

Sycamore High School PTO

General Meeting Minutes

Friday, January 21, 2022 - 9:00am

Via Zoom and FaceBook Live

Zoom participants: 15 members

FaceBook Live participants: 9 members

Call to Order

Alyssa Simms

Call to order: 9:04am

Approval of November 2021 Minutes

Motion to approve: Alyssa Simms

2nd to approve: Angie Miller

Principal's Report

Doug Mader

Masking Mandate

Will continue through Jan 28 and numbers will be reevaluated each Friday to determine if it will continue

Students have been great about following the mandate

New COVID-19 Quarantine protocols went into effect today

Quarantine period is shortened according to new CDC recommendations

Scheduling process is starting for next school year

Teachers starting recommendation process

Final day for recommendations is Jan 26th

Will communicate timeline to families to go online and choose courses

Recommendations will already be in the students profile

Academic Fair and 8th Grade Day

Decision will be made early next week to determine if they will be in person or move to a virtual format due to COVID-19 numbers

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Feb 17th

Will be virtual

Feedback from last year from both teachers and parents was very positive about the virtual format

In the future we will offer both virtual and face-to-face format

Construction is going well

Will be moving into the wing they are currently finishing around Feb 20th

Next phase is in part of the social studies wing and the entire English wing

Summer school will be on campus this summer but will be in the math wing

Entrance will be on that side of the building due to construction on pool, commons, gym, and kitchen

Theater Camp

Have not finalized the location due to construction but are working on trying to have it on campus

Band Camp

Will be at Blue Ash Elementary

Construction will be done by the end of 2023

Teachers have been great about covering for other staff that are out due to illness/quarantine

District has increased pay for both full time subs (from \$100 to \$125/day) and for teachers using their planning period to sub (\$17 to \$20)

Questions from Parents:

Scheduling electives

Will there be more elective sections due to PE requirement change?

Some electives are taught by Oaks staff and we are limited in the number of sections they are available to teach

Upperclass students have priority for electives

Can Theater be used for gym class due to dancing, etc.?

The state has very specific requirements for the PE requirement and what qualifies as an equivalent credit

Class of 2026 requirement for financial literacy

Can not take it as a freshman, must take as a sophomore or older

Was shown in the past that younger students do not benefit as much from that class

With current COVID-19 infection rates do you anticipate more restrictions on building access and activities?

Not at this time

Faculty/Staff Representative's Report

Brian Sweeney, Counselor

Coffee with the Counselors January 26th @9am Topic: All Things Scheduling!

Class of 2026 graduation requirement changes

Total number of hours will not change

Will just be adding financial literacy as a requirement

Faculty are currently meeting with students to make meaningful course recommendations

Feb 14th, counselors will start meeting with students individually

College Credit Plus information session was held on Jan 20

Video of overview of program is available on school counselor website

If you have questions about the program, please reach out to your students counselor

Presidents' Report

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

Odd Couples

Will be postponed until Spring 2023

Due to COVID numbers, it would be safest to have it outside but at this time a date could not be found in the spring
 Odd Couples will now be every other year during odd years, so the next one will be March 2023

After Prom - Angela Radakovich

<https://www.sycamoreschools.org/Page/2974>

May 14-15th, 10:30pm to 2:30am

Kids can leave at any time but can not return

Must be present to win any of the door prizes

Will follow administrations rules for outside guests

Will be made clear before the event occurs

Junior and Senior event

Committee is almost complete

Need a Sponsorship chair

Making final decisions soon about layout and activities due to not having the gym available this year

Sent out student survey

223 responses

90% of respondents are definitely or most likely attending

After Prom

98% wanted food at the event

Working on collecting donations

Still short of goal from parents

Will start looking for business donations soon

Will need lots of volunteers the weekend of the event

Decorating/set up

Volunteers at the event

Clean up

Hoping to have a Preview

Offer an opportunity for community members/parents to come see After Prom set up while the students are still at Prom

Lets community see how money/donations are being used to benefit the students

Theme: Life is a Highway

Places you would visit across the US (NYC, LA, Las Vegas)

Senior Class

Baby Ads for Yearbook due Feb 28th - link to google form on the Sycamore High School Class 2022 Parents FB page

Recently sent out a 2022 sticker to all the seniors as a New Years gift

Mr. Cortiyl will have them if someone didn't get one

Senior Night at Main Event was a success

Upcoming events this semester:

Launch Day

Visits to their elementary schools

Sycamore Athletic Boosters

Social Event and Fundraiser at The Landing on May 7th
Music, Drinks, Dinner, Auction, Reverse Raffle

Treasurer's Report

Shiri Ayalon(hsptotreasurer@sycamoreschools.org)

Balance Report

All accounts are looking good

Profit & Loss

Bookstore is ahead of schedule on both revenue and expense budget with a positive net revenue

VP of Operations' Report

Michele Neat(hsptovp@sycamoreschools.org)

Projects

Requests can be made by any student, faculty, or staff member, school organization or PTO committee chair or member

Guidelines for submission are available on the PTO website

\$10,000+ available for project grants this cycle

Requests must be for a one time need, not a recurring need

Request can not be funded by other sources

Request can not be for a consumable items (examples: travel, food)

Currently accepting project requests until January 28, 2022

Requests for additional information for specific requests will sent out by the committee Jan 29 to Feb 4

Will vote for approval at the March 11, 2022 PTO general meeting

Scholarship

2021-22 Scholarship application is available now on the PTO website and must be submitted by Feb 11, 2022

Must have cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher

Demonstrated school citizenship and contributions to the Sycamore school community

Preference will be given to students who have not been awarded other local scholarships

Names of applicants are removed from the application prior to review by the committee

Applications received after the deadline will not be reviewed

Nominating

Looking for: Social Media chair(co-chairs), Scholarship chair, Senior Class parents for Class of 2023, Staff Appreciation chair, Sycamore Family Ambassador chair, Academic Achievers chair, Difference Makers chair, Odd Couples Co-chairs, After Prom Co-chairs, Sycamore Advisory Commission representative

VP of Bookstore's Report

Carrie Dippold(hsptohangar@sycamoreschools.org)

AVES Hangar update

Art & Craft Show was very successful with over \$12,000 in sales

Lots of new merchandise has arrived and is available both online and in store

Now open for students and staff during extended lunch hours (10:30a-12:30p)

Upcoming Bonus Hours

Jan. 22 11am-2pm

Jan. 28 4-8pm

Recording Secretary's Report

Karen Wolter(hsptorecording@sycamoreschools.org)

Nothing to report

Corresponding Secretary's Report

Stacy Crook (hsptocorresponding@sycamoreschools.org)

Changes with the Staff Appreciation Events

Coffee truck for Jan 14th was canceled due to staff being able to work from home that day

Looking to find a new date to bring in the coffee truck or similar treat for the staff

SAFA(Sycamore Alumni and Friends Association) Luncheon: Thank You to all those who donated desserts!

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:59am

Next Coffee with the Counselor is Wednesday, January 26 @ 9am

Next PTO meeting is Friday, February 11 @ 9am