

**LA JOLLA HIGH SCHOOL PTA  
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES  
NOVEMBER 7, 2003**

President Patti Nussbaum called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. Minutes of the October 3, 2003 meeting were approved as read by recording secretary, Julie Skrdla.

**ASB President**, Noah Brozinsky, thanked us for our support of homecoming festivities. He gave an update on the different class fundraisers, mentioning the juniors need donations for their all grade dance in January.

**GATE/DAC**: Greg Fornier, English Department Chair, spoke to us regarding the recent GATE cluster meeting. The subject of teaching grammar in our schools was discussed. (Grammar has not historically been part of the SAT exams, but that is changing. Unfortunately, the Blueprint has reduced grammar instruction in our schools just at a time when students will be required to know more. Although we are not a Blueprint school, our teachers are still feeling the pressure.) He asked us to support our teachers and acknowledge that they are working as hard as they can. He stressed the need for work on vocabulary in our district.

GATE/DAC Rep, Jamie Ginsberg, will explore the idea of having a future meeting with the English teachers. Perhaps the PTA could sponsor such a function. Reducing English class sizes was again discussed. Please e mail any ideas regarding any of this to Jamie.

**President's Report**: Patti thanked the many people who have so successfully completed their PTA projects and assignments and also those who are working on ongoing projects, such as Graduation. See the attached President's Report. The Parent Congress continues to meet. Genie Bell and Jamie Ginsberg attend on our behalf. Please tell them of any concerns you may have. The enrollment form for the next SAT prep classes will be in this next newsletter.

**Financial Reports**: Treasurer, Bee Mittermiller, presented the attached list of checks. Liz Lindenfeld moved to ratify the checks, the motion was seconded and passed. Bee reported for LeeAnne Wiegand that Blast Off was a big success, raising \$1,000 more than anticipated. Patti reminded us to use the reimbursement forms for any expenses we incur. The treasurer's report is attached.

**Library Media Teacher**, Steve Grant, thanked all the volunteers who helped reorganize the books. In response to some recent concerns regarding the library, Steve illustrated for us the necessity of familiarizing the students with the many research options available to them. This is admittedly a time consuming exercise and would optimally be a real class with a grade.

**VP – Membership**: We have 63 new members, 591 total. We have \$8,865 in dues and \$4,835 in donations, totaling \$13,700.

**VP – Ways and Means**: Betsy Mitchell presented the attached list of mini grants. She will verify that the teachers are members of the PTA. Discussion ensued. Maria Fischer will talk with Mr. Rush about the soap operas and report back to us. Tabling the soap opera request for later consideration, Linda Dowley moved that we approve the mini grants, provided the on-line English course be made available to all teachers. The motion was seconded and passed.

**Historian** Gloria Bakst reported that we had 684 volunteer hours last month. You can email her your hours.

**AP Workshop Chair**, Joyce Dostart, thanked all her willing volunteers. Unfortunately the workshop was cancelled this year during the fires and there was no way to reschedule it. We still need a chair for next year.

**Governance Rep**, Kathleen Steele, made the attached report.

**Foundation Rep**, Bee Mittermiller, reported that the Foundation made \$17,000 at Taste of La Jolla. Look for a newsletter from the Foundation to arrive soon. They need help with Mardi Gras. One of our teachers, Pat Thomas, lost her house in the recent fires. An envelope was passed. There will be a list on e mail of what she needs.

**Newsletter**: The deadline for the next newsletter has been changed to Wednesday, January 14. Please honor this deadline so the committee can use the weekend to finish the newsletter.

**Cultural Arts Liason**, Susan Sparks, reported that Ms. Henderson's class will be attending the Russian opera, as well as a lecture by a docent.

**CPR Class Chair**, Christina Orciuoli is bringing the CPR classes back to life (!) We are waiting on teacher commitment and funding. All sophomores, except those in water polo, would receive training. Classes will be held in January.

**Senior Exhibitions Coordinator**, Caroline Nierenberg passed a sign up sheet for senior exhibition volunteers. She needs 10 volunteers per day. The orientation will be January 5 at 2:30 in room 301.

**Grade Level Representatives**: Please come to the 10<sup>th</sup> grade meeting.

**Band Dinner**: Judy Glenn said that the spaghetti dinner for the band has been postponed. Please buy Dominoes coupons to benefit the band.

**Principal's Report**: The recent API scores show us improving. We moved up to 797, which is the highest in the district. We would like to be in the 800s, but our score does not jeopardize our instructional autonomy. It remains very important that we take these tests seriously. Dana reported on recent movement within algebra class placements in an effort to more realistically align grades and test scores. CAT 6 tests will be phased out next year. Passing the high school exit exam will be required beginning with the class of 2006. Standard tests are becoming more important with relation to the API. If you are interested in further information, check the CA Dept. of Educ. Website. [CDE.CA.gov](http://CDE.CA.gov).

Angie Preisendorfer gave an update on the fundraising effort for the lower athletic field. They are still \$10,000-\$20,000 short. There's been a good response in donations and they hope to have this done by mid February.

Dana reported that we will not make up the days lost because of the fire. The Education Code allows for days off in such disasters, while still collecting ADA money from the state. Dana said he was told yesterday that there is an 18 million dollar shortfall in the district this year, but there will be an 89 million dollar shortfall next school year 04-05. Budget constraints preclude us having a regular police officer on campus, as we were supposed to have.

Dana pointed out how busy the counseling office is with all the senior college recommendations right now. He said that Pat Schaler is filling in for the open counselor position and will be writing senior letters of recommendation.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Skrdla,  
Recording Secretary