



# SYCAMORE RIDGE

## General PTA Meeting 09/11/2025

**Attendance:** Kate Kim, Kathy O'Neil, Sara Lake, Bianca Plotkin, Jody Folk, Lara Gordon, Sandy Tanaka, Janet Anderson, Britta Loesel, Abram Burk, Karin Burk, Joanna Sun, Ana Pons, Nicholas Mariuz, Claire Hay, Bernard Peters, Chester Baek, Jenny Pierson, Sesilie Bascombe

**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:

- Kate called the meeting to order at 8:20 a.m. and welcomed attendees.
- Brief presentation of attendees.

### Approvals:

- Approval of Checks #3716–#3732  
Motion: Sara Lake  
Second: Sandy Tanaka  
Result: Approved (unanimous).
- August Treasurer's Report  
Motion: Sara Lake  
Second: Jody Folk  
Result: Approved (unanimous).

#### Discussion:

- Toolkit payments: Sandy inquired whether all Toolkit items have been paid. Treasurer to confirm status.
- World Market: Under budget last year; projecting to be over budget this year.
- FLS support / "Gallop & Go" activity: Proposal for a kids' coffee cart to support communication&social development (uses play money).
- Approval of August Minutes  
Motion: Jody Folk

Second: Kathy O'Neil  
Result: Approved (all in favor)

### **Committee & Program Reports**

- **Stallion Stampede**
  - Thank you to Kathy and Priya for leadership and execution!
- **Annual Giving Campaign (Sara Lake & Sandy Tanaka)**
  - Weekly Wednesday folder communications (6-week cadence) are driving donations; spikes observed Wednesday evenings.
  - Family participation last year exceeded 50% (highest ever); tracking about the same this year.
  - Messaging to reiterate: Any amount is welcome.
  - Clarify that donating ≠ volunteering (separate commitments).
  - Participation trend: younger grades are donating at higher rates than older grades (possible post-COVID behavioral effect).
  - Clear up miscommunication: some parents think a \$500 donation is required; it is not.
  - Swag and stickers will be provided to donor families.
- **Stallion Sprinters**
  - Kickoff: Friday the 26th (target).
  - Scanning cards begins the following week; sessions Mondays, Fridays, and lunchtime.
  - Greater awareness & recognition planned: leaderboard, announcements, rewards.
- **Drama Club (Sara & Priya)**
  - 42 students enrolled; 4 scholarships awarded.
- **Red Ribbon Week (Bianca)**
  - Theme: Healthy Hearts — physical and emotional health.
  - School counselor participating.
  - Apples donated by Jimbo's for activity tables.
  - Giant classroom hearts: students write healthy choices; displays will be reusable.
  - Considering replacing last year's less-engaging bike education with a bike show (~\$700); the goal is for each student to experience two premium assemblies during their years at Sycamore.
  - Silent recognitions and all-staff involvement planned.
  - Library "Happiness Jar": students note what makes them happy on hearts; posted on the bulletin board.
  - Marketing to go out on the Friday before the week.
  - Extend Random Acts of Kindness recognition beyond Red Ribbon Week (year-round approach). The school counselor supports creating a schedule and ensures varied recognition so that all students are included.
  - Action: Sara to share sample recognition materials (e.g., CHAM-style) with the team.

- **Reflections Art Program**
  - Not only visual art, but also includes multiple categories (e.g., dance, etc.).
  - Desire to increase student participation. Ideas:
    - Coordinate with the art teacher; consider a Reflections Art Night.
    - Morning announcements with short informational video(s).
    - In-class teacher talking points; possible book read-alouds (e.g., by Ms. Goods).
    - Explore STEAM support for communications.
  - Deadline: October 10 for student submissions.
  - Students may submit in multiple categories.
  - Chair workload is significant; ensure support.
- **Spirit Wear (Kate & Ana)**
  - Two designs reviewed; final selection this week.
  - The online store opens next week.
  - PTA will distribute to students.

**Second Step & Social-Emotional Learning Presentation**

**Presenters: Jenny Pierson** (Principal on Special Assignment) & **Claire Hay** (School Counselor)

- District vision: **Destination 2028 — Responsive & Caring Culture.**
- **Tiered supports:**
  - **Tier 1:** Universal classroom supports.
  - **Tier 2:** Small-group supports (students referred by teachers).
  - **Tier 3:** Intensive, individualized counseling supports (referrals from teachers or parents).
- **Second Step:** Increased family communication about classroom lessons/skills.
- **Counselor lessons** extend and reinforce classroom instruction; additional digital and hands-on practices geared to **5th/6th** graders to boost engagement.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 9:53 a.m.

The next PTA Board Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 9, at 9:15 AM at Sycamore Ridge

**Ana Pons**

X 