

**Sycamore High School PTO
General Meeting Minutes
Friday, Oct. 12, 2018 - 9am**

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

Call to Order: 9:08am

Approval of Sept. 2018 Minutes - Alissa Simms

- Minutes from the Sept. 14, 2018 were approved as read by Erin Schuholm

Principal's Report - Doug Mader

- Busy week with homecoming and spirit week
- Excited for dance (lines for tickets yesterday -selling again Friday, Oct. 12th)
- Starting prep work on schedules for 2019-20 school year
- Big day Wednesday, Oct. 10th with testing (PSAT and ACT Aspire) -use Aspire data to help create department goals -watch on some students -use PSAT scores to do professional development with teachers but also to give strategies to increase scores
- Meeting with board of education -they want to know what we plan to do with this test data -why aren't we meeting the geometry benchmark?
- Sycamore is fortunate to offer so many different options to students -our philosophy is to focus on the whole child to prepare them for everything not just test taking -other similar schools create really good test takers but offer no arts and few AP classes (limited options)
- Sycamore went to power standards and taught students what was on the test but then students had trouble connecting the information -moved to a more inquiry based curriculum this year (formative assessments) -scores should be drastically different -sometimes a whole class might struggle more than another -some classes have more high achievers than others -tough to keep up with the target -achievement is going up -32 National Merit Finalists last year and 16 this year but the cut scores were much higher at 219 and above -plus 3 seniors this year scored 218 and 217
- Sycamore believes it is better prepared than its peers in writing because students do lots of writing to help develop grammar -lots of different variables
- Thursday, Oct. 11th - 25 superintendents were at Sycamore checking out the new science classrooms and Synnovation Lab -they sat and talked with students -Synnovation Lab is getting lots of attention because it is a shiny pebble in the pond - What does personalized education look like in the classroom where everything is mastery based? -getting students to realize a D is not good enough
- Busy working with the Board of Education on a Master Facility Plan -5 year process -currently receiving community input then work on funding, bond issue, drawing up the plans, and then the actual remodel of the HS which will probably occur over a 3-5 year period
- Traffic pattern study -suggested moving the pond but waiting on remodel because several options have stadium moving back to the HS campus and moving entrance -neighborhood is where the deadlock occurs because of all the cars coming out there -an idea is to move front office to upper locker bay area -want to put bus ramps toward practice fields -we give ideas to architects and they funnel those down

- Aves Academy and Synnovation Lab are different -Aves Academy is an online platform where we have teachers there to assist students using APEX(developed by someone else) -Synnovation lab is Sycamore teachers digitizing their curriculums themselves -teachers leading the workshops and assigning the projects
- Colleges are using a variety of teaching methods as well (traditional and personalized approach) (students need to learn self discipline) -Synnovation Lab students are getting both because they do come out for traditional classes as well
- Are we meeting our Synnovation Lab goals?
 - educationally we are meeting our goals -95% of the students are thriving but didn't expect management issues
 - what do we do with those 5% that aren't self disciplined? -added a staff member Hank Ray as progress monitor -he is there to help make sure students are on pace and meeting their goals
 - students working on accountability and management of attendance(making sure students are where they need to be) 1)key fob system to swipe in and swipe out 2) fingerprint reader 3)some students wrote an app -the presentation skills of some of the students is amazing -the students are growing
 - Student's GPA and transcripts grades are based on semester average -not ready to give quarter grades in the Synnovation Lab

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

- New counselor arrangement this school year -counselors kept their seniors -it is going to be amazing but a lot right now in this transitional year because each counselor has their regular students plus their seniors -some counselors only have seniors and the 2 Counselors that moved over do not have any seniors
- Counselors working to be grade level specialists -Example -it seemed like many Juniors were wanting to drop AP psych but then the Junior counselors realized that this is because they have all the Juniors - those students dropping were not in other accelerated English classes -the counselors then realized that students need to have taken an Honors or accelerated English class before to handle the pace and reading of AP psych
- Freshman counselors can work with those who are struggling from JH to HS -can create some group activities/workshops
- Ann DK has Seniors at Great Oaks now and Brenner has all new Seniors -Wells-Kamp did the Oaks in the past -so glad Wells-Kamp stayed to help with Chelsea Rose's seniors because she has been a ton of help during this transitional year
- 16 Seniors have been named Commended Scholars in the National Merit Scholarship Program -they had to achieve a national Selection index score of 219 or higher(high cut off score) -2 seniors scored a 218 -19 other seniors were named as National Merit Scholar semi finalists
- Practice ACT is being given Tuesday, Oct. 16, 2018 -Practice ACT will be scored and results are given to the students -good to practice so they can learn timing and weaknesses
- PSAT was given Oct. 10th -will receive a report from the college board
- March 12, 2019 is the official school wide ACT
- Torch Prep runs their ACT prep program at the HS -1 ACT prep option
- Overgrad -is great resource

- Dr. Rich Gilman - Tuesday, Oct. 23rd -psychologist at Cincinnati Children's Hospital -he has done some professional development training with counselors -want EH. Greene and JH to do something on their own with him because we need to begin there -video and presentation slides will be available after presentation
- Leader in Me training has begun (based on Sean Covey's book, The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens) -awesome but will take time to trickle down
- Nov 14 @ 9am is the next Coffee with the Counselor

President's Report - Alyssa Schmeling/Angela Radakovich

- Parking - park on bus ramp not in staff or student spots during the school day if visitor spots are full
- Upcoming Senior Class Activities
 - Service Project - Tuesday, Oct. 16th
 - Senior Halloween(Oct. 26th) - good on candy but need gift cards (prizes for costume winners) -fun tradition where only seniors dress up -parade during last bell -come down to the gym floor to be judged -parents are welcome to attend (1:30ish parade time)
- City BBQ fundraiser for Sycamore PTO Scholarships on Flight Fest weekend (Oct 19, 20, 21 - flyer in Oct. 12th Aviator Update and at <https://tinyurl.com/weeatBBQ>) -Sycamore PTOs contribute together to fund scholarships for seniors -students are chosen by committee and counselors -each student selected is awarded a \$1000 scholarship

Treasurer's Report - Carrie Dippold

- Financial Report -Balance Sheet and Budget report
 - \$82,500 for total assets
 - Budget is on track
- The Hangar Report -\$3,000 for the school year so far which is similar to last year's earnings -Bookstore sales are doing well -new items arriving every week

Vice President's Report - Missy Reardon

- Project Requests -due today Friday, Oct. 12th -12 project requests so far -if you want to be on the Projects committee contact Missy Reardon

Recording Secretary - Alissa Simms

- Membership -370 families and 102 staff
- Directory -Kathy Long presented -got data but there was glitch with the data -it may be a quick fix and is currently being looked into by Bill -Kathy is ready to print once we make sure data is correct -will go out through Aviator Bell teacher -it will be paper copy because App is pretty expensive -HS team working to create something like a website for directory in the future

Corresponding Secretary Report - Elizabeth Bruggeman presented by Angela Radakovich

- THANK YOU to everyone who donated items for Staff Appreciation
- Dr. Gilman refreshments needed -look for sign up genius link -lemonade and water through Child Nutrition

Announcements

- Great Oaks Levy request on November ballot. If you want more information, contact Angel Radakovich.
- Upcoming Events
 - Homecoming Parade (Oct. 12@4:45pm), Tailgate (Oct. 12@5:15), Game(Oct. 12@7pm), and Dance(Oct. 13@8-11pm)
 - Flight Fest Oct. 20th@8am at Sycamore Junior High
 - Dr. Gilman event, Oct. 23rd @ 6:30pm (in lieu of Coffee with the Counselor in Oct)

Adjournment - 10:11am

The next PTO meeting is Friday, Nov. 9, 2018 @ 9am