



SYCAMORE RIDGE

PTA Meeting 05/08/2025

Attendance: Sara Lake, Heather Wesselo, Kathy O'Neill, Kate Kim, Sandy Tanaka, Britta Loesel, Bianca Plotkin, Lou Lu, Prya Merril, Brandon LoMonaco, Ana Pons

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 9:15 AM.
- New PTA rolls for 25/26 and introductions:
 - Seung Hyun Kim "Kate" Kim (President)
 - Sandy Tanaka (Executive VP)
 - Jody Folk (Treasurer)
 - Dr. Bianca Plotkin (VP Health & Safety)
 - Sara Lake (VP Communications)
 - Heather Wesselo (Corresponding Secretary)
 - Priya Merrill (Financial Secretary)
 - Kathy O'Neill (Parliamentarian)
 - Britta Loesel (Historian)
 - Ana Pons (Recording Secretary)

Approvals:

- **Approval of April Minutes Motion:** Bianca Plotkin Second: Kate Kim Outcome: Approved unanimously
- **Approve April 2025 Financials:** Motion Bianca Plotkin • Second Kathy O'Neill — Passed unanimously

- **Approve Checks #3675–3692:** Motion Priya Merrill • Second Kathy O’Neill — Passed unanimously

Treasurer’s Report:

- **Financial Snapshot**
 - Report covers April 2025 only; remaining Spring Carnival revenue/expenses will appear in May.
 - PTA CD matures around July 1; reinvestment is possible at a lower rate.
 - Jody, Brandon, and Kate will revisit CD options once an MUR timeline is confirmed.
 - Family Game Night (May 16): Sandy needs a purchase form.
 - 6-Grade Promotion: Balloon arch ordered.
 - Garden: Budget under-utilized.
 - Star Reading: No spend coded yet; Sandy will buy volunteer thank-you gifts and starter supplies.
 - Field Day: Final supply costs still outstanding.
- **MUR Upgrades**
 - Funds remain earmarked; project delayed while district seeks bids for four schools.
 - District walk-through at Sycamore scheduled May 19; Sara will gather a clearer timeline.
- **Kitchen-Sink Project**
 - Need a two-compartment sink in Room E-2 so fruit can be rinsed and served unpackaged.
 - Bianca & Sara will raise the sink request during the May 19 walk-through.
- **Annual Giving Campaign**
 - Raised \$48,000 (goal \$50k).
 - Expenses \$7,500 vs. budgeted \$6,000.
- **Raffle Ticket Launch**
 - Open House sales accounted for about half of the raffle revenue—strategy to repeat next year.
- **Digital Marquee**
 - Interest in reviving birthday shout-outs as a fundraiser; district feedback to be revisited.
- **Yearbook**
 - Continues as a pass-through line item—no net PTA cost.
- **Budget Requests for 2025-26**
 - Members should email Kate & Sara with wish-list items before the June 5 marathon planning meeting.

Committee & Event Reports

- **Board Member Recognition**
 - Heartfelt thanks to Megan for her years of service with the Sprinters program.

- **Spring Carnival**
 - Revenue: \$20,109.27 • Expenses: ≈\$6,400 • Net: ≈\$13,700
 - Income Breakdown:
 - Sponsorships – \$8,500
 - Pre-sale Raffle – \$1,943.67
 - Pre-sale Tickets – \$5,970 (1× 25-ticket pack • 76× 50-ticket packs • 27× Unlimited bracelets • 20× Additional-child packs)
 - On-site Cash Sales – \$1,282
 - Venmo/PayPal – \$2,413.60

- **Action Items / Notes:**
 - Recruit additional volunteers (only 3 of 30 FAV Girls participated).
 - Sandy mentioned that the alternative to the bounce castle was more dangerous.
 - Incentivize 6th-grade helpers; add Girl Scouts support to the August planning calendar.
 - Bianca proposes to use a microphone for announcements next year.

- **Family Game Night**
 - May 16, 6-7:30 p.m.
 - Bingo supplies ordered.
 - Brandon will call the numbers.
 - Victoria is gonna do a balloon backdrop.
 - Sandy needs set-up and event volunteers.

- **Math Club Awards**
 - Medals have arrived.
 - Award ceremony date TBD
 - Asaft will run the 5th-grade session; Lo will coordinate with him to determine whether other grades can participate.

Principal's Updates

- **Student Recognition:** Peace Patrol, Green Team, Innovation Lab, and Library Helpers received certificates and In-N-Out gift cards.

LCAP Presentation (Mr. LoMonaco)

- **Overview of District Plans:**
 - *Destination 2028* (strategic vision) and **LCAP** (state-required Local Control Accountability Plan) guide funding priorities and academic goals. Parents are invited to a district meeting at Oceanair later today to discuss both plans.
- **District Funding Model:**

- Sycamore and nearby districts (Solana Beach, Rancho Santa Fe, Cardiff, Encinitas) operate as **Basic-Aid** districts, funded mainly by local property taxes rather than ADA per-pupil allocations—currently an advantage given local property values.
- **State-Mandated Priority Areas:** Conditions for Learning • Engagement • Student Outcomes. All academic initiatives must address at least one of these pillars.
- **Three-Year Plan (Entering Year 2 in 2025-26):**
 - Foster research-based instructional practices that nurture critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, and communication.
 - Use multiple data sources (academic results, staff/parent feedback, student surveys) to evaluate and refine supports.
- **Key Actions Supporting Goal 1:**
 - Maintain small class sizes.
 - Provide targeted professional development and enrichment events.
 - **Combination Classes:** May be required (e.g., 3-4, 4-5) due to declining enrollment; administration will communicate logistics and benefits transparently.
- **Enrollment Trends:** North County districts—including Sycamore Ridge—face declining enrollment as high housing costs prompt relocation or discourage new families.
- **Facilities & Staffing:** MUR upgrades and other site needs remain priorities; PTA will coordinate supplemental funding once district provides timelines and scopes.

Meeting adjourned at **10:20 a.m.**

The next PTA Board Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 5th, at 8:30 AM at Sycamore Ridge.

Ana Pons

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