

**LA JOLLA HIGH SCHOOL PTA
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
May 5, 2006**

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Jamie Ginsberg. She introduced special guest, Dr. Carl Cohn, Superintendent of the San Diego Unified School District. Dr. Cohn spoke about his background and early observations about issues within the district and some general future plans.

After Dr. Cohn answered various questions and was thanked for attending, Jamie Ginsberg requested three readers for the minutes. Thank you to Patti Nussbaum, Sheila Dershowitz and Madelyn Bennett.

President's Report –Jamie Ginsberg passed out principal evaluation surveys and explained that our Instructional Autonomy agreement allows for the process of evaluating the principal. Members are asked to return the survey by May 9.

She announced that our unit is eligible for a PTA National Achievement Award for parent involvement and membership growth.

She announced an upcoming community forum on education with Dede Alpert.

Our unit will be receiving various recognitions at the upcoming 9th District PTA dinner on May 22nd. Anyone interested in attending is encouraged to contact Jamie.

LJHS Spanish teacher, Tim Rush, recently passed away. He was an exceptional teacher, and will be sorely missed.

An envelope was passed asking for donations toward Grad Nite and After Prom. Any amount will be gratefully accepted.

Treasurer's Report –Amy Cheshire gave a financial update. Susanna Flaster moved to ratify the checks that have been recently written. The motion was seconded and carried.

Amy noted that we have currently given \$5,000 of the \$20,000 allocated by PTA toward teacher stations.

Historian – Venzel Hammershaimb encouraged everyone to record their volunteer hours and noted that we had over 5,300 volunteer hours this year.

Membership –Bee Mittermiller reported that the final count for the year is 1,029 members, up from approximately 600 members last year. Membership is closed as of March 31, so we can now begin working on membership for next year.

Governance – Liz Lindenfeld read the Governance report. Issues discussed at the last meeting including scheduling, GATE Model B, part-time teachers, bell schedule, inconsistent extra credit and “the state of the department” of the foreign language department. There will be two more meetings this year and all parents are welcome to attend.

Library Volunteers – Jill Ayling stressed the need for library volunteers to help check in text books on June 15, 16, 19 and 20. Carla Mercer is taking over as Library Liaison. Students can earn community service hours for helping.

Parent Prep – College Prep Parent Panel will be held May 24. Parents are encouraged to attend and learn about the college application process from the parents' standpoint.

SAT Prep Classes – Sheila Dershowitz wanted to alert parents to a date change for the summer session. Classes will take place August 7 – 22. Spaces fill up, and anyone interested in attending should contact Sheila.

VEEP – Isabel Vega was introduced and noted that VEEP parents will be volunteering for registration. She mentioned the need for VEEP parents to attend orientation as there is a need for participation and support from the VEEP community. Diana Sonderegger spoke briefly and mentioned her position with the Transportation Safety Board, and suggested that parents and students traveling over the summer by air, should check on TSA.gov

for airline safety guidelines.

GATE – There was a parent meeting on April 27 with the main topic being teacher allocations for seminar and possible change of 20:1 ratio to allow more participation in the seminar program.

Foundation – Tony Farwell spoke and told about the grant received from Las Patronas for \$14,000 - \$12,000 of which has already been spent on teacher stations.

A replacement company has been found to repair and service the security cameras, and the hope is that they will be operational by the fall.

The Foundation will be sponsoring a fall event on the last day of the Del Mar Races. Anyone interested in joining the fun in the skyboxes should contact Tony.

Escrip raised \$664 in January, and if we could add just 100 participants, we could raise \$1,500 - \$2,000 per month. It is a no-cost fundraiser, and anyone interested in joining should contact Alicia Booth.

Off the Wall – Cyndi Haskett is volunteer coordinator and volunteers are still needed. We have already secured \$170,000 in underwriting, and extra tables have been added. Contact Bee Mittermiller if you need tickets.

Legislation – Mary Fisher had no report.

Band Update – Mary Fisher noted that band concert is May 31 at 6:30 in the auditorium.

Registration – Elizabeth Allan reported that preparations are well underway for fall registration, and she is working with volunteers who are going to take over for her in the future.

Grade Level Reports –

12th Grade – Candace Person reported that it has been a great senior year and thanked parents of seniors for their work. Angie Preisendorfer reported that the After Prom will run from midnight until 3:00 a.m. with the theme “Hollywood After Hours”. Transportation will be provided from the Prom to the After Prom. Forms and information are online and underwriting donations are needed. Linda Rutgard will chair the event in 2007. Grad Nite will take place at Knotts’ Berry Farm and chaperone sign-ups were passed around. Students (and chaperones) will return around 2:00 a.m. Help is also needed for ticket sales May 31 – June 8. Please contact Candace if you can help.

11th Grade – Liz Lindenfeld reported that the junior class traditionally helps with the graduation tea, and baked goods and ice are needed. There will be a coffee cart, and donations to underwrite it are appreciated. Students should know that the final date to sign up for June 3 SATs and ACT is May 10.

There was no report from the 9th or 10th grades.

Announcements –

Patti Nussbaum announced that there are DVD’s available for Airband, Cabaret and the Talent Show at a cost of \$15.00.

Lockers need to be emptied by 3:00 p.m. Friday of finals week. Locker clean-out will happen after that and volunteers are needed to help. Please contact Candy Satterlee if you can help.

Tony Farwell, on behalf of the Foundation, thanked the parents of the PTA for their support.

Principal’s Report –

- Dana Shelburne discussed the Newsweek magazine in its article on “100 Top High Schools”, noting their flawed criteria for identifying top schools.
- AP testing is currently taking place. LJHS administers approximately 1,100 tests. Testing continues with CSTs, and he explained that these scores help determine the school’s API score which is a component of our Instructional Autonomy Agreement.
- Seniors have many activities coming up, and students need to keep their citizenship grades up in order to participate. Board policy states that students must maintain a 2.0 citizenship average in order to walk in graduation.

- Summer school will be offered at LJHS, with some science courses and some English and math remediation courses for students who have failed during the school year.
- Both students and faculty are to be commended on their behavior in the face of the untimely death of Spanish teacher, Tim Rush. The Crisis Team from the District was on campus and they were very complimentary of our staff. A memorial service was arranged in the big gym, with students and teachers speaking. Mrs. Savoia, who is out on maternity leave, has been coming in (with her baby) to help AP Spanish students. Next year we will be looking for an AP Spanish teacher with experience.
- There is one student not graduating due to failure to pass the High School Exit Exam.
- Math issues – there are an increasing number of students receiving D's and F's in pre-calc, geometry and algebra. Students in regular level classes who receive D's and F's are required to retake the class in summer school. Parents commented that there were problems in Honors Pre-Calc this year as well. Mr. Shelburne indicated he was aware of the problems and that staffing changes are being made for next year. He discussed the process of firing teachers. They get monitored for three years and if there is no improvement, they can be dismissed.
- LMC Teacher, Steve Grant, spoke and asked for parent volunteers to help with text book check-in. June 23-24 will be late check-in and overdue notices will be sent out after that. Parents are urged to encourage students to return books on time or early in order to skirt long check-in lines. Budget cuts mandate shorter library hours next year with the library assistant position cut.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:35 a.m.
Minutes submitted by Linda Dowley, Recording Secretary