

Sycamore High School PTO
General Meeting Minutes
Friday, Nov. 9, 2018 - 9:00am

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

Call to Order - 9:06am

Approval of October Minutes - Alissa Simms

- Minutes from the October 12, 2018 were approved as read by Victoria Parks - <http://tinyurl.com/quickminutes>

Principal's Report - Doug Mader

- Chelsea Rose is back and has her seniors -Ann DK now has Wells-Kamp's seniors -Nov. 6, 2018 was Wells-Kamp's last day -we will miss Wells-Kamp but hope she is able to fill in occasionally
- Scheduling -adding new classes for next year: AP micro and macro economics, entrepreneurship, robotics class, and advanced photo classes will be offered multiple times per day -asking AP teachers if they had no barriers what would the school day look like -they want more time for discussions with students
- District is at decision time -5 options have been narrowed down to 3 and now getting community input then the board will decide the direction we will go -financial discussions on how to make it easy so it's not a huge impact on the community -target donations from private donors first -talk about curriculum and what the school day looks like as we plan a remodel of HS building -whole building will look similar to the new science area -we've met with architects several times already to make sure our vision is within budget -we need this to touch every child -have different pieces that everybody will be touched by -working with Great Oaks to figure out a way to partner with them to engage even younger students (begin earlier than Junior year) -introduction classes in the HS building not just at Oaks -the students at Oaks are engaged and doing what they are passionate about -biggest obstacle is parents not wanting students to go to Oaks because Oaks is something many parents know little about
- Ann DK presented - Combined Containerboard is looking for students who don't know what they want to do -Ann went to listen and see what they do -they make corrugated sheets and sell these to the larger box companies -they are 1 of only 3 factories that have these advanced machines -want 4 students to start in January 2019 -massive expansion in April 2019 so students would work full time at the end of the school year -\$17.50/hour for first 90 days and then \$20/hour after that -they will pay 80% college costs -one student has been working their since HS, has his BA, and is working on his MBA -students wanting to work these jobs hear from others that it is a bad idea but it's not a bad idea for all
- How do we introduce Oaks to freshmen and sophomores? -manufacturing jobs aren't all bad -there are meaningful jobs out there involving computer and math skills -starts with educating parents --how do we promote to parents? -what will the world look like in 2030? -employers are looking for people with certificates

- We are battling the state of Ohio and the report card -school board would like to see all As but we don't want to focus only on testing (AIR, ACT, etc.) -we want to showcase other avenues so that there is not a stigma to doing something different
- Commercial market -fewer people doing these jobs so costs for these services going up
- On Feb 13th, 2019 -taking all Freshmen to the Duke Energy Convention Center to Inspire which is a Junior Achievement program designed to get high school students excited about their futures by exploring career opportunities in high growth industries -lots of hands on stuff -Sycamore Freshmen will have the floor to themselves for 90 minutes
- Sycamore Marching Band placed 3rd competing with some enormous bands -Lakota beat us by 0.3 points -Mason got 1st place (they have 2 marching bands and 87 alternates plus multiple uniforms but it costs \$1200/kid to participate)
- Grease was amazing

Faculty/Staff Representative's Report - Counselor Ann Delehanty-Koenig

- Ted Talk by Bailey Parnell called Is Social Media Hurting Your Mental Health? (Presenter is relatable and good for those 12-18 years old -counselors are showing it to the Junior class during their mental health presentations) -talks about how dopamine works in the brain with addiction and the effects of social media on the brain -students should check themselves before they wreck themselves -are they in a healthy place? -might show at Coffee with the Counselors on Nov. 14th
- All counselors are in the process of doing mental health presentations -discussing what to do if friends come to you for help or have concerns -what is normal feeling and when does it cross over to a mental health concern -trying to do more programming to find the best way to approach mental health with freshman both social/emotional as well as educational -what's important to focus on at each grade level -creating a learning document that is constantly being updated on what we want counselors to know as they transition to the next grade level
- College applications -Nov. 1, 1018 deadline has passed and moving onto the Dec. 1st deadline
- Mind Peace - Sycamore Schools have partnered with Cincinnati Children's Hospital to provide access to mental health services for our students who need it -a full time school based mental health therapist has already started in one of our elementary schools -HS has had 19 referrals for suicide concerns already this school year so it caught the attention of the central office -HS is in the process of interviewing a therapist who has worked in an inpatient adolescent female unit for 9 years -this therapist will be full time and have evening hours -Richard Gilman is at the HS every Tuesday and is meeting with students and parents -therapist meetings are covered by most insurances and students won't be turned away -there is an intake process -meetings occur during the school day so you don't have to pull your student out of school to go to a therapist -more accessible -doesn't interfere with sports or work -referred 18-19 students already -eventually the HS will have 2 full time therapists -therapy based rather than school counselor based -similar to taking your child to a therapist (more clinical) -for many mental health concerns they've developed a curriculum that is an 8-10 week program that they work on with students -more intense than student assistance -students can refer themselves or parents can refer -interested send email to your counselor and we can take it from there -students can say they want help but can't be seen without parent consent
- Angst -movie about anxiety(45 minutes long) -PTO will pay for it -interns viewed it to write down the pros and cons -everyone who has viewed it says its fantastic so the entire counseling team will watch it.

Nov.15 -figure out how we want to roll it out -Madeira presented it in the evening with parents -maybe during the school day -got rave reviews from the Madeira community -very problem solving oriented -instructive

- Counselors meeting with seniors(11/14) who want to talk about mental health in a more open forum -student driven
- Scheduling for next year -getting ready for new course planner
- Gilman presentation was excellent -85 attended
 - link to the Smore with the Gilman presentation and slides
 - <https://www.smores.com/qv3yk>

President's Report - Alyssa Schmeling

- ASSPO update -Presidents of all PTOs meet monthly
 - Directory data -THANK you to Kathy Long for all her hard work -data was not easy to read and Kathy caught the problems that technology wasn't aware of -all directories have been distributed
 - PTO Membership questionnaire -membership has had lower membership numbers and we are trying to figure out why -HS was on target -in Jan/Feb 2019, sending out a questionnaire to find out if you joined PTO or not and why you did or didn't join -going out to all the Sycamore schools -do you know where your membership money goes? -highlight things that PTO buys -people are afraid that they will be called to work if they fill out membership forms -some people think they have to attend meetings if they are PTO members -we need a list of things that the PTO do and debunk myths
- Senior Class Activities (Suzanne Van Den Brink)
 - Senior Halloween was so much fun -kids were so creative -sometimes need explanations of costumes
 - Tammy Fales and Molly Polasky working on Senior night at Main Event -Seniors pay to go because we want them to show up -evening of Dec. 20th
- After Prom Update (Tami Comerford)
 - Great first meeting on 11/8 -will meet again in January 2019 -Under the Sea theme -a few chair spots still open such as volunteer hospitality -looking for Junior, Sophomore, and Freshman parents -where will we work on decorations because can't use the Synnovation Lab
 - Issue with lighting at After Prom -recommended a project request for lighting in the future -PTO storage areas look awesome now

Vice President's Report - Missy Reardon

- Projects Report
 - Frank (English) - \$500 Independent reading Novels
 - Oakes (English) -\$300 Young Adult literature
 - Schmeling (PTO) -\$500 New Student Welcome Bags
 - Mader (Administration) -\$3000 Graduation chairs
 - Scrase & Quinones (Science) -\$1600 Sam Rhine Genetics conference
 - Newton (English) -\$500 Books for American Lit class
 - KC Wyse (ESOL) -\$150 Books for reading circles
 - Maupin (Special Ed) - \$650 Sensory items for Sensory room

- Starkie (Music) -\$250 Electronic components for guitar effects pedal
- Brewer (Special Ed) -\$600 Freezer
- Buielsing (Special Ed) -\$1320 iPads and Proloquo4 Text
- Total \$9370
- Projects is under budget so we could do projects again in the spring
- Conference(Scrase & Quinones) -want to take a whole class of students to a conference -it is not something they will do yearly
- Graduation chairs -can be used for graduation and special occasions -chairs would live at the HS and then taken to Cintas for graduation -these chairs are for the stage -Cintas normally supplies the chairs
- Tammy Fales approved Projects as read and seconded by Tami Comerford -all members attending in favor

Treasurer's Report - Carrie Dippold

- Financial Report
 - \$87,240 on balance sheet
 - No big changes on budget vs actual
- The Hangar Report -sales are going well -daily sales are tracking 15% increase of last year -very detailed data of expenses and income -SBOB craft show could be the busiest day of this year -looking really good for the holidays -we need to have a discussion about what to do when Lisa Tosh and Jill Whaley leave

Recording Secretary Report - Alissa Simms

- Membership - 369 families and 118 staff
- Directory - directories were in teacher mailboxes on Oct. 25th and were to be given out during Aviator Bell

Corresponding Secretary Report - Elizabeth Bruggeman

- Trex Recycling Challenge (runs Nov. 15-April 15, 2019) -HS is participating in -collection boxes are out now at school entrances and at the front entrance of the HS -Trex will accept the following types of plastic:
 - Grocery bags
 - Ziplock and other reclosable bags
 - Bread bags
 - Case overwrap (plastic around cases of beverages)
 - Dry cleaning bags
 - Newspaper sleeves
 - Ice bags
 - Wood pellet bags
 - Produce bags
 - Bubble wrap
 - Salt pellet bags
 - Cereal bags

- All plastic must be clean, dry and free of food

NO December PTO meeting

Announcements

- Coffee with the Counselors - Wednesday, Nov. 14 @ 9am - Q&A with the Counselors

Adjournment - 10:26am

Next PTO Meeting is Friday, January 11@ 9am