

**LA JOLLA HIGH SCHOOL PTA  
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES  
April 4, 2008**

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM by Bee Mittermiller.

**President's Report** –Bee introduced Kathy Renda, LJHS Network/Media Technician, who displayed a brief video portion of the LJHS student-led production announcing items in the LJHS Bulletin. Kathy explained that the production occurs three times each week, and is broadcast into the classrooms over Channel 2 so that the teacher can have the Bulletin read to the students by other students.

Bee thanked Kathy for her work, and then announced the following:

- Linda Dowley, Venzel Hammershaimb and Sarah Schrier volunteered to read and comment upon the draft version of the minutes from this meeting.
- Bee announced that the LJHS PTA received two prominent awards from the 9<sup>th</sup> District PTA: Membership and Newsletter. Bee thanked Betsy Klene, Venzel Hammershaimb and Jane Pulliam for leading those efforts during the 2007-2008 school year.
- Bee called attention to the open letter to the community from the LJHS staff regarding the impacts of proposed budget cuts. She indicated that a copy of the letter is available on the LJHS web site. She explained the importance of citizens writing letters and communicating with Sacramento legislators and the governor about the negative impacts of the proposed cuts on LJHS. Bee announced that several rallies were being held in order to publicize opposition to the budget cuts, including rallies on April 27<sup>th</sup> and May 21<sup>st</sup>. Bee complimented Mr. Kevin Gordon, Education Advocate from the San Diego County Office of Education for his work in publicizing the consequences of the proposed budget cuts.
- Bee announced that a Blood Drive will be held on May 27, 2008 at LJHS.

**Treasurer's Report** –Sarah Schrier presented the Treasurer's Report, including a list of the checks issued, the 2007-2008 budget to actual amounts and itemized journal entries, all included in the PTA's 2007-2008 budget, except for an additional expense of \$320 for CPR supplies that was recently approved by the PTA Executive Board. Sarah explained that revenues included SAT preparation class tuition checks, additional PTA memberships and an insurance refund. A motion to approve the Treasurer's Report, ratify the additional CPR supplies budget of \$320 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 Cathy Zimmer thanked all the volunteers who aided with the recent administration of the California High School Exit Examination.
- Cathy discussed the upcoming California STAR testing that will occur for all students except seniors from April 24 through April 28. Cathy encouraged parents to have students participate in the examinations and to perform at their best. Cathy introduced Candace Person, STAR testing volunteer coordinator (whose children have all graduated from LJHS but continues to lead this effort). Candace explained that volunteers were needed to compile the individual packages for each student consisting of the specific tests that each student will take, and then segregating the completed tests before being shipped back for scoring. Candace circulated a sign-up board for volunteers.

**LJHS Scholarship Foundation** – Bee introduced counselor and basketball coach Ty Eveleth.

- Ty explained how the LJHS Scholarship Foundation helped LJHS students with financial needs meet some of the expenses of college with grants up to \$1,500 for recipients who will attend 2-year colleges and up to \$3,000 for 4-year college students. He stated that approximately \$50,000 was awarded last year. Ty indicated that the committee is seeking new members from the community, and that interested volunteers could contact him via e-mail at [teveleth@sandi.net](mailto:teveleth@sandi.net).
- Ty reiterated some of the impacts of the proposed budget cuts and encouraged attendees to continue to lobby for restoration of school budgets. Clair Coon announced that she had copies of the letters that Bee had distributed through an e-blast.
- In response to a question, Ty replied that every student at LJHS had been assigned a code number in order to access the Naviance college preparation system, and offered to provide the code to any student who did not have one.

**Band Boosters** –

- Jackie Wigle explained that the instrumental music program at LJHS suffered from diminished enrollment over the past several years, and that a subcommittee of the LJHS Site Governance Committee consisting of Betsy Klene, Linda Dowley, Sarah Schrier and her had surveyed students who were currently participating in instrumental music programs in the local public elementary schools and their parents, and received a strong show of interest in having more opportunities to perform in instrumental music in the middle school and high school. Jackie indicated that the results of the survey are going to be shared with Ms. Hargrave, Principal at Muirlands Middle School, in an attempt to expand the middle school music program, which affects the music program at LJHS.
- Jackie announced that two additional music courses will be offered at LJHS next year: a pre-Advanced Placement music class to help students prepare for the Advanced Placement Music Theory class and Orchestra. In addition, the LJHS counselors were notified about the additional courses and encouraged to talk to students about taking them in order to meet their fine arts requirement.
- April is Jazz Appreciation Month, and the LJHS Jazz Band will perform in the quad area during lunch in celebration.

**Nominating Committee** – Linda Rutgard confirmed the list of nominees for the LJHS PTA Executive Board positions for 2008-2009 (presented at the March 2008 PTA meeting), 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

There being no nominations from the floor, a motion to elect the slate of candidates was seconded and carried.

Appointments to the general board positions were displayed by Linda, who noted that two Blast-Off co-chairs to assist Vanessa Ratliff were still needed. Bee encouraged attendees to consider volunteering for one of those positions.

Linda Dowley thanked Linda Rutgard and 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) for their excellent work.

**Programs** – Bee announced that Tina Greenberg was unable to attend, but asked that a report be given as follows:

- The final Principal’s Chat of the school year will be held on May 29, 2008, at Gillian Moss’ home.
- A college information night will be presented on May 21, 2008.
- A parent awareness night highlighting eating disorders and high risk behaviors is being planned.

**Ways and Means** – Sarah Schrier presented the report for Micki Olin, who could not attend. Sarah presented the following request for a mini-grant:

- \$350.00 for a supplement to the MLA handbook, which will allow teacher to research format and documentation techniques to avoid plagiarism, requested by Mr. Fournier in the English department.

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

**Membership** – Venzel Hammershaimb extended his thanks to everyone who joined the LJHS PTA during 2007-2008 and noted that a total of 1,002 members joined!

**Historian** – LJHS Historian Pam Zuckerman announced that 664 volunteer hours had been recorded by PTA volunteers in the month of March 2008. She encouraged volunteers to record their volunteer hours either on the Historian’s clipboard or by sending an e-mail.

**Governance** – Michael Briggs, Governance Chairperson, announced that the Governance Committee was conducting its annual survey regarding the performance of Principal Dana Shelburne. He indicated that the survey is available through the LJHS web site at [www.ljhs.sandi.net/governance](http://www.ljhs.sandi.net/governance). In addition, paper survey questionnaires in English and Spanish are also available. Michael encouraged everyone to take the time to complete a survey questionnaire. An e-blast will also be sent informing parents about the availability of the on-line survey.

**GATE/DAC** – Linda Dowley introduced Lee Trahan, who reported as follows:

- A GATE/ District Advisory Council (DAC) meeting will be held on April 14, 2008, at 6:30 pm at the SDUSD site in Old Town on Congress Street. New Superintendent Bill Grier will be the speaker, and may take questions from the audience. All parents interested in the GATE or Seminar program is encouraged to attend.
- The area parents’ meeting for GATE will be held on April 16, 2008, at LJHS in Mrs. Weien’s classroom, Room 903.

**Legislation** – Clair Coon reiterated that she had paper copies of the earlier e-mailed letter available for parents who want an example for sending their letters to legislators. In addition,

Clair volunteered to compile a new letter using the information in the LJHS staff letter, and have it sent via e-blast to parents at LJHS.

Clair deferred to Linda Rutgard, who discussed a new initiative in California to place “Sarah’s Law” into law, which will require notification to the family of a minor girl before an abortion can be performed. She indicated that petitions are available in case attendees were interested in signing it. (Note: This was presented as an item of personal interest by Ms. Rutgard and is not related to a State or National PTA position.)

**Grad Nite at Disneyland** –Cheryl McCarthy announced that Grad Night will be held on June 11, 2008, at Disneyland. Three more volunteer chaperones were needed to accompany the students for the event (from 8:00 pm until 8:00 am). In addition, a continental breakfast will be served to all senior students (returning from Grad Night or not) on the morning of June 12, 2008. Donations of food or money to purchase the food would be appreciated.

**Grade Level Reports** –

**12<sup>th</sup> Grade** – Cheryl McCarthy reported on behalf of Jan Tuttleman and announced that Senior Dues will be \$70 for the Class of 2008, \$5 less than for last year’s senior class! She reminded attendees of upcoming events as follows:

- Senior Prom will be held on May 16, 2008, and that no After Prom Party is being sponsored by PTA this year.
- Yearbook signing party on June 9.
- Senior Breakfast on June 13.
- Graduation on June 16.

Towels and other Senior Class merchandise are still on sale. Information packets are being sent to parents of Senior students explaining the senior dues and the benefits that come with them.

**11<sup>th</sup> Grade** – Sylvia Bendelstein reported that the Junior class is considering the sponsorship of a fashion show as a class fundraiser and also maybe a dinner and auction. Sylvia encouraged parents of Junior students to volunteer as chaperones for Grad Nite. She indicated that Junior students are signing up for SAT, SAT II and ACT tests.

**10<sup>th</sup> Grade** – Tina Greenberg sent the following report:

- Sophomores raised over \$200 selling In-and-Out burgers at lunch.
- They are considering a fundraiser at Cold Stone Creamery.
- The sophomore class has earned \$4,000 to date toward Senior dues.

**9<sup>th</sup> Grade** – No report.

**LJHS Foundation** – Jackie Helm, President of the LJHS Foundation, thanked everyone who volunteered at or attended the Scarlet and Black – Have a Ball event, noting that over \$70,000 was raised. She reminded attendees that the LJHS Foundation funds one counselor at LJHS and two periods of a part-time English teacher. She reiterated that the proposed budget cuts are real, and while some of the proposed cuts might be restored, LJHS will suffer cuts nonetheless. She explained that the best way to help LJHS financially is through donations to the LJHS Foundation. She indicated that a solicitation for donations will be mailed to parents, and she reminded attendees of upcoming LJHS Foundation fundraising activities, including the following:

- Viking Vines & Vintners at La Jolla Country Club on May 31, 2008.
- LJHS Foundation Golf Tournament on May 16, 2008.

Jackie encouraged parents to help and to support LJHS.

**Announcements:**

- Bee introduced Danielle Davis, LJHS alumnus, who is a volunteer with the Aspect Foundation. Danielle discussed the foreign exchange student program and encouraged attendees to consider being a volunteer host family in the future. She explained that the foreign students coming to San Diego were 15-18 years old and spoke English.

**Principal's Report** -- Principal Dana Shelburne could not attend, so Vice Principals Walter Fairley and Bev Greco commented on the proposed budget cuts at LJHS. The SDUSD budget crunch continues, with contingency planning taking place while the final budget from the State of California remains an open issue. Mr. Fairley explained that the girls' locker room attendant had left employment due to decisions of the SDUSD Board of Education. All certificated teachers with less than 5 years of service were given notices of possible lay-off. The next critical date for the State of California budget is May 15, 2008. Final decisions by the SDUSD Board of Education are anticipated in July 2008. Ms. Greco announced that Roxy Johnson will be speaking on May 22, 2008 at the LJHS Library Media Center on the proposed budget impacts to special education in SDUSD.

With no further questions or announcements, the meeting was adjourned at 10:35 AM.

Minutes submitted by Michael Briggs, Recording Secretary