

**LA JOLLA HIGH SCHOOL PTA
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 10, 2004**

President Patti Nussbaum called the meeting to order at 9:00 am. Minutes of the May, 2004 meeting were approved with no corrections.

Patti explained that this summer at PTA Convention, she learned that instead of the time consuming practice of reading the minutes aloud, or the expensive practice of copying minutes for all to read, it is within the PTA parameters for the president to appoint three readers to read the minutes of each meeting, and make corrections or approve them as written. Once corrections are made, the minutes will be posted on the school web site (ljhs.sandi.net). This procedure should save time and money, and if an error is found at a later date, corrections to the minutes can be made at any time. Patti asked for volunteers to read this month's minutes, and Barbara Hoffman, Venzel Hammershaimb and Jamie Ginsberg volunteered to do so.

SAT Prep Class – Genie Bell reported that there are spaces still available for the PTA sponsored SAT Prep class which begins soon. Students should sign up in the office.

President's Report – Patti welcomed new and returning parents. There are currently two PTA chairperson positions open: Legislative Chair and Reflections Chair. Patti explained the responsibilities of each position and said interested parties should contact her. Thank yous were given to the many volunteers who worked over the summer and during registration.

When there is PTA business to transact, Patti suggested that members communicate via e-mail or by phone during business hours, citing the need to respect family time in the evenings. Officers were reminded that they should check their mailboxes in the office. The ongoing need for volunteers was mentioned, with clipboards circulating to solicit volunteers for Blast-Off, Grade Level Dinners, Snack Shack workers, etc. Parents are encouraged to volunteer where they can, and are also encouraged to frequently check the school website to stay informed. If members have questions or concerns, they are welcome to call or e-mail Patti.

Mr. Steve Grant, our Library Media Teacher spoke briefly to thank parent volunteers who helped during registration to get textbooks to students, and bar code books.

Auditor's Report – Amy Cheshire as outgoing auditor delivered the Auditor's report which was approved after a motion from Elizabeth Allan. Amy wanted it mentioned that Barbara Hoffman, incoming Auditor will also be reviewing the books, as Amy is now taking over as Treasurer.

Treasurer's Report – Amy continued by reviewing the budget worksheet. She did specifically note that a gift will be made to the school, with the purchase of tables and chairs which are needed for many school events. The tables and chairs will be used regularly at school for such events as student testing and in the near term at the upcoming grade level dinners. A motion by Julie Skrdla was seconded and the budget was approved. There were several checks which needed to be ratified, and upon a motion from Katya Newmark, and unanimous approval, the checks were ratified. Amy also supplied a year-to-date summary for event chairs so they can keep track of how much money has been spent on their event so far this year.

Programs – Jamie Ginsberg discussed programs. On October 12, 2004 there will be a Principal's Chat at 7:30 am at La Jolla Presbyterian Church. On October 25, 2004 there will be a Candidate's Forum held at La Jolla High in Parker Auditorium where all of the candidates running for the School Board will

speaking. This is a citywide election, and it is quite a coup for LJHS to host this forum in conjunction with the League of Women Voters and San Diego Unified Council of PTAs. Attendance is encouraged. There will also possibly be an evening Principal's Chat in January at LJHS with buses provided for VEEP parents. This would combine the winter LJHS and VEEP principal's chats in one location. In the spring there will be a parent program similar to the one held last spring with information for parents about teens and drug use. This year the program would focus on teen alcohol use.

Ways and Means – Betsy Klene explained about mini-grants that are supplied to the teachers by the PTA. Our budget is \$8,000 and teachers apply for grants that meet the criteria of an item or program that will benefit students. Parents asked about teacher requests for consumable items such as Kleenex, band-aids for the nurse, etc. It was decided that an e-mail can go out to parents with such a request as the need arises, but that is not the type of thing that meets the criteria for mini-grant funding.

Membership – Bee Mittermiller reported that there are 298 new members currently, and encouraged everyone to get their memberships in.

Corresponding Secretary – Kris McMillan circulated a clipboard with a roster for corrections. Patti read thank yous from staff for registration and welcome back lunch.

Historian – Venzel Hammershaimb asked everyone to sign in and log volunteer hours, and explained the importance of having this information noting it is used by lobbyists to substantiate how active the PTA is (both in dealings in Sacramento and Washington) and also in order to keep our 501c3 designation as a non-profit entity, we must show that the main bulk of our efforts are volunteering time.

Registration – Elizabeth Allan reported that approximately 200 volunteers helped at registration. She thanked the volunteers and thanked Kate Potter who helped a great deal. The process was a bit more time consuming this year, as we have record high total enrollment of 1,745 students. Having registration complete during the last days of summer allows students to get into classrooms and begin learning the first day.

Blast Off – Joan Hiser explained to new parents about Blast Off being the first home football game of the year. She requested parent volunteers to work that day.

Newsletter – Gail Trimble noted that the newsletter team will produce seven issues this year, up from five last year. The due date for submissions to the next newsletter will be September 29.

Grade Level Dinners – Candace Person noted that the GL dinner for ninth graders will be on September 21, and for grades 10-12, September 23. She asked for volunteers to set up early and clean up at the end.

Family Directory – Cheryl Stewart urged everyone to fill out forms to be included in the directory, as it is an invaluable tool to stay connected with other parents. The directories will be mailed out this year.

VEEP Rep – Diana Sonderegger and Isabel Vega introduced themselves and spoke about several programs that the school sponsors to help educate students about diversity.

Library Liaison – Jill Maninger Ayling again thanked the library volunteers.

Library Tribute Fund – Michelle Ganon encouraged parents to contribute to the Library Tribute Fund, noting that this is currently the only funding available for new books for our library.

Hospitality – Becky Gardner thanked volunteers from the teacher lunch and explained about future events where the hospitality committee helps out.

GATE/DAC – Jamie Ginsberg mentioned that LJHS will now have a GATE steering committee and they are looking for parents representing each grade level and both cluster and seminar parents. Vice Principal Donna Campbell will oversee the steering committee.

Parent Prep Committee – Patti spoke for Linda Kalkstein. This committee helps educate parents about the college application and admission process. October 13 there will be an evening workshop for both parents and students regarding the UC and CSU applications, put on by Beth Behnke.

Governance – Linda Dowley explained the function of Governance and introduced other parent representatives: Patti Nussbaum, Jamie Ginsberg, Liz Lindenfeld and Joan Hiser.

Moneybooks – Candace Person for Janet Gentile – PTA is selling La Jolla Moneybooks – buy one.

Foundation Rep – Bee Mittermiller explained the roll of the Foundation and the importance of raising funds in this time of budget cuts. Jeannie Kusnir spoke about “Taste of La Jolla” a fundraiser featuring 40 restaurants on Monday, October 18 from 6-8:30 p.m. Tickets are \$35 in advance and \$40 the night of. Jackie Helm explained about the e-scrip program and urged all parents to sign up.

Volunteer Coordinator – Patti Haig introduced herself. She sends out e-mails to our parent list with information, reminders and volunteer opportunities.

AP Workshop – Julie Skrdla gave the date of Saturday, November 6 for the AP workshop at LJHS. It is a very big fundraiser for LJHS. She requested volunteers to work either 6:30-9:30 a.m. or 9:30 – 1:00 p.m.

Publicity Chair Kathy Marsh explained that we are always looking for ways to recognize student achievement. If your student has done something noteworthy, please inform Kathy Marsh.

Grade Level Reports – Lisa Barkett has the new position of Grade Level Rep. Coordinator. She will be working with the reps from each Grade Level to help them to do their jobs without reinventing the wheel each year. She gave the report for 12th Grade, asking for volunteers to sign up to work in the Snack Shack.

Candace Person gave the 11th grade report, noting that 11th graders must sign up for the PSAT (\$16.00, sign ups in the office). She also recommended that qualified students sign up to be members of CSF. 11th and 12th Grade students are encouraged to attend college visits to campus – they are allowed to attend 5 per year.

There were no reports from 10th and 9th Grade Reps.

Principal Dana Shelburne spoke about the school’s API score (815 up from 806 last year) and our high AP pass rate. He spoke about our large enrollment and staffing issues. He answered questions from parents regarding counseling and class changes.

Meredith Finch, ASB Vice President spoke, giving dates for Blast Off (Sept. 18) and Homecoming (November 5) and noted that Club Day is September 22. She encouraged parents to talk to their students and make sure they get involved.

Announcements: Judy Glenn noted that Band Boosters is selling Entertainment Books and the Band

will give a free public concert on October 24 at Cove Park.

Jane Corrigan, After Prom Co-Chair, noted that there is a need for a videographer to create the senior video. Anyone with videography experience is asked to contact Jane or Ilene Wachsman. Karen Bohrer spoke about the creating of a Speech and Debate team. Interested students should contact her.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:04 a.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Linda Dowley