



SYCAMORE RIDGE

PTA Meeting 1/8/2026

General Association Meeting

Attendance: Sara Lake, Kate Kim, Jody Folk, Thomas Loesel, Britta Loesel, Janet Anderson, Colin Anderson, Jennifer Hardy, Lara Gordon, Jill Maher, Elham Zamanidoost, Andrea Mann, Stephanie Rubin, Bianca Plotkin, Bernhard Peters, Kathy O'Neill, Katy Hoadley, Nancy Swanberg, Bridget Brown, Leslie Johnson, Sandy Tanaka, Nikol Varvaresou, Ana Pons Barber

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 9:15 a.m. and welcomed attendees.

Treasure Report and Approvals:

- **Approval of Checks # 3776-3779** – Sara firsts, Nikol seconds, all in favor.
- **Treasurer's Report (December)** - Sara firsts, Kathy second, all in favor.
 - Budget on track. No additional comments.
- **Approve December Minutes (Kate)** – Nikol firsts, Sara seconds, all in favor.

Committee & Program Reports

- **STEAM+**
 - Teachers and students highlighted each of the STEAM+ disciplines and thanked the PTA for their support.
 - Bernhard Peters (DMSEF Rep) explained that 40% of the STEAM+ program is funded by district families. DMSEF's largest fundraiser, jog-a-thon, is coming up at Sycamore Ridge Feb 10th.
 - STEAM+ funds are pooled into a general fund, but earmarked for STEAM+
 - Last year the schools were collectively \$400k short and the district made up the difference. The district has made it clear that they can't commit to coming up with the difference if fundraising is short again this year and we risk our STEAM+ programs being cut.

- Sycamore Ridge is currently at 14% participation and generally ends the campaign at 43-48%. The main goal is to increase participation.
- **School Update**
 - Principal Peirson was offsite doing a training so she was not able to attend the meeting. Our teacher liaison, Leslie Johnson gave an update.
 - She expressed that the staff is very excited to have Principal Peirson as our permanent principal. They feel supported by her.
 - Parents expressed their concerns about vague communication related to whether she would be staying at Sycamore Ridge past this year. Leslie reassured parents that the intent is for her to stay and she would relay information that this needs to be better communicated to families.
- **Board Slate and Nominating Committee – PTA voted on the following**
 - Nominating Committee Chair - Nikolitsa Varvaresou
 - Nominating Committee Members – Sara Lake and Bianca Plotkin
- **Parent Assembly**
 - Andrea Mann presented the plan for a February assembly to view and discuss “Screenagers”.
 - Comments from parents that the assembly should be in the evening and there is a strong desire to include students (under each parents discretion). Kate to relay this information to Jenny and district.
- **Glow Dance**
 - Everything is on schedule for upcoming Glow Dance 1/30. Setup will be Wednesday, 1/28.
- **Science Olympiad**
 - Archana gave an overview on the Science Olympiad program. They will be attending the 1/10 and 1/24 invitationals. 2/7 is a regional event.
 - We compete in the B&C levels which are challenging as we go against middle and high schoolers.
 - This year there are 30 student participants. They have had strong support from PTMS and high school students. We would like to see more parent involvement for certain events.
- **Gift to School**
 - The PTA has decided not to supplement funds for a higher level projector (\$17,000).
 - Kate and Sara have a meeting with Principal Peirson on January 13th to discuss potential areas that could use PTA funds.

- We will revisit the CD when it comes due and for now will keep funds available for a potential gift to school this school year.
- New Items
 - Parents have concerns around combo classes. They would like to express this concern to the Superintendent
 - Parents have concerns around finances. If we are a self-funded district and our funds are not dependent on school enrollment, then why can't we maintain staff numbers and have smaller class sizes?

Meeting Adjourned: 9:29 a.m.

The next PTA Board Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 12, at 9:15 AM at Sycamore Ridge.

Sara Lake, VP Communications

X _____ *Sara Lake* _____