

**LA JOLLA HIGH SCHOOL PTA
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
March 2, 2007**

The meeting was called to order at 7:45 am by Bee Mittermiller.

President's Report - Bee expressed a special welcome to those who do not usually attend and were able to come today due to the earlier time. She announced the following:

- College Expo at Pt. Loma Nazarene University, Saturday, April 28, 2007
- Email from SDCS reminding parents about their responsibilities and penalties for parties w/alcohol or smoking
- Parents have spoken to Bee about increased cheating at school. She met w/Dana and presented a list of forms of cheating and possible solutions. Dana wants to know about any cheating parents may be aware of. Discussion of possible causes:
 - Poor instruction (Bee encouraged people to attend governance meetings where this may be addressed). Questions re: procedures for dealing with teachers who are not up to par.
 - Pressure to take AP classes encourages cheating when students are in over their heads. Recommendation made to attend Parent Visitation Day, March 14 to see quality of instruction for ourselves.
 - Feeling expressed that when parents express concern, excuses are made for teachers; seems problem of poor teaching are ignored.

Bee asked for 3 volunteers to read the minutes. Thanks to Linda Dowley, Madelyn Bennett, Pam Zuckerman.

Treasurer's Report –Sarah Schrier presented treasurer's report. A motion to ratify recent checks and approve the report was seconded and carried. (Note: the actual report is filed with minutes.)

Nominating Committee—Patty Cohen announced the new slate of officers: President-Bee Mittermiller, VP Programs-Tina Greenberg, VP Ways and Means-Micki Olin, VP Membership- Venzel Hammershaimb, VP Membership-Betsy Klene, Corresponding Secretary-Sandra Sloan, Recording Secretary-Michael Briggs, Historian-Pam Zuckerman, Treasurer-Sarah Schrier, Financial Secretary-Anna Marie Cameron, Auditor-Sophia Wong, Parliamentarian-Linda Dowley. Voting will take place in 30 days. Positions still not filled:

1. AP Workshop Chair (1)
2. E-Blast In-Training (1)
Patti Haig will do e-blast for 2007-2008, but need someone Patti can train for 2008-09.
3. Library Tribute Chair (1)
4. Publicity Chair (1)
5. SAT Classes Coordinator (1)
6. Grade Level Reps (11th & 12 grades)

Science Department—Lee Decker, Ocean Science teacher, spoke about National Ocean Sciences Bowl and displayed team's 1st and 2nd place trophies. Funded by Scripps Institution of Oceanography and Birch Aquarium, they won Southern California competitions last 7 years. Students meet 3 days/week at 6:30 a.m. and are going to nationals in Stony Brook, New York.

Parents Aware—Betsy Klene reported that according to police, gangs are 'tagging' La Jolla. Betsy observed graffiti and reported it to Lt. Ahearn who confirmed it as gang writing. When you see graffiti, report it to the graffiti hotline. Take pictures of the graffiti and send to Philip Franchina, pfranchina@pd.sandiego.gov w/ copies of photos to Lt. Ahearn. Mr. Franchina's telephone is 619-515-2749. Betsy also mentioned that 'LH13' written in graffiti is a gang reference.

Programs—Linda Kalkstein shared the following:

- Parent Program on drug use, March 13, 7 p.m., with police and substance abuse/rehab presentations
- presentation

- Principals Chat April 18, 9:30 a.m.
- Parent Prep program, May 24, 6:30 p.m.--4th year we have offered college application process w/ senior parent panel

Ways and Means—Micki Olin presented 3 requests for mini-grants, totally \$988.28:

- \$325.00 for Cathy Zimmer, counselor, for Filemaker Pro software for testing.
- \$350.00 for Henderson/Johnson, music, for TV/DVD/VCR to demonstrate bands and choral groups
- \$313.28 for David Jones, government and history, for books and videos, esp. re: Rowanda genocide

A motion to fund these requests was seconded and carried.

Membership –Betsy Klene announced membership is up to 1,024. Today is final deadline to join PTA for this year.

Historian—Pam Zuckerman reported there were 1,351 volunteer hours in February.

Governance –Michael Briggs announced the next meeting will be Monday, March 5, 2:30 pm. Two teachers will be leaving at end of school year, and Governance will be involved in replacing them. Memorial being constructed for Tim Rush; fund-raising to provide 3 benches.

VEEP – No report

After Prom –Linda Rutgard announced there will be transportation from the Prado to Dave and Buster's for After-Prom, and back to La Jolla HS. She needs chaperones, preferably junior parents. Meeting March 13 at 10am, at Linda's home. Ticket price goes up after April.

GATE—Jamie Ginsberg announced she is trying to get more CPU's for seminar at LJHS, which means more teacher funding.

REGISTRATION-Mary Fee is taking over Registration this year, hoping to repeat last year, because it was so successful. Senior registration will be Friday, August 24, and she needs volunteers.

Grade Level Reports –

12th Grade – Madelyn Bennett reported basketball game March 9th, senior dream team challenging faculty. Prom on June 1st, seniors' tickets are free, but dates from other schools must pay. ASB will begin selling tickets for After-Prom, \$25.00 until April. Grad night June 14th, Thursday before graduation. Friday, June 15, there will be mandatory graduation event at noon. Grad night will be 8:30pm to 7:30am. Still trying to compile pictures for senior video. Commencement June 19th.

11th Grade—Julie Matibag reported that junior class dinner on Sunday night was well-attended. Money donated to Maggie Walsh's foundation.

10th Grade— Pam Zuckerman announced a bake sale today and showed sweatshirts for sale, with every sophomore's name.

9th Grade—Bee reported 9th grade will have a bake sale on Friday, March 9th and will be selling shorts in the spring w /2010.

Foundation—Susan Patterson encouraged people to attend the Scarlet and Black ball on April 28 at La Jolla Hyatt, and solicited donations for silent or live auction.

La Jolla YMCA—Christy Wagnon, Teen Coordinator, announced variety of activities for teens:

- College tour April 2-6, to USC, UCLA, Berkeley, UC Santa Cruz, San Francisco State, UCSB
- Teen Camp during vacation, phone 858-453-3483
- Youth in Government Program which goes to Sacramento.
- Spring camp
- Model UN

- Monthly surf competition

Announcements –

- Senior exhibitions are almost finished, one more day has been added, March 13.
- SOS (Save Our Sisters) fund raising dinner March 25th to benefit building girls' school in Africa. Contact Sophie Tuttleman.

Principal's Report –

- Dana commended Lee Decker for Ocean Science Bowl success.
- Mock Trial also won regionals and will be going to nationals.
- Martin Teachworth entered competition for car design and won \$2,500 local award, now has won nationals and received \$15,000 award
- As result of being seen at Stars in Your Eyes, the jazz band got to meet international jazz greats, who provided 1:1 instruction and then played with the students. This will happen again next year.
- Rotary speech contest took place recently, just for LJHS students.
- Flagpole has been raised at Muirlands, and a plaque will be provided. Superintendent came to toss the first ball.
- Foundation has provided lights w/sensors so faces can now be seen after dark.
- Packet for SPARK award for counseling dept. was delivered yesterday.
- Blue slips—concern that these be reserved for medical appointments; great number of calls coming in for no good reason.

Questions:

- What would you recommend to parents re: putting a complaint on record about a teacher? Dana said any written complaint must be shared with teacher, second time it can go into the file, but teacher has right to rebut. If parents want to come in and talk about it, parents can certainly do so with principal or vice principals, but nothing can go into file without sharing with teacher.
- Teacher observations? How often does this happen? Bev and Walter do so more often than principal. Dana said this often gets pushed off calendars due to time constraints.
- Requirement for administrators to observe teachers? No.
- School ignores parents when there is a complaint about the teacher. Dana said parents' complaints are not ignored.
- The common perception among parents is that nothing will happen or there will be repercussions. Would you speak to the teacher and respect parents' anonymity, if 3 or 4 parents complain about the same teacher? Dana would like parents to put their names on complaints, but could maintain their anonymity if they wish.
- What are mechanisms for holding teachers' accountable? Need an approach that would improve the accountability and would be more positive. What about student evaluations?
- You can do sub-standard work here all the time, and be confident you have a job? Yes.
- Stealing on campus—what is being done about instances of stealing, including textbooks, not only technology, including stealing from backpacks? Dana said girls in locker room leave things unlocked. Attendant reminds them daily to lock their things up.

Additional Announcement--DVD's are now available of Holiday Concert, 2007, Airband and *The Importance of Being Ernest*.

With no further questions or announcements, the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Minutes submitted by Sheila Dershowitz, Recording Secretary