

Sycamore High School PTO
General Meeting Agenda
Friday, September 10, 2021 - 9:00am
Weller Park

Call to Order

Welcome and Introduction of the Board

Announcement about membership and PTO voting privileges

PTO membership is free, but donations are accepted

Treasurer's Report

Shiri Ayalon(hsptotreasurer@sycamoreschools.org)

Review and approval of 2021-22 budget (Karen R presents because this is Shiri's first meeting)

Karen explains why expenses are more than income-that the PTO has more money than necessary in the bank so basically they need to use this money before collecting more funds

2021-22 Budget Proposed - Karen asks if there are any objections-there were none presented

Karen tells everyone they have 3 days to email objections otherwise it will go through

Diane VanderBrink asks what CLASS Donation goes towards - She explained that \$250 is donated by each of the Sycamore Schools each year to support any upcoming levies. District bills for this are sent at the end of year.

Principal's Report

Doug Mader & [Brian Sweeney](#)

Mr. Mader explains that construction moves along smoothly and they are working through a punch list with contractors. They are in Phase 2-demoing social studies area started, consumer sciences will start soon. There have been some slow downs due to broken supply chain so sinks, doors, flooring not in to start on.

Once those items are in, they will work after school and during weekends to finish.

Lockers removed due to construction, they will be coming back after construction. 85% of kids never use lockers -students should contact Mader if they do need a place to store stuff, athletes, etc.

Mr. Mader said it is nice to have everyone back in the building, but it has been a change going from 1000 students from last year to 1700 students presently. First couple of days, the lunch room was crazy. They opened up another service line in the cafeteria and it takes approximately 3 minutes for the line to disappear now. They also added 48 new seats in the cafeteria so all can get a seat as well as providing seating outdoors on days when weather is good.

Mr. Mader said that on average, about 10% of the student body is out on a typical day which brings the population down.

He said the student body has come out in full force at Football games. Students have self-managed themselves at games and in stands. They did not have a bad cheer as is often seen at many schools. Senior student leadership was present and provided a good influence.

Mr. Mader also said that he met with 10th graders in a meeting and talked about leadership goals for their class.

He talked about the fear of having to eventually wear masks in the building. He said about 40% of people in the building are wearing masks, adults are wearing masks. He explained that it will be a district decision regarding mask protocol. Water fountains are closed but water filling stations are open

Focusing on education although construction and covid are present factors that can add complications.

There is a proposal to the Board of Education to offer a full day blitz course to juniors in preparation for ACT they all take at the school in February. This ACT blitz course would be so families do not have to pay for a prep course which can be quite costly and help prepare students.

Brian Sweeney

Question asked about the necessity of preparing for ACT and what prep course is recommended.

Brian Sweeney suggested looking into prep courses for ACT.

Recommended PSAT so they can get baseline as well.

Question -How to pick ACT vs SAT? Do you need that much prepping?

Brian explained that colleges may take either test, lots of schools now are test optional. The counseling dept. recommends students take both ACT and SAT to find out what is good for them.

Doug -explained that some students are good test takers and some are not, that every kid is different and gave examples of his children

ACT for Juniors is on a normal school day and students should take this ACT test -very beneficial to students and the school and is free to students - more times students take the ACT test, the more practice they get which helps them improve their scores

Questions about bringing prep course programs in so ppl don't have to go outside of school.

Doug explained this makes it equitable for all families, and helps students to get better scores

Faculty/Staff Representative's Report

Brian Sweeney, Counselor

Brian is now Dept Chair for counseling. Year is starting out great. At the start of the school year, counselors began meeting some virtual students F2F for the first time since they were not in the building last year

Counselor Newsletter goes out every other Monday -Brian is now taking over the newsletter formally Megan Brenner did it -most information from counseling office is in newsletter -you can focus on the Aviator Update Newsletter and the

Counselor Newsletter if you don't want to do FB but class FB pages can be very helpful for information about your student's class

It is nice having everyone back and meeting together. For example during the Sophomore meeting yesterday, they were all in the auditorium and all were able to receive the same message in the meeting.

He talked about the SchoolLinks program replacing Overgrad. After doing research, SchoolLinks is a better fit and better for tracking info.

Students need to invite parents to view SchoolLinks

Junior counselors have started working with juniors for college prep. They are getting to know students and career planning, SchoolLinks, and working with them on that.

There is a student-led mental health initiative going on. It involves wellness Mondays during aviator bell, 2x a month with all students in bldg. not hearing it just from counselors

Freshmen counselors: Millett and Mitchell are working with Freshman and getting them acquainted with school, bldg.

Sept. 14th - Juniors take Practice ACT -results go to students to show their strength/weaknesses in order to improve, then blitz class in December before exams

Oct 13th -PSAT for Sophomores and Juniors and college visit day for Seniors Exams will be Dec. 15-21 before winter break -email Dr. Warren if your vacation is already planned and your student needs to reschedule exams (Doug Mader is a big proponent of family and being flexible with students for vacation times)

Homecoming weekend - Oct. 1st and 2nd

October 2nd homecoming dance -communication going out today

Homecoming will be on football field, Loveland has done this way for years

Parade on Friday night

Only Sycamore students can attend homecoming dance, no one from other schools can attend

Presidents' Report

Alissa Simms/Karen Ronningen(hspto@sycamoreschools.org)

Karen goes over QR Code for HS PTO page, membership form on page, membership fees are waived, helpful to join/register-helps PTO to reach out to ppl with information. Explains to everyone that this also helps PTO when they fill out non-profit status information.

Meetings will be held off site or virtually via Zoom and Facebook Live this year

Communication from PTO

Weekly Aviator Update emailed on Fridays

Facebook: Sycamore High School PTO -info only, non political, and a good way of getting information from meetings

Covid changed how we do a lot of things and was a big influence in these changes. Covid is also still a big part of decision making on whether some of this year's scheduled activities will happen or not.

Wednesday, Sept. 29th @ 9am first Coffee with the Counselors via Zoom

Prom/After Prom - May 14/15, 2022 7-10am at Manor House(Prom) After Prom at HS

Senior Class given by Angie Miller

Events throughout the year scheduled for senior class

Completely self-funded -request \$50 donation, but whatever anyone is willing to give

First day welcome with decorations, senior sunrise on fb field provided donuts, senior parents cheered them in the doors

Sept. 3 - Senior grill out

Might try adding a lunch for them in October

Senior Halloween parade in October

December - Senior Night out at Main Event

Spring-possible lunch so might be April

May is busiest time -launch day, elementary walk where they go see old teachers, picnic, graduation, etc

Treasurer's Report

Shiri Ayalon(hsptotreasurer@sycamoreschools.org)

Treasurer's report

Shiri went over the numbers

Switched to QuickBooks online

VP of Operations' Report

Michele Neat(hsptovp@sycamoreschools.org)

Academic Achievers - 2 students recognized during halftime at football games for their academic achievements

Projects - waiting until later in the school year maybe February

VP of Bookstore's Report

Carrie Dippold(hsptohangar@sycamoreschools.org)

Bookstore update

Mobile shop times - Sept. 11 1-8pm in between athletic stadium and tennis courts

Symmes elem. Tuesday 9/14 6-7:30 outside

Email Angela Brock (aveshangar@sycamoreschools.org) and Carrie Dippold (hsptohangar@sycamoreschools.org) with questions

Store open 11:15-12:30 for HS staff and students -visitors are not allowed in the bldg.

Shop online at aveshangar.com -HS students can pick up orders during lunch or orders can be delivered

Over \$20 over = free delivery in district

Pick up time Wed. 5-6pm. Athletic entrance ramp

Recording Secretary's Report

Karen Wolter(hsptorecording@sycamoreschools.org)

Thank you to our Schedule Pick Up Chair, Denise Stemen for organizing pictures
Volunteer List - Thank you to Elizabeth Otterman - if you are a chair looking for
volunteers contact eotterman@cbtcompany.com

Corresponding Secretary's Report

Sarah Baker(hsptocorresponding@sycamoreschools.org)

Staff Appreciation - will serve dinner to staff for conferences

Betsy Rinehart - staff liked boxed lunches and price wise not much higher
than buffet style -leaning towards boxed lunches/dinners for conferences
and see how it goes -may need beverage donations

Odd Couples (March 5th, 2022)

Students and a parent or relative come for dinner, dancing, and
entertainment - usually theme event

Attendance has been lagging -students not as excited so looking at
revamping it

PTO funded event, provide \$5000 for event and use ticket sales as well

Talk about canceling, a lot of ppl feel strongly about it both ways, some want
to keep going if can be revamped

Kate Pinckert volunteered to be co-chair for Odd Couples event

Online tix offering was pushed because it is easier for parents to buy tix and
make decisions for kids.

Odd couples is for all grades, one of the few opportunities for all students to
be engaged, some special needs students may not have flexibility to other
events since they may need a helper.

Suggested survey to ask students what they would like as a theme.

Odd couples is all parent planned and they do a really good job

Reach out to Sarah if you want to volunteer

Flight Fest

Diane VanderBrink - Flight Fest October 16th, 2021

Sycamore JH PTO is planning the 10th Anniversary flight fest - 2k,5k,10k run/walk
-all participants will get medal and long sleeve tech shirt

Adjournment

Coffee with the Counselors Wed, Sept. 29th @ 9am

Next PTO meeting is Friday, October 8 @ 9am