

**LA JOLLA HIGH SCHOOL PTA
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
March 7, 2008**

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by PTA President Bee Mittermiller.

President's Report –Bee announced the following:

- Pam Zuckerman, Wendy Neri and Cheryl McCarthy volunteered to read and comment upon the draft version of the minutes from this meeting.
- Bee indicated that Susie Struhar, Administrative Assistant at LJHS, requested that the PTA consider changes to the LJHS Registration Superform in order to increase the total amount donated for lockers at LJHS. The current suggested donation amount is \$20, and Susie asked whether changing that amount would result in more total donations. Currently, approximately 60% of parents make donations to the locker fund. During the discussion suggestions were made to revise the wording on the Superform, use a newsletter article and an e-blast to explain the need for locker donations and add a red flyer in the registration packet calling attention to the need for locker donations so that new lockers can be purchased and current lockers maintained.
- Bee explained that an e-blast was sent regarding the proposed budget cuts for education in the Governor's budget as well as in the budget of the San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD). Attendees were encouraged to write to state legislators and the governor.

Treasurer's Report –Sarah Schrier presented the Treasurer's Report, including a schedule of checks issued, the 2007-2008 budget to actual amounts and itemized journal entries, all included in the PTA's 2007-2008 budget. Sarah explained that income items included one PTA membership, a library tribute fund donation and a check for the SAT preparation class. Expenses included library tribute fund expenditures, supplies for the CPR classes and mini-grants. 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.)

Counseling Center Report - LJHS District Counselor and Testing Coordinator Cathy Zimmer addressed the meeting on three topics, as follows:

- She explained that the deadline for students to apply for membership in the California Scholarship Federation was today, March 7th. Cathy answered questions about CSF membership.
- She announced that approximately 450 LJHS sophomores and other students will be taking the California High School Exit Exam on the mornings of March 11 and 12, 2008. She asked for volunteers each morning to help with the admission of students and then with their checking-out when they completed the exam.
- Finally, Cathy indicated that California STAR testing will be held from April 23 – 28, 2008, at LJHS. The testing occurs prior to the Advanced Placement exams this year, and Cathy encouraged parents to have their students participate and do their best.

Nominating Committee Report - Linda Rutgard announced the names of the nominees for executive board positions for the LJHS PTA in 2008-2009, as follows:

President:	Sarah Schrier
VP Programs:	Tina Greenberg
VP Ways & Means:	Pam Zuckerman

VP Membership:	Linda Rutgard
Executive VP:	Linda Dowley
Recording Secretary:	Michael Briggs
Historian:	Sandra Sloan
Treasurer:	Amy Heap
Auditor:	Renee Savage

A motion to accept the slate of candidates was seconded and carried. Elections will be held at the next PTA meeting scheduled for April 4, 2008.

Linda thanked the other members of the nominating committee: Sandra Sloan, Cheryl McCarthy, Betsy Klene and Margaret Ohara with Pam Zuckerman and Venzel Hammershaimb serving as alternates.

Programs – VP Programs Tina Greenberg reported as follows:

- A drug awareness program was held with a Phoenix House volunteer as primary speaker on February 27, 2008, with 75 – 80 attendees, including some parents of Muirlands Middle School students. Tina noted that an additional program on health and eating issues is being considered as well as a repeat drug awareness program at Muirlands Middle School.
- A College Information Night will be held on May 21, 2008 at 6:00 pm.
- The last Principal’s Chat of the school year will be held in the spring. Tina asked for a volunteer to host the event.

Ways and Means – Micki Olin presented mini-grant requests from Mr. Quesnell and Ms. Brammer for \$350.00 and \$26.45, respectively, for DNA extraction kits for hands-on experiments for students to extract DNA and save it in a necklace. Tina Greenberg noted that the Salk Institute has a mobile laboratory that will provide complimentary DNA tests for students.

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

Miki announced that an Eagle Scout project by Kyle Usselman was underway for the beautification of an area outside the LJHS 800 building. She circulated an envelope for anyone who wanted to make a donation to the project.

Membership – Venzel Hammershaimb announced that 999 members had joined the LJHS PTA to-date, and that today was the final day to join. Happily, a parent at the meeting volunteered to join the LJHS PTA and became the 1,000th member for this school year.

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

Governance – Michael Briggs, Governance Chairperson, complimented subcommittee co-chairpersons Matt Rosenberg (a teacher) and Pam Zuckerman (a parent representative), who led the effort to draft guidelines for civility and behavior between all groups of stakeholders at LJHS, entitled “We All Need R.O.O.M.” He announced that the Governance Committee adopted the guidelines at its recent meeting. Michael explained that during the discussion of the draft guidelines at a PTA meeting several comments were made concerning cheating by LJHS students on tests. That subject was discussed at a meeting of the Governance Committee, and the faculty representatives indicated that the LJHS administration had supported them in the past in cases involving student cheating, but that parents had not – almost always insisting that their child

could never cheat despite being confronted with the evidence. One parent suggested that the PTA make a statement of support for teachers to enforce standards and prevent cheating. Bee indicated that she had researched the subject of student cheating for her upcoming newsletter column, and she stated that the Center for Academic Integrity had an excellent website on the subject.

GATE/DAC – Linda Dowley stated that the next meeting is scheduled for March 10, 2008, and that students have been invited to attend and provide input. She stated that an expected impact of future SDUSD budget cuts on the Seminar program was that the class size would rise to 25 or 30 students.

Grad Night – Cheryl McCarthy reported that Grad Night will be held on June 11, 2008, at Disneyland. Six more volunteer chaperones were needed to accompany the students for the event (from 8:00 pm until 8:00 am) and more volunteers were needed to help check-in the students at LJHS before boarding the buses. In addition, a continental breakfast will be served to students returning from Grad Night on the morning of June 12, 2008.

Scarlet & Black – Have a Ball – Bee introduced Anseth Pace Richards, chairperson of the LJHS Foundation’s biggest annual fundraiser, the Scarlet & Black Ball, which is a combination dinner, dance and auction. Anseth invited everyone who had not purchased a ticket to the event being held on Saturday, March 8, 2008, to do so in order to support the LJHS Foundation and students at LJHS. She explained that attendees will enjoy mojitos and a marvelous seafood buffet. Currently, the LJHS Foundation needed 20 more attendees in order to reach the break-even number of 300. The price for tickets is \$95 per person and the band N-ergy will play.

Grade Level Reports –

12th Grade – Jan Tuttleman reported as follows:

- Senior Exhibitions concluded successfully, with thanks to Kathy Marsh for her leadership and all of the volunteers.
- Senior Video was nearing completion, but more pictures of more students were needed.
- Seniors-Faculty basketball game will be held later that day, and it is a fundraiser to help reduce senior dues.
- LJHS towels are for sale as a fundraiser.
- Senior Prom will be held on May 16, 2008, but there is no PTA-sponsored after-prom party this year because of declining interest and attendance in recent years.
- A Swim Party Fund-raiser is also being considered.

Bee expressed her thanks to Jan for excellent work during the past year.

11th Grades – Linda Rutgard reported that the junior class participated in Air Band and had an upcoming fundraiser called “Big Man on Campus.”

10th Grade – Tina Greenberg reported that members of the sophomore class participated in Air Band and the ASB Ball.

9th Grade – Patty Cohen reported that members of the sophomore class participated in Air Band and the ASB Ball.

LJHS Foundation – Jackie Helm, President of the LJHS Foundation, acknowledged that parents and community members were experiencing difficult times, and that LJHS would be significantly impacted by the budget cuts being considered by the SDUSD Board of Education. She pointed

out that the LJHS Foundation needs support from parents and community members in order to continue its support of some of LJHS' needs such as an extra counselor and additional part-time teachers. As a result, Jackie encouraged everyone who had not purchased a ticket to the Scarlet & Black – Have a Ball to do so later that day in order that seating could be accommodated. She also noted that a 50/50 raffle was being held as part of the event.

Jackie mentioned that future fund-raising activities for the LJHS Foundation include the annual golf tournament and the Vine & Vintners event.

Announcements:

- Bif Buchan, La Jolla YMCA Teen Coordinator, announced that the YMCA had two different “camps” during Spring Break. The first is a day camp, which will have activities such as bowling, ice skating, kayaking, paint-balling and beach clean-up and barbecue. Also, a Northern California College Tour was organized, and there are only six seats remaining on the bus for that tour.

Principal's Report -- Principal Dana Shelburne gave a summary of campus activities, including the following:

- Congratulations to the Boys Basketball Team on its success in winning the Division III CIF Championship, and playing well in the State of California play-offs despite losing the night before to the #1 ranked Santa Margarita High School Team.
- Congratulations to the National Ocean Sciences Bowl Team. The LJHS “B” Team beat the LJHS “A” Team in the finals by a single point, and will travel to Seward, Alaska for the national finals. Mr. Shelburne acknowledged the many years of excellent coaching and teaching by Mr. Lee Decker, who will retire in June 2008.
- Congratulations to the Academic League Team, which will compete in a national tournament in Chicago, IL.
- Congratulations to the Girls Soccer Team, which won second place in the Division III Championship capping a great year.
- Congratulations to the Mock Trial Team that finished in second place.
- There was a drug bust for marijuana recently at LJHS. There was enough of the substance for distribution found on the student, which means he will be expelled.

Dana's major topic was the status of the SDUSD and LJHS budgets for school year 2008-2009. He discussed the topic with points as follows:

- In order to retain the certificated and classified staffs at LJHS in the new school year, an increase in the 2007-2008 budget is required because salaries rose during the past year. However, instead of the necessary budget amount of \$6.5 million, LJHS has an amount of only \$6.2 million. Fortunately, LJHS has 4 GATE teacher positions funded by the SDUSD that do not count against the 2008-2009 budget.
- The at-risk programs that have been saved in the current 2008-2009 budget include music, Latin, physiology and marine science (including the replacement of retiring teacher Mr. Decker).
- The lost certificated positions include one foreign language teacher, one social studies teacher, one English teacher and one counselor. The Library-Media Center will be managed by a part-time instead of full-time position. In addition, classified staff cuts will also be made.
- In response to a question, if LJHS were a charter school, all of the state-allocated \$5,600 would go to the high school and then LJHS would need to “buy” necessary services from other sources (such as special education). With its status in the SDUSD, the \$5,600 goes

to SDUSD and it, in turn, allocates money for LJHS' budget while retaining funds to pay for the Central Office and services it provides centrally. If LJHS were a charter school, a 10% budget cut from the governor's office would mean a 10% cut at LJHS although the teachers from other campuses in SDUSD would not have bumping rights vis-à-vis the less senior teachers at LJHS.

- Regarding process, Dana explained that a list of teachers and other staff who will receive notice of possible lay-off will be drawn up by SDUSD staff and approved by the SDUSD Board of Education with notices to possibly affected employees no later than March 15, 2008.
- SDUSD is looking at options regarding schools, such as combining or closing certain campus sites. Dana noted that a wide difference in allocations of discretionary funds between high schools currently exists.
- Regarding the change to part-time management of the Library-Media Center, Dana said that volunteer help would be key in keeping the LMC operating on a full-time basis for students. He said that he welcomes any ideas regarding assistance.
- Dana indicated that Superintendent Grier recently mandated that each school designate a full-time "graduation coach." That position is not currently in the LJHS budget.
- In response to a question, Dana replied that the drop-out rate at LJHS is 0.01%.

Dana also addressed the recent break-in in the upper 500 building, which occurred on Thursday morning at approximately 1:30 a.m. Dana explained that outside windows were smashed by someone standing on the ledge to enter the classrooms. 4 projectors and three laptop computers were taken before the police arrived at 1:46 a.m. LJHS is self-insured through the SDUSD, which will replace the stolen items. The surveillance cameras were less-than-optimally effective because some of the motion-detector lighting failed. The lighting provider is replacing burned out bulbs. Suggestions by attendees included adding log-on software that would prevent others from using the computer, asking the police to track the computer IDs for use on the Internet and placing Lo-jack chips in the computers for tracking.

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

Minutes submitted by Michael Briggs, Recording Secretary