



SYCAMORE RIDGE

General PTA Meeting 03/13/2025

Attendance: Kathy O'Neill, Sara Lake, Megan Scanderbeg, Priya Merrill, Sandy Tanaka, Brandon LoMonaco, Kate Kim, Bianca Plotkin, Ana Pons, Lu Chung, Ms. Money, Ms. Good

Location: Sycamore Elementary School

Conflict of Interest & Antitrust Avoidance Affirmation: All attendees affirmed that they are not engaging in any conflicts of interest or activities violating antitrust regulations.

Welcome/Call to Order:

- The meeting was called to order at 9:20 AM.

Treasurer Report/Approvals

- **Approval of Checks #3664-3670**
 - Motion to approve: Bianca motioned, Kathy seconded, all in favor.
- **Treasurer's Report and Approvals – February**
 - Motion to approve: Sandy motioned, Kate seconded, all in favor.
- **Approval of February Minutes** (Sara)
 - Motion to approve: Kathy motioned, Bianca seconded, all in favor.

General Updates

Board Slate

- **Nominating Committee Update:**
 - Vote in April. New members joining PTA Board.

New Family Welcome Event

- Approximately 10 families attended.
- Families felt warmly welcomed.
- Contact numbers were exchanged for future connections.
- Discussion on enhancing community involvement at upcoming events.

Book Fair (Sandy)

- Ms. Good doesn't have a strong opinion on the book fair.
- Teachers have expressed that they don't want to be the only school that does not host a book fair.
- Some teachers suggested trying Scholastic again if the setup and offerings are different from previous years.
- There's a possibility to move away from Literati, but Ms. Good might still prefer it due to its broader range of choices.
- The local bookstore Diesel is closing and relocating to Del Mar, which could affect availability of local resources.
- Ms. Good attended the PTA meeting and mentioned that Literati offers more variety, while Scholastic would only provide Scholastic books, which tend to be more expensive and harder to set up.
- Scheduling is also a challenge, as the fair would coincide with a busy week when other schools are hosting their own fairs, limiting the number of books we can bring in.
- The primary reason for hosting the fair would be to raise funds, but the district is already providing financial support for each school library.
- Ms. Good noted that some schools have opted not to host book fairs, which could serve as an example for us to reconsider the event.
- Brandon would love to see the fair happen, but Sara raised concerns that not all students are able to purchase books, which could create inequities.
- Sandy suggested canceling the book fair for this year and reevaluating the decision for next year.
- Ms. Good proposed hosting the fair in a larger room to make the event feel more spacious and welcoming.
- Ms. Money suggested reaching out to both Literati and Scholastic to see what they could offer in terms of pricing, variety, and logistical support.
- Ms. Good also recommended exploring what kids love most about the fair and seeing if there's a way to replicate that experience with fewer costs.
- Another idea discussed was organizing a used book exchange to encourage more participation while keeping costs low.
- The PTA is considering increasing volunteer support by having volunteers stay for the entire two-hour event to ensure smooth operations.
- Given the school's small size with under 400 students, there is concern about whether the event will attract enough interest to be worth the effort.

Marquee

- Despite the difficulties with the system, Stefania is doing an excellent job navigating its complexities.
- The system only supports a single font, while it offers 70 alternatives that are not functional, making it more challenging to create visually diverse and engaging messages.
- Stefania worked with the representative to troubleshoot and improve the use of the marquee system.

World Festival (Priya and Sara)

- March 20, 5:30-7:30 PM
- Performances scheduled; 18 countries participating.
- Preparations underway for cultural displays.
- Information to be circulated among teachers for parental engagement.

Spring Carnival

- May 4, 1-4 PM
- Discussion on future of inflatables: Brandon is seeking information from the District.
- Raffle baskets will be set up in the MUR during Open House for preview. Lunch ticket sales will begin after spring break or sometime in April.
- Sara asked Kathy to review and finalize the carnival prizes to ensure an attractive selection.

Family Game Night

- May 16, 6-7:30 PM
- Theme suggestions: Disco or Music-themed Bingo and prizes.

6th Grade Promotion

- May 30th – Promotion Event
- The promotion ceremony will take place outside.
- Sara has already ordered the yard signs for the event.
- There will be five sign locations across the area.
- Discussed finding a 6th grader's house that could host one of these locations. The event is scheduled for the Thursday or Friday before Memorial Day weekend to ensure a great turnout and proper preparation for the holiday.

Principal's Updates

- Brandon reiterated how exciting and engaging the activities are for students, highlighting their positive impact on the school community.
- Testing is starting again, and there is a renewed focus on supporting students through it.
- Study Buddies Program:
 - New high school students will join to assist with the Study Buddies program after school. This initiative is in the preliminary stages and will be fully rolled out in the fall.
 - Sandy inquired about the recruitment process for encouraging Sycamore-graduated students to participate in Study Buddies.
- Garden Club has been rescheduled, and further updates on its new meeting times will be provided.
- The Drama Club is meeting to start planning for next year.

Meeting Adjourned: 10:23 AM

The next PTA Board Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 10th, at 8:15 AM at Sycamore Ridge.

Ana Pons

X

