

Sycamore Ridge

PTA Meeting 11/14/2024

Attendance: Bianca Plotkin, Sandy Tanaka, Lou Liu, Kathy O'Neill, Kate Kim, Sara Lake, Megan Scanderbeg, Jennifer Hardy, Archana, Brandon LoMonaco, Meg Money

Location: Sycamore Ridge Elementary School

President/Sara:

Welcome/Call to Order:

- Sara called the meeting to order and welcomed all attendees.

Treasurer's Report/ Approvals (Lou):

- **October Treasurer's Report:** The report for October's finances was presented highlighting income and expenses for various PTA-sponsored events and programs. A motion was made to approve the report. All in favor.
- **Approval of October Meeting Minutes:** A motion was made to approve the previous month's minutes. The motion was seconded and unanimously passed.
- Megan Scanderbeg requested to check for Stallion Sprinters refund
- **Approval of Checks # 3610-3626:** A motion was made to approve checks # 3610-3626. The motion was seconded and unanimously passed.

Faculty Representative Report (Meg Money):

- Meeting with Brandon LoMonaco, Sara Lake, Meg Money to discuss PTA coordination with Sycamore Ridge faculty and faculty impact

Committee Reports:

- **Digital Marquee (Sara):** Will be located by the flagpole outside of the front office facing the oncoming carpool traffic. Use ideas are still being discussed. Will be coming early December
- Concerns regarding brightness and possibility of a dimmer were noted.
- **Annual Giving Campaign (Sandy):** Goal to be announced Friday before Thanksgiving (11/22). Issues with apparel vendor. May choose a different vendor next year
- Pizza with the Principal scheduled for 12/5. Principal for the day announced and parents contacted

- “Pilot testing” parent recording videos for student morning announcements in lieu of pulling students to film. Students will be pulled to film if parents are unable. Approximately 40 students will be eligible to read morning announcements
- Concerns expressed for technology teacher to facilitate home filmed announcements. Preference is expressed for students to be pulled at school for filming as it would be easier on technology teacher
- Sara inquired regarding teacher gift bags
- **Science Olympiad (Archana):** Upcoming competition held at Miramar College. 23 kids in 4th, 5th, and 6th grades will be competing in all events. Two teams will be sent competing in 25 events
- Sycamore Ridge currently ranks 25th competing against elementary and middle schools for 4th, 5th, and 6th grades
- There are currently 20 high school coaches and 5 parent coaches. Practice schedule is currently dependent on student and coach schedules meeting both virtually and in person
- Sara asked what the PTA can do to support the Science Olympiad. Students must pay participation fees for both invitational and regional competitions. Coaches and students are often paying participation fees out of pocket. Sara encourages expenditures form to be submitted
- Sandy suggests scholarship form be sent to Sara and Brandon to offset participation costs for students unable to pay
- Lou reiterates the volunteer hour incentive for high school coaches who are often also Science Olympiad participants
- **Math Club (Lou):** Next week is the Noetic Learning Math Contest for 4-6th grade participants. This is the largest Math Club competition of the year.
- Math Club consists of 2nd-6th grade with parent lead practice sessions both in person and virtual
- Sara asks for information to include in PTA newsletter. Concerns are expressed regarding posting images for student participants on the “No photo list”
- Sara asks Meg Money for faculty suggestions to encourage student participants in Math Club and Science Olympiad. Ms. Money confirms she is happy to send out drafted “blurbs” in her student correspondence
- Sanday asks about a PTA Instagram page for promoting student events. Concerns are expressed regarding consistency of social media administrators. Ms. Money reiterates parental opinions on student photos within the PTA Newsletter vs social media
- Megan proposes a social media position on the PTA board. Sara confirms there is a communication position, but currently unfilled
- **Used Book Swap (Sara):** The PTA will be collecting used books from December 1st-10th in the front office. Students can come select books for free before and after school the week prior to winter break

- Lou suggesting inquiring with Mrs. Good if there are any eligible books in the library
- **Book Fair (Jen):** The Literati Book fair will be next week, November 18th-22nd. We are in need of volunteers, particularly for set up the Friday prior to the book fair and tear down the last day of the book fair (Friday 11/22)
- Room parents have been emailed to send book fair information to their classroom parents. Information can also be found in the Stallion Stomp and PTA newsletter to shop online or sign up to volunteer
- Students are encouraged to shop online, with their class during their scheduled library time, or after school Monday-Thursday from 12:30-1pm
- **Drama Club (Sara):** Tickets to The Sycamore Ridge production of the Wizard of Oz are almost sold out. Few tickets for the Sunday 11/17 showing are still available.
- **Steam Holiday Gifts (Sandy):** \$30-50 suggested class donation to the STEAM+ teachers and librarian
- Please Venmo Sandy Tanaka by December 11th
- PTA will host a faculty luncheon
- **Glow Dance (Kate):** The Glow Dance will be held January 31, 2025 at Sycamore Ridge
- A DJ with blacklights will be present with “Swag” and additional black lighting provided by the PTA
- Due to weather, a small section of the library will be used for eating. The library circulation desk will serve as a concession stand
- **Stallion Sprinters (Megan):** Stallion Sprinters are in need of extra helpers to count laps from 7:45am-8am. Please contact Megan Scanderbeg
- Brandon LoMonaco suggested reaching out to upper grade students to assist
- **Star Reading Program (Sandy):** The Star Reading program needs volunteers from 10:45am-11:20 am on Fridays.
- Suggested call for volunteers to room parents and in the PTA newsletter
- **Movie Night (Sandy):** Reminder to use invoice and reimbursement form for vendor payment

The meeting was concluded. The next PTA meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 12th at 9:15am.

Jennifer Hardy