

**LA JOLLA HIGH SCHOOL PTA
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
October 5, 2007**

The meeting was called to order at 7:45 am by Betsy Klene.

President's Report – Substituting for Bee Mittermiller, Betsy announced the following:

- After noting the earlier-than-normal starting time for the meeting, Betsy asked for a show of hands for attendees who would not have attended had the meeting been held at the traditional time of 9:00 am. There were a significant number of hands raised by attendees.
- Betsy indicated that Bee's father died on Monday, October 1st, and that cards were being circulated for signatures by attendees. The cards would then be mailed to Bee and her family. Betsy explained that Bee requested donations to the LJHS library tribute fund in lieu of flowers. An envelope was circulated in order to accept donations.
- Cheryl McCarthy, Linda Dowley and Sudata Debchaudhury volunteered to read and comment upon the draft version of the minutes from this meeting.
- As a follow up item from last month's PTA meeting, Betsy explained that the Parents Aware item was being continued by the LJHS PTA, and that an upcoming PTA newsletter will contain information about parents' promising to keep drug- and alcohol-free the parties that they host for LJHS students.
- Betsy reported that Gillian Moss was unable to attend the meeting, but sent encouragement for people to donate to the library tribute fund.
- Betsy circulated a 'thank you' note received from Ms. Carole LeCren for the PTA's sponsorship of the beginning of school luncheon.
- Betsy reminded attendees that enrollment in eScrip was easy, and money spent at Von's and other stores would mean donations to the LJHS Foundation.
- Finally, Betsy indicated that Art Northrop, former head counselor at LJHS, learned of a foreign exchange student from China who is unhappy with her host family and the long commute to high school. If a LJHS family wants to accept this foreign exchange student, she can attend LJHS.

Treasurer's Report – Sarah Schrier presented the Treasurer's Report, including a schedule of 2006-2007 budget to actual amounts and itemized journal entries, all included in the PTA's 2007-2008 budget. Finally, she displayed the table showing interest earned in the PTA savings account. A motion to approve the Treasurer's Report and ratify the checks that were written was seconded and carried. (Note: the actual report is filed with minutes.) Sarah explained that in instances where the high school paid for an expense that was later approved for payment by the PTA (or where PTA is partially paying the total cost), the check is written to LJHS.

ASB President Report – ASB President Whitney Wing explained some of the activities surrounding homecoming, which comes in two weeks, and asked for assistance from parents in building floats that will be displayed at half-time of the homecoming football game. She expressed her appreciation for all of the work of the PTA and volunteers that made Blast-Off! a huge success. Whitney mentioned the SplashBash fund-raiser at the swimming pool on Sunday, October 7, the ASB-provided spirit bus to carry students to the away football game at Lincoln High School for the charge of \$7, and upcoming events such as the canned food drive in December, and Airband in January 2008.

Muirlands Middle School Foundation – Betsy welcomed Wendy Neri, President of the Muirlands Middle School Foundation in order to discuss the “Turf It” fundraising at Muirlands Middle School for the purpose of installing an artificial surface in place of the field whose condition has deteriorated and is causing injuries to students. At present, the MMS Foundation is seeking volunteers with grant-writing experience in order to apply for more funding. Wendy indicated that anyone with ideas is welcome. The “Turf It” project requires \$1.2 million and \$0.2 million has been received to date. Donor forms are available in the LJHS main office. An article will be included in an upcoming LJHS PTA newsletter.

Newsletter – Betsy recognized Jane Pulliam, editor of the LJHS PTA newsletter. Jane announced that newsletter articles are due on November 3, 2007, and she encouraged anyone submitting an article to use the web-based e-mail address: newsletter@lajollahighpta.org. Jane explained that incompatible software caused the substitution of a capital letter K for each exclamation mark in the current newsletter. Jane explained that the problem has been corrected.

Programs – Tina Greenberg reported that the school year’s first Principal’s Chat will be held on October 18, 2007, at 7:45 am, at the La Jolla Methodist Church, and that a host is needed for the Principal’s Chat planned for Spring 2008. In addition, she queried attendees for feedback on using Phoenix House as a presenter at the PTA’s drug program. The comments she received were favorable.

Membership – Venzel Hammershaimb thanked attendees for joining the LJHS PTA and announced that 977 members had joined, which was in line with the planned budget. Venzel indicated that memberships were still being accepted, and that the faculty at LJHS would be solicited in the near future. In addition, Venzel offered to provide a membership card to any member who had not received one.

Historian – Pam Zuckerman displayed the Volunteers Hours Form placed on a clipboard for people to record their hours spent volunteering for LJHS and PTA activities. She explained that tracking volunteer hours was important because it helps the LJHS PTA maintain its not-for-profit status. So far, approximately 8,000 volunteer hours have been recorded in the current school year!

Blast Off! – Co-Chairperson Gabrielle Goodman proclaimed a big “thank you” to all of the volunteers who made Blast Off! so successful. Attendance at the LJHS football games set a record with 2,174 paid attendance. She announced that volunteers’ names were listed in the newsletter, but that the family of Isabel Vega was accidentally not included. Gabrielle said that the assistance of the Vega family a key to the success this year. Gabrielle indicated that Vanessa Ratleff will be taking the lead as chairperson next year. Sarah Schrier announced that Blast Off! resulted in net revenues of approximately \$4,000.

Family Directory – In the absence of Candy Satterlee, Betsy announced that the LJHS family directory had been mailed to subscribers.

Advanced Placement Workshop – Anne Howard announced that approximately 400 advanced placement teachers from various locations in the U.S. would attend the AP Workshop hosted by LJHS on October 13, 2007, a week from Saturday. She stated that volunteers are needed in order to procure food, set up on the day before the event, and then two shifts of workers on the day of the event. Sarah Schrier stated that the AP Workshop produces about \$4,000 in profit for the PTA.

Governance – Michael Briggs introduced himself as the chairperson of the LJHS Governance Committee, which is a shared decision-making body at LJHS that determines issues important to the school and is comprised of administration, students, faculty, staff, parents and a LJHS Foundation representative. He announced that the Governance Committee had recently considered four topics of interest: (1) the parent complaint resolution process, which was approved and will be posted on the LJHS web site and described in an upcoming newsletter; (2) legacy performance of LJHS students on the many standardized tests, including the California Standards Tests and Advanced Placement tests in order to determine what steps can be taken to improve the academic performance of all LJHS students; (3) an extension of last year’s culture of civil values into “Modeling Respectful Behavior,” which is a subcommittee headed by Pam Zuckerman; and (4) the decline in participation in the LJHS band and choral programs. Discussion ensued about the band and choral programs and some possible root causes based upon decisions by the administration of Muirlands Middle School. Attendees were informed that Betsy Klene and Linda Dowley were taking lead roles in addressing the situation, and that they welcomed the input and assistance of others. He stated that the meetings are open to parents, and that the next meeting will be held on Monday, November 5, 2007, at 2:30 pm in Room 302.

Ways and Means—Micki Olin began by indicating that many of the recipients of mini-grants from the LJHS PTA send notes of appreciation, and she read a note from Melanie Menders, mathematics teacher who received a mini-grant last year. Micki then presented the following requests for mini-grants:

- \$350.00 for Ms. Bertier, Chemistry teacher, to replace broken hot plates for use in Chemistry classes, which will benefit 150 students.
- \$350.00 for Ms. Behnke, Director of Guidance in the Counseling Center at LJHS, in order to purchase more Cal-Soap college information folders so that each of the 366 senior students can benefit from the contents.

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.

VEEP Reps –Isabel Vega, VEEP representative, indicated that two or three Principal Chat sessions are being planned for VEEP parents, and she asked that any donations of food, school supplies or other items for raffles be given to Mr. Fairley, Vice Principal.

GATE/DAC – Melanie Gold, the LJHS representative to the SDUSD District Advisory Council (DAC), which handles Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) and seminar programs, announced that a parents meeting will be held in November in order to discuss the purposes of the Seminar and GATE programs at LJHS.

Legislation – Although unable to attend, Clair Coon notified Betsy that there was no update on legislation affecting parents.

Grade Level Reports –

12th Grade –Jan Tuttleman reported as follows:

- Thank you to all the parents who worked as volunteers.
- Application deadline for the University of California is approaching.
- A Senior Parent Fundraising Dinner will be held on November 4, 2007, at 5:00 pm, at the Tuttleman residence. Further information will be contained in an e-blast. All parents of

senior students are invited. Donations for a silent auction and raffle are being accepted in order to reduce dues for the senior class.

- Volunteers are needed to work on the senior class float for the homecoming football game.
- Senior class t-shirts are available for purchase.
- Personalized yearbook pages are due soon.
- The senior class DVD is being compiled, and parents should submit photographs to Micki Olin. Please send printed photographs, not digital photos. David Olson at Legacy Video will be the producer.
- The Senior Prom will be held early this year: May 16, 2008, but there will be no after-prom party sponsored by the PTA or the senior class.
- Grad night will be held at Disneyland again in June 2008.

11th, 10th and 9th Grades – Classes are working on their class floats for the homecoming football game.

Cheryl McCarthy asked about the traditional luncheon held with parent grade representatives and ASB officers. Patty Cohen and Cheryl will talk to Ms. Dill about scheduling the luncheon.

Foundation – Cyndi Haskett introduced herself as the representative of the LJHS Foundation. She reported as follows:

- Taste of La Jolla will be held on Monday, October 15, 2007. So far, approximately 24 restaurants enlisted to have their sample dishes included. The Foundation plans to net approximately \$24,000 at this event to support LJHS. Student-volunteers from the InterAct Club will be helping. In addition, items will be raffled at an after-party at Zenbu.

Additional Announcements:

Steve Grant, Library Media Teacher, described the improved selection of research databases that are now available for LJHS students, including Gale Student Resource Center, NetTrekker, and Rosen Teen Health & Wellness. He indicated that a new “Logins for LJHS Online Subscription Resources” sheet is available at the front desk of the Library Media Center. Based upon a show of hands indicating interest, Mr. Grant said that he would schedule an evening presentation on the various research resources available.

Principal’s Report –

- Principal Dana Shelburne discussed the upcoming SplashBash! that will be held on Sunday, October 7, and encouraged people to attend.
- As a follow up item from last month’s PTA meeting regarding students who did not wear school-sold clothing on the second day of school (“non-suits”), Dana explained that other, appropriate clothing was accepted until the school-sold clothing was available for purchase.
- Dana publicly thanked the San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD) for paying for improvements to the sound system and data lines that were being installed in Parker Auditorium, at a price of \$130,000. He indicated that repairs were being made to the public address system for the football field. The old amplifier was replaced and speakers were adjusted. He said that the goal was to add more speakers and then reduce the volume, which would make sporting events less noisy for LJHS’ neighbors. The later proposal is being evaluated by the SDUSD.
- Dana explained that as a result of Microsoft Corporation settling a lawsuit, LJHS will be able to spend up to \$87,000 for hardware and non-Microsoft software. The hardware will

include laptop computers and projectors for teacher workstations. The computer software will include presentation software similar to Microsoft PowerPoint. The spending on these items is forecast for February 2008.

- On the subject of blue slips (permitting students to leave campus based upon parent requests), Dana requested that if the need is known in advance (for example, a medical appointment) please call the school early with the request. Because of the large number of last-minute requests, any request to remove a student from school received after 9:30 am on the day of removal must be reviewed and approved by a vice principal.
- Dana reminded attendees that the school's two parking lots are not student drop-off zones, and pulling into those parking lots increases the congestion around the school.
- Dana also described preliminary thinking on possible capital improvements at LJHS, including refurbishing the locker rooms and visitors' bleachers with a new weight room underneath. In addition, a new tennis courts and a new two-story structure with a new boys locker room and coaches offices plus restrooms is contemplated along with a new snack shack.

Questions for Principal Dana Shelburne:

- On the subject of the recent Blast Off! and football games, what is going to be done about the middle school students who attended in order to hang-out, not watch the game? Dana acknowledged the problem and said that it is being addressed by having supervision from Muirlands Middle School who know the students (including counselor Teri Schwarz) paid to attend the games and to supervise.
- A parent voiced concern about parents who use handicapped parking spaces as student drop-off locations. Dana reiterated his request that parents use the curb drop-off zones along Nautilus Street and Draper Avenue (except for the period of 7:00 am until 7:10 am when the school buses are unloading on Draper Avenue).
- Why was only one women's restroom (with only two stalls in the main gymnasium building) open during the recent volleyball tournament? According to the attendee, no additional restrooms were available to teams and visitors because of the professional women's football game held on the same day. Dana responded that there were contractual commitments with the women's professional football team, but that the women's restroom on the lower floor in the 500 building should have been available. He said that he would check with Coach Jones about making additional restrooms available during future volleyball tournaments.
- A parent voiced support for a more dynamic choral and instrumental music program at LJHS. Dana indicated that he was seeking a rejuvenation of the K-12 music program. He noted that high positive correlation between music programs and mathematics scores. He further indicated that he intended to involve SDUSD Visual and Performing Arts Department (VAPA) personnel.

Dana Shelburne offered to stay after the meeting adjourned in order to answer any additional questions.

With no further questions or announcements, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 a.m.

Minutes submitted by Michael Briggs, Recording Secretary