

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

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

President's Report –Bee announced the following:

- Venzel Hammershaimb, Teri Newlee and Pam Zuckerman volunteered to read and comment upon the draft version of the minutes from this meeting.
- Bee expressed her personal thanks for the kind messages and cards that she received after her father's death last month.
- Bee called attention to two articles in the local La Jolla Village News newspaper concerning LJHS Teacher/Coach Ken Davis whose house was destroyed in the Witch Fire in Ramona and the Turf-It campaign at Muirlands Middle School to place an artificial surface on the athletic field.
- LJHS PTA received a Donor Appreciation Certificate from the GO READ Foundation for its support of the program that sends books to needy children in Africa.
- Bee indicated that the 3rd Annual Holiday Luncheon Boutique hosted by Muirlands Middle School will be held soon, and provided details.
- Bee said that Library Tribute Forms for people wanting to make donations for the purchase of LJHS library books were available, and she expressed her thanks for those who made a library tribute in honor of her father.
- Bee reminded attendees that the first academic quarter had been extended by one week due to the school's closure during the recent fires. As a result, quarterly report cards would be sent home with students on November 16, 2007.
- Finally, Bee updated the information concerning a foreign exchange student from China who was unhappy with her host family and the long commute to high school from her Potrero neighborhood, which was affected by the fires. The young lady is now living with an elderly couple in a trailer, and seeks a LJHS family to house her so that 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. Sarah explained that the expense of paying dues to the parent PTA organization was included, but receipt of the AP Workshop funds was not. 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.)

ASB President's Report – ASB President Whitney Wing extended her thanks to everyone who helped make LJHS Homecoming such a wonderful event. She indicated that 757 students attended the Homecoming Dance, and receipts for Homecoming exceeded expenses by approximately \$3,000. Whitney explained some of the upcoming activities, as follows:

- A sock drive will be held, where socks and department store gift cards will be collected and donated to victims of the recent wildfires.
- A canned food drive will again be held during the two-week period prior to the Winter break.

- LJHS clubs will each “adopt” a family through a UCSD program in order to provide gifts for the family prior to the Winter break.
- A seat belt contest will be conducted with Point Loma High School in the spring, with the winner receiving a grant of \$10,000.
- LJHS shirts tailored for women are being ordered and will be placed on sale.

Library/Media Center – Steve Grant, Library Media Teacher, announced that the evening presentation on the various research resources through the LJHS Library-Media Center and the San Diego Public Library that was cancelled due to the fires was rescheduled for Wednesday, November 7, 2007, at 7:00 PM in the LMC.

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

- \$300.00 for a class set of visor goggles, requested by Mr. Tenenbaum in the Science department;
- \$350.00 for a class set of novels: The Plague and Camus, requested by Ms. Visconti in the English department;
- \$135.00 for registration for the CA School Library Association conference in November 2007, requested by Mr. Grant, Library Teacher;
- \$150.00 for a DVD player to allow authentic programming in Spanish, requested by Ms. Marin-Rodriguez in the Foreign Language department;
- \$350.00 for seven Aqua-Jogger belts to help beginner swimmers to feel more comfortable in deep water, requested by Mr. Francis in the P.E. department.

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

Membership – Venzel Hammershaimb thanked attendees for joining the LJHS PTA and announced that 1,017 members had joined, which is very close to the 1,024 members from last school year. Venzel indicated that memberships were still being accepted.

Historian – Pam Zuckerman announced that volunteers should record their volunteer hours either on the Historian’s clipboard or by sending an e-mail.

Advanced Placement Workshop – Anne Howard announced that the Advanced Placement Workshop held last month had over 400 advanced placement teachers in attendance. She thanked the volunteers for all their help, and thanked Sarah Schrier, former chairperson, for the excellent advice and counsel. Anne stated that proceeds should exceed expenses from the event by approximately \$5,300. She indicated that storage space was needed for items until next year, and Bee said that the high school should be able to offer storage space.

CPR Training – Ellen Riordan, CPR Volunteer Coordinator, explained that the CPR program will cover all sophomore students in their P.E. classes in January. More volunteers are needed to assist in the training, which is provided via a DVD with instructions from the P.E. teachers. The program is fully funded by the LJHS PTA and Kaiser Permanente.

VEEP Reps –Although no VEEP representative was present, Bee reminded attendees that any donations of food, school supplies or other items for raffles at the upcoming Principal’s Chat should be given to Mr. Fairley, Vice Principal.

GATE/DAC – Linda Dowley announced that a meeting for parents concerning the Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) program at LJHS will be held on November 15, 2007, from 2:30 –

3:30 PM. Lee Trahan discussed the SDUSD policy changes regarding Seminar Program students no longer being accepted separately as “choice students” outside the cluster of schools where they reside. Lee also described some aspects of the SDUSD search for a new superintendent and public meetings that have been held with the search consultant.

Grade Level Reports –

12th Grade –Betsy Klene reported on behalf of Jan Tuttleman, as follows:

- Thank you to all the parents who worked as volunteers on the Senior Class Homecoming Float, which won first prize.
- Deadline for Senior ads in the LJHS Yearbook was extended due to the recent fires, and parents who have not submitted materials should send an e-mail to Ms. LeCren as soon as possible.
- Application deadline for the University of California is November 30, 2007.
- A Senior Parent Fundraising Dinner will be held on November 4, 2007, at 5:00 pm, at the Tuttleman residence, and at least 100 attendees are expected.
- Please send photographs for the Senior Video. Either DVDs or printed copies can be accepted, but no electronic copies.
- Senior class t-shirts are available for purchase.
- Senior class rings are being delivered to students who purchased them.

11th and 10th Grades – No reports.

9th Grade – Patty Cohen reported as follows:

- Freshman class officers are getting started on activities.
- Homecoming float construction was successful, and the Freshman class brought in \$117 with Homecoming activities.
- Senior class will generously donate some funds to the Freshman class to assist with their fundraising.
- Fund-raising ideas are being generated since during-school bake sales are no longer permitted under California state law.
- 240 Vikings scarves are available for purchase for \$15 each.

LJHS Foundation – Jackie Helm, LJHS Foundation President, reported as follows:

- Taste of La Jolla was held on October 15, 2007, and was very successful with over \$25,000 received. Jackie thanks volunteers and participants.
- E-scrip sign-ups are easy to do and wide-spread participation results in sizable donations to the LJHS Foundation. Jackie reminded attendees that participation with Von’s supermarkets requires annual renewals.
- Saturday, March 8, 2008, is the date for the upcoming Scarlet & Black Ball with a theme of “Red-Hot Vikings.”
- The Foundation’s “Academic Edge” campaign is in full swing, and donations to support it will be mailed soon.

Additional Announcements:

Bif Buchen, Teen Life Coordinator from the YMCA, attended and announced the following:

- Surf Series program is in full-swing, with surfing contests held on the first Saturday of each month at local beaches, including La Jolla Shores, Pacific Beach, Ocean Beach and Imperial Beach. Bif thanked the excellent sponsors, and indicated that prizes are awarded at each event.

- On days when LJHS is on vacation the YMCA offers programs, including Magic Mountain trips and Paint-ball outings.
- YMCA will offer a tour of California universities and colleges in the spring, with dates to be announced.

A parent asked about the LJHS Site Governance Committee and its consideration of questions regarding the performance of LJHS students on the California Standards Test (CST) geometry examination. Michael Briggs, Chairperson of the Governance Committee, explained that data concerning the performance of LJHS students on all CST, Advanced Placement and other tests was being compiled for a future review by the Governance Committee. The CST geometry test results for LJHS would be a part of that review at an upcoming meeting of the Governance Committee.

Principal's Report –

- As a follow up item from last month's Principal's Chat, Principal Dana Shelburne, discussed the recent report of environmental hazards at Muirlands Middle School caused by seepage from east of the school. He indicated that test wells were drilled and while the amounts found were minimal, regulations required formal notification. He stated that the letter to parents/residents indicated the date, time and location of an upcoming meeting concerning the subject.
- Dana discussed the decision to temporarily close the LJHS running track to the community. He explained that the recent \$90,000 resurfacing triggered a review of use of the facility and decisions to prevent community members from running on the inside lanes (because of resulting heavier wear and quicker resurfacing) as well as preventing bicycles from being ridden on the surface. He said that many people ignored the signs that were posted and removed the hurdles that were placed in the inside running lanes. A meeting with community members resulted in plans to reopen the running track to the community after signs are repainted and markings are in place showing the running distances in the outer lanes on the track. On a related subject, the lower field at LJHS will be fenced in order to keep people from using it during weekends, which will reduce noise and nuisance to neighbors and misuse of that artificial surface.
- In response to a question, Dana explained that the one week delay in report cards will mean that students can try-out for Winter sports teams before knowing whether they are academically eligible, which will be determined one week later.
- Finally, Dana discussed the situation of LJHS teacher/coach Ken Davis, whose house was destroyed in the recent fires. He explained that Coach Davis and his family are moving into a rented house over the coming weekend, and that offers of assistance by providing needed household goods were voluminous, showing the generous spirit of the LJHS community. Dana will meet with Coach Davis and reply to offers of household goods because many items have been the subject of multiple offers. Dana will reply to all of the e-mails offering assistance, and then a list of still-needed items will be posted on the LJHS website or circulated when available. Monetary donations have also been received. Dana stated that Coach Davis said that there is no better place to work than LJHS!

Questions for Principal Dana Shelburne:

- On the subject of staph infections at LJHS, Dana explained that the school continues to clean and disinfect locker rooms and athletic facilities according to the adopted guidelines.

- In response to a question of changes to the school schedule due to the recent fires, Dana said that State Schools Superintendent Jack O'Connell can waive the Education Code requirements concerning days that the school must be open during the year, since extending the school year would impact planned summer vacations, the summer school schedule and raise bargaining unit contractual issues, but a final decision has not been announced. He said that the SDUSD will not lose the ADA funding because of the school closures.
- In response to another question, Dana said he didn't know whether the days during which LJHS was closed would be recorded as student absences.
- Regarding AP classes and possible Saturday make-ups, Dana said that he received requests for classes to meet off-campus during the closure, and those requests were denied. Saturday optional classes are a possibility. One parent indicated that her student received homework assignments from the teacher via e-mail, so no assignments were missed due to the fires.
- A parent asked about the upcoming 10th grade parent night on November 28, 2007, at 6:00 PM in Parker Auditorium, and Dana explained that while the counseling center wants to have all LJHS students ultimately using Naviance beginning in the 9th grade, he did not know whether 10th grade students would be provided with access yet.
- On a question regarding senior student transcripts to colleges and universities for early decision, Dana announced that all transcripts requested were mailed by October 30, 2007, the cut-off date. One favorable consequence of the recent fires was that many teachers and the counselors were able to complete letters of recommendation during the school closure.
- On a question regarding the substance-sniffing dog, Dana explained that one student was identified during the most-recent visit. He explained that the parts of the campus and dates of the visits rotate in order to have some randomness, including two visits in close proximity (date-wise) and campus location-wise. P.E. lockers and regular student lockers are usually included in the canine's tour of the campus.

With no further questions or announcements, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 AM.

Minutes submitted by Michael Briggs, Recording Secretary