

**LA JOLLA HIGH SCHOOL PTA
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
October 7, 2005**

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by President, Jamie Ginsberg. September minutes have been approved by the readers, and are posted on the school website. Jamie asked for three readers for this month's minutes: Thank you Madelyn Bennett, Mary Fisher and Venzel Hammershaimb.

President's Report:

- Jamie thanked the many volunteers who have participated in recent LJHS events including Blast Off, Grade Level Dinners and Back to School Night.
- Local artist (and former LJHS parent), Leah Higgins has produced drawings of the school which will be reproduced on note cards and sold as a PTA fundraiser.
- The Principal's Chat on October 11 will feature our two vice principals – Mr. Fairly and Acting Vice Principal Mrs. Greco. Time is 7:30 a.m. at LJ United Methodist Church on LJ Blvd.
- The Science Department is hosting an open house in the auditorium at 7 p.m. on October 11.
- Parents are urged NOT to use the teachers' parking lots to drop off students. There are currently terrible problems at the parking lot on Westbourne.
- The PTA will be having an evening meeting next month – Tuesday November 1 at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria. This will be a regular PTA meeting, with guest speakers informing parents about the K-9 Detection Program (drug sniffing dogs) which will go into effect later this fall.
- Kathy Marsh, our publicity chair, encourages parents to email her information about activities and/or events that should be publicized.

Treasurer's Report – Amy Cheshire gave a financial update. Expenses exceeded our budget in three areas: Grade Level Dinners, registration and PTA dues sent to council. Fortunately, our income exceeded our budget as well in both GL dinner and membership (council dues). Lee Trahan moved to ratify checks that were written as well as to approve expense overruns. The motion was seconded and carried.

Programs – Linda Kalkstein reported that the first Principal's Chat will be held on October 11 at 7:30 a.m. at the La Jolla United Methodist Church on La Jolla Blvd. Additionally, a tri-fold sheet that contains teacher and school department contact information has been produced and will be included in the next PTA newsletter. Linda asked for suggestions on future program topics, and mentioned the possible topic "admissions matters" regarding college applications or a program on girls' self-esteem.

Ways and Means – Patti Nussbaum (reporting for Betsy Klene) presented the Mini Grant requests. It was suggested that Mrs. Visconti share her online essay program with other English classes. Patti will ask Betsy to follow up. Karen Lawrence moved to approve the mini grants – the motion was seconded and approved.

Membership – Liz Lindenfeld gave an update – we currently have 998 members (with several more coming in this morning), whereas last year at this time we had only 636. Liz wanted to make sure that everyone understands that there is a lag time with newsletter deadlines, so that the members names published in the newsletter will not represent all of those who have currently joined. We will keep reporting on members in future newsletters.

Historian – Venzel Hammershaimb reported that we have already logged 2,800 volunteer hours for the year. Volunteers are asked to report their hours, as it helps the PTA retain its non-profit status.

AP Workshop – Sarah Schrier (event chair) explained that the AP workshop is a training session for teachers throughout southern California who teach AP classes. LJHS hosts the event and the PTA makes money by providing coffee, breakfast, snack and lunch. The PTA expects to make approximately \$5,000. Many volunteers are needed to work at the event. A clipboard was passed for volunteer sign-ups.

Homecoming – Candace Person described the volunteer duties at the homecoming dance and asked for volunteers.

Family Directory – Patti Nussbaum reported for Candy Satterlee that the mailing of the family directories will happen in conjunction with the next newsletter mailing.

Newsletter – Karen Lawrence asked that members pay close attention to upcoming deadlines.

Health & Safety – Christina Orciuoli explained the school's CPA training program that is provided to all sophomore students through their PE classes (except students involved in winter sports). Many volunteers are needed to make this program successful.

Newsletter Mailing – Lee Trahan reported that the next mailing will probably take place in late October and an e-mail will go out soliciting volunteers.

Money Books – Gina Hixson reported that there are a few money books left for sale – please see her if you would like to purchase one.

Hospitality – Becky Gardner reported that the hospitality committee will be asking for food donations from parents for both the Principal's Chat in the morning of October 11, and for Science Night the evening of October 11.

Blast Off – Joan Hiser thanked all of the volunteers who worked at Blast Off, and noted that we had a record breaking event, financially. Joan would like to transition a new chairperson for this event and work with them. If you are interested in taking over, please contact Joan.

Grade Level Dinners – Candace Person noted that there was record-breaking attendance at the Grade Level dinners.

Governance – Liz Lindenfeld, this year's Governance Chairperson, gave a brief overview of the function of the Governance Team, and a brief recap of issues discussed at the two September meetings. Issues included classroom crowding, the hiring waiver, school budget, parent participation in interview panels, counseling and the Principal's evaluation process. Additionally, school/home communication was discussed, with teachers and staff being urged to return calls and/or e-mails within 48 hours. On-line grade reporting and communication from teachers to parents when students are in danger of failing were also discussed.

If parents have issues they would like brought up at monthly Governance meetings, they are urged to contact Governance parent representatives Linda Dowley, Susanna Flaster, Jamie Ginsberg, Joan Hiser, or Liz Lindenfeld.

VEEP – Diana Sonderegger discussed integration and the visit to the Museum of Tolerance in LA (all 11th graders will attend on October 10).

GATE/DAC – There are new GATE cluster standards have been passed by the board. They can be accessed on line, and will be written about in the newsletter.

Foundation Report – Foundation president, Tony Farwell reported on the Foundations new "Academic Edge" campaign, where they hope to raise even more than \$110,000 given to academics last year. He encouraged all parents to support this campaign.

Foundation events coming up include Taste of La Jolla which is on October 17. Tickets are available from Foundation members.

Alicia Booth explained the "escrip" program and encouraged everyone to sign up.

Mardi Gras in May will take place on May 20, and chair, Candy Satterlee, is looking for committee heads. You do not have to be a member of the Foundation to volunteer!

Principal's Report – Mr. Shelburne mentioned the WPA works of art that are currently displayed in the LJHS library. This collection belongs to the school district, and the district is looking for ways to raise money to restore

and display the paintings.

A new Counselor has been hired. Kathy Marron will start in two weeks. Many thanks to the Foundation for funding this position. Ms. Marron will take over the alphabet formerly covered by Amy Lee (Bf-Hd).

Mr. Shelburne discussed the K-9 Detection Program, which will bring a drug-sniffing dog to campus for random visits. This action was prompted by a candid conversation that Mr. Shelburne held with last year's graduating seniors, just prior to graduation. It reinforced his conviction that we need a way to be proactive in keeping drugs off campus. There will be class assemblies later this month where students will see the dog and learn about the program. Parents can learn more about the program at the next PTA meeting being held in the evening of November 1. Parents who can't attend should call the school and see about attending the Oct. 18 student sessions. He discussed the legal and school discipline ramifications if a student is found in possession of narcotics. At the district level, John DeBeck, our school board member, has indicated he would like to see this program expanded to all schools in the district. A suggestion was made that strong smoke detectors be installed in bathrooms, where it is believed that smoking occurs.

Do NOT drop your students off in or at the entrance to the teacher parking lots!

Discussed the upcoming trip by all juniors to the Museum of Tolerance in LA, and mentioned that Inez Baskin will again come and speak in the spring. She is a powerful speaker who is part of the diversity education programs for students.

A question was raised about the technology employed in the journalism class. It was mentioned that the software that is being used is fairly new and powerful, but the hardware is quite dated. This is another area that would benefit from new computers.

Traffic safety was discussed, and parents are urged to drive safely and carefully around the school – and set a good example for the many student drivers.

Class size was mentioned, and Mr. Shelburne noted that the average class size is 35-37 students, although there are currently over 40 students in AP Statistics, and some class movement is still happening to address situations where a student is placed at an inappropriate level. The district funds schools at a student/teacher ratio of 35/1. Additional overcrowding is created in earlier periods because so many students have 6th period PE for sports needs.

Legislation Report – Mary Fisher reported that the PTA does not always take a stand on political issues, but that they are against Proposition 76. Additionally, she reported on a new bill, AB 417, that has the purpose of defining the contents of beer, but had an addendum regarding the sale of liquor lollypops, which it is feared are very appealing to minors. Mary will find additional information and give a follow up report. She also suggested that parents look on the state (www.capta.org) or national PTA (www.pta.org) websites for legislative information.

Band Boosters – Mary Fisher reported that the band is selling Entertainment Books to raise money to benefit the band.

After Prom – Angie Preisendorfer reported that she has been working with the ASB, who have generated new ideas for this year's event. Nothing has been finalized, and she will share information and ideas as they firm up.

Grade Level Reps – Candace Person, Grade Level Coordinator, is trying to keep everyone informed about grade level activities.

12th Grade – October 19 at 6:30 p.m. in the Library there will be a college application workshop for seniors and their parents. There is also College Information night in February for sophomore and junior students and parents. Seniors are urged to coordinate with the registrar regarding information needing to be sent to colleges. Seniors are planning for Prom, After Prom and Grad Nite.

11th Grade – Recent fundraiser at the Sparks' home was a success.

10th Grade – Sarah Schrier told about the recent sophomore class bake sale. The class is now selling shorts.

9th grade – Pam Zuckerman noted that the freshman class has been working on their float for homecoming.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Linda Dowley, Secretary.

