



SYCAMORE CANYON SCHOOL

4601 Via Rio, Newbury Park, CA 91320
Phone 805-498-1573 Fax 805-498-0385
www.conejousd.org/sycamorecanyon

Doug Hedin
Principal

Mark W. McLaughlin, Ed.D.
Superintendent



School Site Council Meeting Minutes **Wednesday, February 18, 2026** **3:15 p.m. – Elementary Library**

Attendees: Doug Hedin, Cheryl Moncourtois, Maria Holm, Fareeda Bleek, Mackenzie Smith, Makaila Hernandez, Mary Rupp, and Veronica Hutten

Guests: Zyra Ahmed, Andria Tong, Elaine Zhou

- I. Welcome & Approval of Minutes from the November 2026 meeting
 - Motion to Approve – Fareeda Bleek
 - Seconded – Veronica Hutten
 - Motion Approved

- Welcome & Approval of Minutes from the January 2026 meeting
- Motion to Approve – Mackenzie Smith
 - Seconded – Makaila Hernandez
 - Motion Approved

- II. Public Comments
 - No Public Comments

- III. Committee Reports (GATE-DAC, ASB, DAC, DELAC, AADAC, SEDAC, LGBTQ+AC, PTSA)
ASB –

EVENTS: The Events committee has been working on the layout for the spring social and decided on around 7 games that will be run by ASB students, and possibly 3 by the DJ. They are also planning to hold two raffles: one for middle school and one for fifth graders. Students who win the various games will receive a raffle ticket. Students will not be purchasing raffle tickets, as that is not allowed. Additionally, we completed a comprehensive guide on preparing for music at lunch and how it should run, for future ASB members to reference. This week, Events proposes a change to the Lawn Games and will suggest something new at the next business meeting. We have a few ideas, like a life-size Jenga, a ring toss, and a few more fun lunchtime activities

SPIRIT: No report

REC-OUT: Valentine's candy grams are available for purchase this week. We will pass out the candy grams this Friday. The candy grams are \$0.50 each. We also have a treat ticket exchange on the 27th. Coyote Lounge dates are this Friday, the 20th and the 27th.

Posted 2/11/25



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PUBLICITY: The March VMA is a sports-network-themed VMA with “ads” interspersed. These ads will promote events scheduled for March. The big event is a March Madness class competition. A drawing will determine which NCAA teams are assigned to each homeroom class. A giant March Madness bracket will be posted on the middle school campus so that students and staff can see which teams/classrooms are advancing. The winning classroom will get a lunchtime ice cream party. A VMA will air during the 3rd week of March as a hype video. A separate video outlining which teams each class receives will be released the following day.

DAC

- Check District website for information

PTSA

Past Events:

1/24 - Loved One and Son Roller Skating. Was super fun but not a huge turnout.

2/4 - EB Meeting

2/11 -Valentines Concert in the Garden

Upcoming:

2/20 - Daughter and Loved One Dance

2/27 - Read A Thon Kickoff

3/2 - 3/6 Read A Thon week

3/3 - Cocoa and Cozy Reads in the Garden at Lunch recess

3/13 - Pi Day in the garden

3/24 - Fun Run!! We are at around \$30K as of this week.

The Big Ass Fans have been installed in the gym.

SEDAC

This Tuesday, most of the SEDAC meeting was talking about things more relevant for high schools (resources for preparing for adult life, a new diploma pathway, IEP changes, parent panel) than elementary/middle schools.

Here are some [Community Reports](#) with upcoming local events.

The part that was most relevant to Sycamore was SEDAC's approval of a [Neurodiversity Affirming Practices statement](#). SEDAC's Inclusion Committee shared the following information during discussion, which I thought the School Site Council might be interested to read:

If the pandemic taught us anything, it's that we all need human connection. We all want to belong and have friends. Neurodivergent people often experience social isolation for their entire lives, because neurotypical culture and unwritten social rules do not support neurodivergent thinking and preferences.

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Inclusion, acceptance and belonging are also protective factors for neurodivergent children and adults, because isolation and exclusion can put ANYONE more at risk for potential harm.

Did you know...

Research has shown that around 60% of neurodivergent students are bullied, and the risk is around 80% for those with learning and speech differences.

Neurodivergent children are significantly more likely to experience trauma, including abuse and neglect. Studies show that 84% of neurodivergent individuals reported having experienced some form of domestic violence.

70-80% of autistic adults and a large percentage of adults with ADHD experience anxiety and depression. Nearly 78% of autistic children and around 86% of autistic teens have at least one mental health condition.

Children with ADHD are 4 to 6 times more likely to develop depression than neurotypical peers. Autistic children are 28 times more likely to experience suicidal thoughts or behaviors than their neurotypical peers, and suicidal thoughts in autistic children can begin as young as 8 years old or younger. Up to 35% of autistic adults have attempted suicide.

People with ADHD are nearly 5 times more likely to attempt suicide than those without.

Inclusion and belonging are fundamental needs of all humans, and as a society, we must develop a more accepting and supportive culture if we want to change the outcomes for neurodivergent people.

GATE DAC

Gate - DAC for Elementary:

- School Site Council and Site Plan for Student Achievement presentation was given by Shane Frank
- Members discussed creative fundraising
- Members discussed no-cost activities
- Identified the Nominating Committee
- Stefanie Caswell shared update on newly identified GATE students and upcoming GATE activities and events.

From our school Gate coordinator:

On Monday, February 9th, our GATE teacher Mrs Abraham, met with the 4th grade GATE students (20) in 4th grade in Room 25 from 2:40-3:45. During the class they did a STEAM building project where they honored their time together reading "Island of the Blue Dolphins" by making a bow and arrow out of Q-tips. Following the instruction, she emailed all 4th grade GATE parents links on how to do the project so the learning could continue at home. Next month she will meet with 3rd grade students on Monday, March 9th to build clay monsters. She may have to do a sign up as the 3rd grade group is huge.

Middle school gate update:

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- No event was held in January due to Mrs. Lee's illness. She's all better thank goodness. And there will be a author talk this Thursday by a local writer and illustrator.
- March 19th—Cookie Decoration Science
- April 23rd—Photography with Ashli
- May trivia team challenge
- June 2nd 6th Grade Teen Tech Convention

DELAC

- Check District website for information

AADAC

- Check District website for information

LGBTQ+AC

- Check District website for information

IV. Principal Remarks

- Steam lab teacher has been hired
- The fans in the gym have been installed, and Mr. Hedin shared his appreciation to PTSA
- Mr. Hedin discussed the possibility of Ca. Rolls as a lunch option
- Parking lot cones that were stolen have been returned
- Soccer goals are delayed due to installation requirements
- Sycamore received two medals for the middle school CAASPP testing outcomes and Mr. Hedin has asked for medals for the elementary as scores were high as well.

V. Old Business

- SPSA Plan Monitoring

VI. New Business

Next Meeting: 3/18/26

Posted 2/11/25