

# *Minutes of Sycamore High School PTO*

General Meeting Agenda Minutes

Fri, Jan 26, 2024 - 8:00am

Room 1809

## *Call to Order*

- Reference files posted online
  - Presentation
  - Bylaws
- Introduce guests

## *Sycamore School Board Report*

Paul Balent ([balentp@sycamoreschools.org](mailto:balentp@sycamoreschools.org))

Sara Bitter ([bitters@sycamoreschools.org](mailto:bitters@sycamoreschools.org))

- *Open Discussion*
  - *Sara Bitter is Pres; Victor Harris is VP*
  - *Actions of board centered on mission and vision*
  - *Board Hires Superintendent and Treasurer*
  - *Strategic Plan created by board*
  - *Community Engagement- adding listening and engagement session, First session is how property taxes affects school money- Tuesday 13th of February in room 1809 time?*
  - *Board approves budget*
  - *Set policies- all online on school website*
  - *Each member has focus area*
    - *Legislative liaison-any distinct challenges? State looking at property taxes and how that affects the school; Board meets with state legislators. New department of education at state level- new rules handed down from state and Sycamore has to adjust and implement*
    - *Sycamore advisory committee- project*
    - *Policy liaison*

## ■ Foundation Liaison

*When a parent approaches with a question- board member tries to follow chain of command, redirect to principal and building level.*

*Master facility update-pool should be completed April 2024. JH theater- line of sight in upper area ; design flaw in architectural phase, currently working on getting seating to be corrected, architectural firm is footing the bill for the redesign and construction.*

*Another Board role is to Oversee staff negotiations regarding pay Year 3 of our strategic plan- wrapping it up and new strategic planning sessions with the community . The group will meet 2x month at 7pm and then have community input sessions.*

*Last operating levy 2016. Bond levy - was for building buildings  
Operating levy is the budget for that day to day running of the school*

*Board members are volunteers (technically pd 100\$ per meeting) SB wants conversations with parents and students, wants to serve district open*

*Charter school: how does this affect our district? Currently does not negatively impact us on the financial side- based on current laws- but this can change year to year. Board members keep tabs on this and are advocating for fair state funding. Charter schools are yes different than private schools. TP has given JH students opportunities to mentor and see what life is like at SCS- overall decrease .*

*Board members are always available to attend meetings. Meetings are open to the public - if you want speaking time, there are directions about how to do this for 3 min for agenda topics. If not on agenda, then you can speak at the beginning of the meeting in person or online. Also able to reach out personally because the board is made up of community members.*

## *Principal's Report*

Taylor Porter (portert@sycamoreschools.org)

- Open Discussion- *Pfiffman family updates. Fernside counseling opportunities on Monday Jan 29th- TP will send details in email. TP and Chad Lewis visited and thanked the Montgomery Fire department.*
  - *MTSS update- umbrella of academic and behavioral supports in school. Study halls have intentional check-ins. Admin Aviator bell availability starting soon for more targeted assistance for academics.*
    - *Tardy to class - plan in place- has decreased tardy numbers overall; continue on*

## *General Session Voting*

- Bylaw changes - only change will be to reflect the change in name from "ASSPO" to Sycamore PTO President's Council
  - [Current bylaw document](#)
  - [Proposed bylaw document](#)
  - *Brian proposed and Kim Respond seconded ; passed*

## *Board Updates*

- President: Brian Laughlin ([hspto@sycamoreschools.org](mailto:hspto@sycamoreschools.org))
  - *Posting for Hangar position- accepting resumes through Feb 9th. Goal is new role starts Apr 1, 2024 .*
  - *Odd couples update Kim Respond*
    - *March 16th Saturday*
      - *All big details handled*
      - *Students voting on theme*

- **Big Request-** need decoration chair- committee exists and people will help but a leader is needed please reach out to Kim or board members
  - Repurposing much of what we have - no need to start from scratch.

**After prom update 4/27/24 1030-230 am tix \$20.00** theme sycamore through the decades. Biggest need is planning ahead for next year. Much of the after prom committee will be graduating . Looking for a junior parent as an understudy.

-After prom is #1 satisfaction score from our PTO survey last year  
5013c tax status is back in good standing  
Coffee with counselors done 4 already but might add another one or two for remaining year.

Principal's breakfast. Principal recognizes and Pto - supports (pays)

- Treasurer: Shiri Ayalon ([hsptotreasurer@sycamoreschools.org](mailto:hsptotreasurer@sycamoreschools.org))
  - Updated Financials:
  - [Balance Sheet](#)
  - [Budget vs Actual](#)
- VP of Operations: Kenna Wahlquist ([hsptovp@sycamoreschools.org](mailto:hsptovp@sycamoreschools.org))
  - Difference makers recognizes staff, student nominated
  - PTO scholarships 5 scholarships; applications will be available soon
  - Nominating committee for roles for PTO is starting
- VP of Bookstore: Christa Lloyd ([hsptohangar@sycamoreschools.org](mailto:hsptohangar@sycamoreschools.org))
  - Hangar Transition Plan- covered by Brian L. ; sale through Jan 30th. Open during the basketball game tonight.
  - Upcoming pop-ups- Symmes family dance, pancake day,
- Corresponding Secretary: Paige Rodgers ([hsptocorresponding@sycamoreschools.org](mailto:hsptocorresponding@sycamoreschools.org))
  - Appreciation meal for staff winter conferences; sign up for desserts soon
  - Another survey coming soon
  - Evening meeting due to survey results-

- *Brian- engagement is a priority in PTO meetings. An evening session. Feb 12, 7pm FB live and live in room 1809.*
  - *Lets publish last year's survey results*
  - *Maybe list the agenda on the PTO website before the meeting happens*
- Recording Secretary: Lisa Thomas  
([hsptorecording@sycamoreschools.org](mailto:hsptorecording@sycamoreschools.org))
  - No updates

## *Adjournment*

**Next PTO meeting is Monday February 12, 2024 at 7pm**