \$5000 leftover after the fall project cycle so they decided to do a spring project request cycle -received \$10,000 worth of good requests from the spring cycle which exceeds the Projects budget by \$5000
    - Offered Mader \$10,000 for the HS building as part of Projects
    - Move \$5000 to scholarship equity account (this would be a one time addition to cushion the account) -expectation is that we will still request money from the other schools and do fundraisers -\$5000 will come out of the Projects Account
    - \$1500 request from OC and After Prom committees for more plastic bins for storage -bins will come out of Projects Account
- Any questions about budget changes?
  - The \$10,000 to Doug Mader -Doug Mader will tell us what he wants to spend the money on and it will be voted on through the Projects committee
  - Still want a substantial cushion overall in the PTO account because changes are coming with new management in the bookstore
  - Is there a way to better fund Odd Couples? -need events like this because it is a great social event -PTO doesn't spend its money on our own functions and events -we mainly spend money on staff and students
- Voting
  - Increase Projects budget to \$21,500 -all in favor to increase Project Budget
  - Motion to purchase plastic bins motion for storage(\$1500) -Missy Reardon made the motion and Angela Radakovich seconds -all in favor
  - Motion to move \$5000 into scholarship equity account -Elizabeth Bruggeman second and all in favor

### **Vice President's Report - Missy Reardon**

- Spring Project Request -committee will be meeting soon -requests are in
- Nominating Committee -motion to approve the slate by Tami Comerford and seconded by Victoria Parks -slate is approved
  - Slate for next year's board:

- Angela Radakovich and Alyssa Schmeling - Co-Presidents
- Karen Ronningen(has a 7th and 8th grader)- Vice President
- Carrie Dippold - Treasurer
- Alissa Simms - Corresponding Secretary
- Camilla Millar(Symmes mom and has 2 Sophomores) - Recording Secretary
- Sycamore Superhero Luncheon (formerly known as Bridge Builders) -form online and paper forms available -each student can nominate ONE staff member -return form to the front office by Friday, March 29th -lunch is April 10, 2019 -staff will receive the student's form at the luncheon -Lisa Borchers and Jayne Close are still in need of salads(look for sign up genius)
- PTO Scholarships -closed March 1, 2019 -contact Mary Tyler to be on the scholarship committee

**Reporting Secretary's Report - Alissa Simms**

**Corresponding Secretary's Report - Elizabeth Bruggeman**

- "Shed the Excess Threads" Textile Recycling Competition -Blue Ash is winning by tons - each school gets the money from its own bin
- Thank you for Staff Appreciation Conference Dinner -Mary Jo and Vivian K -changed up catered -thank to those who donated desserts for that
- May 10, 2019 is the next Staff Appreciation luncheon

**Old/New Business**

**Announcements**

- Upcoming Events
  - Odd Couples March 9, 2019 from 6-11pm
  - Spring Break Week of March 18
  - Fiddler on the Roof April 11, 12, & 13

**Adjournment - 10:44am**

**Next PTO Meeting is Friday, April 12, 2019 @ 9am**