

**LA JOLLA HIGH SCHOOL PTA
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
September 7, 2007**

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 am by Bee Mittermiller.

President's Report - Bee announced the following:

- Volunteer sign-up sheets for many of the PTA activities during the new school year were posted at the front of the room. Volunteers would be contacted again prior to the events with a reminder and explanation of their duties.
- Mary Fee, Registration Chairperson, sent her regrets that she could not attend the meeting. She also expressed her gratitude for all of the work performed by volunteers during registration. Bee distributed feedback forms to registration volunteers and requested their feedback. Bee announced that the PTA is looking for a Registration Co-Chairperson for next year.
- Andrea Feinswog, Chairperson of the RAFT Committee, sent her regrets that she could not attend the meeting. Bee explained that the RAFT Committee, formed to aid families and individuals in the LJHS community who lost loved ones or suffered from serious illnesses, had helped LJHS aide Laura Lynn during the 2006-2007 school year when her cancer treatment involved chemotherapy. Bee announced that a new Chairperson was needed because Andrea no longer had a child at LJHS.
- Bee announced that clubs sign-up day at LJHS would be held on September 12, 2007. She explained that parents should encourage their children to investigate and sign-up for clubs of interest in order to be more involved with LJHS.
- Bee explained that a roster of the PTA Board members was being circulated during the meeting in order to check the accuracy of the information.
- Bee asked for 3 volunteers to read the minutes. Thanks to volunteers Teri Newlee, Linda Dowley and Cheryl McCarthy.

Treasurer's Report –Sarah Schrier presented the Treasurer's Report, including a schedule of 2006-2007 budget to actual amounts, the proposed 2007-2008 budget and a schedule of the income and expenses for the period of July 1, 2007 – August 31, 2007. Sarah explained that some budgeted expenses for 2006-2007 were taken as a reserve for the new school year since invoices had not been received by June 30, 2007. A motion to approve the Treasurer's Report was seconded and carried. (Note: the actual report is filed with minutes.)

Audit Report – Sophia Wong announced that she had examined the books of the LJHS PTA and found that they were correct and accurate. A motion to approve the Audit Report was seconded and carried.

Programs – Tina Greenberg reported that Principal's Chat sessions were scheduled as follows:

- October 18, 2007 at the La Jolla Methodist Church
- January 21, 2008 at Tina Greenberg's home
- April, 2008 at a location to be announced

Ways and Means—Micki Olin presented the following requests for mini-grants:

- \$200.00 for English Department, for computer software in order for students to research colleges and make designations on their PSAT forms.
- \$100.00 for Georgina Lyon for a boom-box for the Cheer squad.

A motion to approve the mini-grant requests was seconded and carried.

Micki explained that the PTA budget contained \$10,000 for mini-grants during the school year.

Membership – Betsy Klene and Venzel Hammershaimb thanked attendees for joining the LJHS PTA and announced that 936 members had joined. They encouraged parents, grandparents, community members and teachers to also join. Venzel announced that PTA cards were available that whenever purchases were made at Office Depot, a contribution would be made to the LJHS Foundation.

Historian – Pam Zuckerman explained that her job duties as Historian were to collect and record the volunteer time expended on behalf of the LJHS PTA activities. She indicated that volunteer hours could be submitted on the clipboard or via e-mail. Pam announced that last year's volunteer hours amounted to 9,477!

Welcome to LJHS Dinner (formerly known as the Grade Level Dinners) – Pam Zuckerman announced that the former format of two nights on dinners was changed to a single dinner for all LJHS parents regardless of grade level on September 18, 2007 this year. She indicated that Contemporary Catering would again provide an excellent meal and various administration and student leaders as well as volunteer organizations would provide brief welcome speeches. In addition, Anne Peterson would again be making beautiful centerpieces for the tables.

Blast Off! – Co-Chairperson Gabrielle Goodman began the report by thanking Co-Chairperson Barb Ouellette for the excellent press release that was carried in the local newspaper announcing the 2007 Blast Off at LJHS. Barb explained that Blast Off is an annual event for all students, faculty, administration, parents and community to celebrate the start of school at a home football game with lots of giveaways for students who come dressed in class colors as a friendly and spirited competition. They said that volunteers will be selling Mexican food, LJHS socks and ice cream.

Family Directory – Candy Satterlee announced that the deadline for entering family contact data into the LJHS family directory is September 30, 2007. Parents must authorize release of the information by signing at the bottom of the form. After that date, the directory will be published. Candy indicated that she is seeking a Co-Chairperson to learn the job and assume responsibility for the Family Directory in the future.

Lockers – Candy Satterlee announced that every LJHS student who wanted a locker has received one. The addition of 130 new lockers last year ensured that every LJHS student can have a locker. She said that she is searching for a person to assume responsibility for the lockers in the future, too.

E-Blaster – Dianna Hoff introduced herself as the new person who will be sending the broadcast e-mails to interested persons containing information about upcoming LJHS events.

Library Liaison – Dianna Hoff also stated that she is the person handling the Library Liaison duties this year. She said that due to a low library budget she is seeking volunteers to work in the

library before school, during lunch or after school on a regular basis. She thanked the volunteers who assisted with textbook checkout during registration.

Library Tribute – Gillian Moss announced that she distributed orange colored sheets of paper for completion by anyone who desired to make a library tribute donation because the LJHS budget for new books for the library is almost zero. She indicated that library tributes are also a good way for family members, friends and community members to support LJHS.

La Jolla Moneybooks – Pam Smith introduced herself and announced that La Jolla Moneybooks that provide savings and free items at restaurants and local stores are available for only \$20.

Hospitality – Because Mindy Wing and Alicia Richmond were unable to attend the meeting, Bee explained that their group handles refreshments for a number of different events throughout the school year. Upcoming events include the holiday breakfast for teachers in December and the Science Department's Bi-Annual Open House.

Advanced Placement Workshop – Anne Howard explained that the AP Workshop is hosted by LJHS as an event where teachers from across the U.S. come to prepare to teach Advance Placement classes, and the College Board pays the school to host the event and provide breakfast and lunch to attendees. The event is the single-largest fundraiser for the LJHS PTA. The event will be held on Saturday, October 13, 2007, so volunteers are needed the day before to procure the food, and then two shifts of workers on the day of the event. Ellen Sacks, the volunteer coordinator, announced that she distributed sign-up sheets on all of the tables for convenience.

Governance – Linda Dowley explained that the LJHS Governance Committee is a shared decision-making body at LJHS that determines issues important to the school and is comprised of administration, faculty, staff, parents and a LJHS Foundation representative. She announced that the PTA parent representatives for the upcoming year are herself, Michael Briggs, Bee Mittermiller, Betsy Klene and Pam Zuckerman. She stated that the meetings are open to parents, and that the first meeting will be held on Monday, September 10, 2007, at 2:30 pm in Room 304.

Reflections – Bee explained that Reflections is a national PTA program that provides recognition for achievements in the fine arts through an annual competition. She stated that Paula Colarusso is the Chairperson for that activity this year.

VEEP Reps – Diane Sonderegger announced that she had replaced Manuel Gonzalez as a VEEP representative with Isabel Vega, and encouraged all parents to model the behavior that they want their children to adopt regarding integration.

CPR – Laura Wheeler introduced herself as Chairperson for the HeartSaver CPR Program, which will be provided again to all sophomores at LJHS in January 2008, for the fourth year. The dates will be announced in the future. The CPR class is led by Maggie Mulkins or another PE teacher and the parents provide assistance.

Health and Safety Liaison – Patty Cohen introduced herself as the Health and Safety Liaison, who encourages and arranges support for the school nurse. It was announced that Nurse Lisa has a list of needed items on the LJHS web site if people desire to donate them.

GATE/DAC – Linda Dowley explained that Melanie Gold is the LJHS representative to the SDUSD District Advisory Council (DAC), which handles Gifted and Talented Education

(GATE) and seminar programs. The DAC is a group of parents from each school in the SDUSD that meets monthly with district administrators from the GATE office. She indicated that those programs have triennial reviews, with the Seminar Program having been reviewed during the past year. Any changes in the programs affecting LJHS will be announced. Linda announced that on October 4, 2007, from 2:30 – 4:00 pm, a Seminar Open House will be held at LJHS. Further, a GATE meeting will be held in the fall and another one in the spring at dates to be announced.

Legislation – Clair Coon introduced herself as the new person who will provide updates on legislation affected schools, students and families. She indicated that the national and state PTA web sites have links to issues regarding pending legislation.

Grade Level Reports –

12th Grade – Betsy Klene reported for Jan Tuttleman as follows:

- Thank you to all the parents who volunteered to work in the snack shack during the fall football season.
- A Senior Parent Fundraising Dinner will be held on November 4, 2007, at 6:00 pm, at the Tuttleman residence.
- The Senior Prom will be held early this year: May 16, 2008.
Grad night will be held at Disneyland again in June 2008, although the event will not be sponsored by the LJHS PTA this year. Cheryl McCarty will be the Chairperson for that event.
- A senior parent counseling information night will be held immediately prior to the Welcome Back Dinner on September 18, 2007, for one hour covering the college application process.
- Lunch workshops to assist senior students in the college application process, including resume writing, essay writing and financial aid will be offered in Mr. Mika's room.

11th Grade – Jan Gloven reported that preparations are being made for the junior class activities. She encouraged parents of junior students to look for the test dates on the LJHS web site.

10th Grade – Tina Greenberg reported that preparations are being made for sophomore class activities, including the homecoming float.

9th Grade – Patty Cohen reported that preparations are being made for freshman class activities.

Foundation – Jackie Helm introduced herself as the President of the LJHS Foundation. She reported as follows:

- Thanks to the PTA and its members for the invaluable help provided to the LJHS Foundation.
- The Board of the Foundation was busy during the summer and sent sport support letters to athletes in the fall sports.
- The La Jolla Design District / “What’s Up Girard?” will be held with silent auctions all week long with proceeds going to the LJHS Foundation. Jackie read a list of participating merchants.
- Taste of La Jolla will be held on Monday, October 15, 2007. Volunteers will be needed on that evening. So far, approximately 20 restaurants enlisted to have their sample dishes included.
- A newsletter from the LJHS Foundation will be sent by the end of September 2007.
- LJHS Foundation meetings are held monthly at 7:00 am on a Wednesday. The next meeting is on September 12, 2007, and all parents are invited.

La Jolla Aquatic Complex Foundation – Ann Woods gave the report for Gary Felt due to his travels to the University of Michigan. Ann announced that the annual Splashbash, which is the only fundraiser for the pool in order to cover its operating budget deficit, will be held on Sunday,

October 7, 2007, with a \$5 admission and all the food, ice cream and games included. In addition, swimmers collect pledges and swim laps in order to raise additional funds for the pool.

Additional Announcements:

Allison Marsh and Lena Rothstein, student editors of the LJHS student newspaper called the Hi-Tide, addressed the meeting and sold subscriptions at the rate of \$25 per year.

In response to a question, Bee Mittermiller explained that “ASB” stands for “Associated Student Body,” which is the group of student-elected leaders and volunteers who sponsor activities and raise money for the high school.

Principal’s Report –

- Principal Dana Shelburne thanked the PTA and the volunteers for doing an excellent job at LJHS registration, noting that the efforts facilitating registration allows students to start classes on the first day of school rather than be engaged in registration and textbook issuance for up to two weeks as is the case at some high schools. He noted that LJHS does not have enough personnel to handle early registration on its own and also conduct all the meetings that are necessary at the start of the school year.
- Dana also thanked the PTA for hosting the faculty luncheon prior to the start of school.
- He announced that LJHS earned a score of 829 on the annual Academic Performance Index (API) established by the California Department of Education. The previous year’s score was 812, and 800 is the score to which all schools aspire, but LJHS is the only high school within San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD) that attained it.
- In the federal benchmark for Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), which consists of 18 items, LJHS received a “yes” rating on all 18.
- Beth Behnke, Director of Guidance for LJHS, informed Dana that LJHS has 16 National Merit Semi-finalists in the senior class based upon their PSAT scores. The other SDUSD high schools have 15 in total.
- Dana requested cooperation from parents in three areas:
 - Clean campus. A new emphasis is being placed on litter cleanup on campus. ASB as well as Link-Crew leaders were asked to take personal responsibility in cleaning up their own trash as well as a piece or two of litter during lunch period in order to set good examples. The results during the first few days of school have been positive and the campus is much cleaner. Parents were asked to request that their students use a trash can for all of their rubbish during lunch.
 - Dress code. On the subject of dress code enforcement, Dana explained that students were again being reminded of the LJHS dress code rules, including no spaghetti straps, no bare midriffs and no ultra-short skirts or shorts. He cautioned parents that some students leave home appropriately attired, but shed layers of clothing before arriving at school with the result being unacceptable clothing. He explained the three step process of discipline for dress code violations: Incident 1, students are given clean PE shirt or sweat pants to wear during that day; Incident 2, parents bring appropriate clothing to school for the student to wear; and Incident 3, suspension from school. In response to a question, Dana noted that boys are subject to the same disciplinary treatment, especially in regards to inappropriately sagging pants. Attention was called to a sign in the cafeteria indicating that no “hats, hoods or headgear” could be worn inside classrooms and buildings.
 - Ipod problems. Dana discussed the issue of lost and stolen ipod players on campus, and the time consumed by administration personnel in trying to retrieve them, which rarely occurs. He is asking students to keep ipods and valuables at

home if not needed at school, and if taken to school please keep them put away and secure. He explained that for students who need to bring large sums of cash to school, the main office will hold the money for the student during the school day.

Questions for Principal Dana Shelburne:

- What is the LJHS body piercing policy? Dana explained that it is primarily a parental issue unless the body piercing is disruptive to class. He suggested that similar to students who sometimes dye their hair in vivid colors, it is often best to ignore it, not give undue attention and the behavior will pass. He said that at least one student was required to remove excessive body piercings on his face this year. He also noted that LJHS does not allow heavy chains on wallets or spikes on belts.
- Penalties for theft on campus? If caught stealing, the student will be suspended pursuant to the policy of the SDUSD Board of Education. If the theft is a possible crime, LJHS will call the police, but the victim will need to press charges. Dana indicated that rules of behavior are contained in the LJHS information packet that the students read and sign at the beginning of the school year.
- What were the AP examinations passage rates at LJHS? Using the AP Qualifying Rate formula (number of scores of 3, 4 or 5 divided by the sum of junior and senior students), LJHS consistently has a score of 1.12 – 1.15, which is superior to other schools. Anonymous AP test result data is available to parents.
- Timing of senior class ranking? SDUSD issues the senior class rankings and all transcripts, and LJHS has consistently pressed the school district to expedite the work in those areas because of the impact on students. Dana expressed the hope that school district leaders might be ready to transfer those activities to individual school sites, which would be of benefit to LJHS students.
- Safety and access to campus? What is the schedule for the drugs-sniffing dog this year?
 - The LJHS surveillance camera system is working well. In fact, a student with unacceptable behavior was tracked yesterday using the camera system.
 - The drugs-sniffing dog will visit the campus between 10-12 times during the school year. Last year, 1 student was apprehended for possession and 1 student was discovered under the influence as a result of a visit by the dog.
 - A new life skills counselor is on campus two days per week this year.
 - LJHS has the same San Diego Police Department liaison.
 - LJHS has one campus security guard who monitors activities on campus, including visitors, using an electric cart.
- What is the procedure for issuing ASB cards prior to sports try-outs? Students who complete their physical examinations at the LJHS-sponsored event in June were given a receipt if they paid for their ASB cards at the same time, but those receipts could be redeemed at the LJHS main office during the week prior to sports try-outs. Next year, a better job of communicating the need to redeem the receipts will be done.
- Why were some PE students penalized on Tuesday for failing to wear official PE clothing despite the fact that no PE clothing was being sold? Dana promised to look into that situation. (Action item for follow up at next meeting.)
- Will LJHS continue to offer the parental promissory notes as party hosts? Bee will investigate the status of the “Parents Aware” program. She asked for interested parents to send her an e-mail message. (Action item for follow up at next meeting.)
- On a similar topic, Dana repeated his annual warning to parents to listen for talk by female students about joining a local group called “Mademoiselles.” He explained that young women are invited to join a type of sorority with disgusting initiation proceedings.

He said that he has received fewer calls about the group in recent years, and expressed the hope that the group is becoming inactive.

- When will the library be open for student use? The library will be open beginning on Monday to permit time to move all the unissued textbooks off the floor.
- In response to a question about student success in Geometry classes during the past year, Dana said that the Geometry pass rate is available from his office. He said that any class with a high level of 'no pass' is examined for problem-solving, although STAR results on Geometry proficiency don't always correlate with grades because some talented test takers do not complete homework and other assignments upon which the class grade is based. In addition, Dana noted that the STAR test scores in Algebra improved during the past few years for LJHS students.

With no further questions or announcements, the meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Minutes submitted by Michael Briggs, Recording Secretary