

**LA JOLLA HIGH SCHOOL PTA  
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES  
May 2, 2008**

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

**President's Report** –Bee announced the following:

- Linda Dowley, Pam Zuckerman and Sarah Schrier volunteered to read and comment upon the draft version of the minutes from this meeting.
- Bee announced that the LJHS PTA will host an “E-Waste Day” for recycling of electronic equipment on May 31, 2008 from 10:00 am until 4:00 pm. The Clean Campus Club will assist the PTA. She described the type of equipment that can be recycled, and indicated that for electronic equipment with a screen, the LJHS PTA will receive a cash donation from the recycling company, which receives payment from the State of California. Volunteers to work a 2-hour shift will be solicited. The website of the operating company is [www.ewastegreen.com](http://www.ewastegreen.com).
- Bee explained that the few remaining copies of the LJHS Family Directory are on-sale for \$3.
- Bee indicated that Danielle Davis sent a gracious note of appreciation for being able to address the LJHS PTA during the last meeting on behalf of the Aspect Foundation.
- Bee explained that the LJHS PTA Executive Board voted to approve the transition to the “Constant Contact” on-line web service for e-mails in the upcoming school year.
- Bee encouraged attendees to continue to send e-mails to legislators and the governor regarding the proposed state-wide budget cuts for public education. She explained that the “recast budget” is scheduled for release on May 15<sup>th</sup>. A “Rally for Education” is still scheduled at Qualcomm Stadium on May 21, 2008, at 7:00 pm.
- Bee indicated that the Board of Education for San Diego Unified School District still intends to change the daily bell schedule at Muirlands Middle School, and she encouraged parents to contact the Board to express their views on the disruptions that will be caused by the change.

**ASB President's Report** – Bee introduced Whitney Wing, ASB President, who reported as follows:

- The sophomore class is staging a fundraiser at the Cold Stone Creamery store on Prospect Street through Sunday, May 4.
- The junior class sponsored the Big Man on Campus pageant as a unique fundraiser.
- Airband and the ASB Ball were big successes, and Whitney thanked everyone who volunteered and helped on those events.
- Tomorrow is the Walk for Hope for breast cancer, and some students are participating and volunteering. To date, the school raised approximately \$800 for this charity.
- The Senior Prom will be held on May 16, 2008. Whitney reminded parents that students must attend at least four periods of class on that day in order to attend the Senior Prom that night.
- The Impact Challenge, which is a seat-belt-wearing campaign, resulted in an 86% seat belt usage statistic at LJHS, and ASB hoped that the percentage would increase.
- Whitney thanked all the parents who volunteered and assisted the school during the school year.

**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. She noted that the LJHS PTA Executive Board recently approved a \$300 increase in administrative fees in order to hire an accountant to prepare the PTA income tax return. A motion to approve the Treasurer's Report, ratify the additional administrative budget for income tax assistance and ratify the checks that were written was seconded and carried. (Note: the actual report is filed with Minutes.)

**Nominating Committee** – Linda Rutgard reminded attendees that most of the LJHS PTA Board positions for 2008-2009 had been filled at the last PTA meeting, but encouraged parents to volunteer as hospitality hosts for specific events. Also, she noted that a volunteer to lead the library information night was needed. She introduced Newsletter Editor Jane Pulliam who noted that a volunteer to prepare the back-page-calendar on the bi-monthly newsletter is also needed. Finally, Linda stated that two co-chairs are needed to assist Vanessa Ratcliff with the Blast-Off event.

**Membership** – Betsy Klene announced that the LJHS PTA received a District 9 PTA Award for having more than 1,000 members during this school year. In addition, the LJHS PTA Newsletter was recognized as the Best Newsletter in District 9. Finally, Betsy announced that all new and retiring PTA Board members are invited to the PTA Board luncheon in June.

**Programs** – Tina Greenberg reported as follows:

- A college information night consisting of a panel of parents of senior class students will be presented on May 27, 2008 beginning at 6:00 pm.
- The final Principal's Chat of the school year will be held on May 29, 2008, at Gillian Moss' home.
- A Parents Health Awareness night highlighting eating disorders and high risk behaviors was held recently, however only twenty parents attended. Tina solicited input and comments from attendees regarding the small turnout for the event (compared with the 75 people who attended the Parents Drug Awareness Program). During the extensive discussion, the following comments were made:
  - Add displays showing examples of drugs so they could be identified by parents and examples of containers for hiding drug for parents attending the Drug Awareness Program.
  - "Eating Disorders" was not a big concern; people either felt that they didn't exist for their children or if they did they were already receiving help.
  - Parents are tired at the end of the day.
  - Add "Parents Aware" clips to the Newsletter.
  - Add a link to "Teen Yellow Pages" in the Newsletter.
  - Write a "teaser" article about the topic for the Newsletter a month ahead of time.
  - A program suggestion of "100 Things Kids Need to Know Before Graduating From High School."
  - Use student panels for drug awareness programs for better emotionalism.
  - Ensure that there are no scheduling conflicts with the middle school and elementary schools.

**Ways and Means** – Micki Olin, Ways and Mean Chairperson, presented the following requests for mini-grants:

- \$320.00 for 40 copies of Culver’s “Literary Theory, Avery Short Introduction,” which allows students to apply theory to reading and film viewing, requested by Ms. Collins in the English department.
- \$225.00 for tuition for on-line course “Teaching Algebra with the Geometer’s Sketchpad,” in order to learn strategies and gain new resources to teach Algebra, requested by Ms. Vu in the Math department.
- \$350.00 to cover the unexpected emergency rental of a van for the Monterey, CA Marine Science Study Trip, requested by Mr. Decker in the Science department.
- \$350.00 for a class set of forensic DNA fingerprinting kits to teach students how to acquire and use DNA evidence in mass disasters and criminal cases, requested by Mr. Quesnell in the Science department.
- \$100.00 for professional welding to repair 10 broken lab stools, requested by Ms. Brammer in the Science department.
- \$322.46 for (1) a portable bench to use with the keyboard, (2) a handtruck to move equipment at away performances and (3) portable iPod speakers for music appreciation class, requested by Ms. Henderson in the Music department.
- \$350.00 to replace worn out tools, requested by Mr. Mattio in the Industrial Technologies department.
- \$350.00 to purchase an electrical automobile lift, requested by Mr. Davis in the Industrial Technologies department.
- \$350.00 to purchase a class set of the book Plan B 2.8 – Rescuing a Planet Under Stress to enhance learning, requested by Mr. Jones in the Social Sciences department.

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

Micki indicated that additional requests dealing with equipment on teacher workstations will be consolidated and reviewed at the June PTA meeting. Bee pointed out some of the new teacher workstations that will be used for training of teachers, and encouraged attendees to view them after the meeting.

**Historian** – LJHS Historian Pam Zuckerman announced that over 13,000 volunteer hours had been recorded by PTA volunteers since the beginning of the school year! She reported that the total exceeds the number of volunteer hours in recent years.

**Hospitality** – Bee announced that the hospitality group was acknowledged in a very complimentary note from Lynn Dull. Ellen Reardon explained that gifts were provided to secretaries recently for Secretaries Day.

**GATE/DAC** – Lee Trahan reported as follows:

- A GATE/ District Advisory Council (DAC) meeting was with new Superintendent Terry Grier and parents. She noted Dr. Grier’s expressed commitment to the development of each student in the SDUSD, saying that each student should progress at least one year during each academic year. Dr. Grier also indicated that additional administrative positions in the SDUSD central office will be cut due to the expected budget shortfall.
- An area parents’ meeting for GATE was held on April 16, 2008, at LJHS in Mrs. Weien’s classroom. Sadly, the number of teachers participating (16) exceeded the number of parents (6). A parent suggested that if substantial teacher participation were advertised, then more parents might attend. In response to a question about the benefits

of attending such meetings, it was noted that GATE cluster classes are supposed to have some differentiation from other classes, and that these meetings are an opportunity to have teachers describe that differentiation.

### **Grade Level Reports** –

**12<sup>th</sup> Grade** – Jan Tuttleman indicated that the end of the year will be busy for the senior class, and she thanked Mr. Cavaiola and Mrs. Dill for all of the work and planning that they have performed. She also thanked all of the volunteers and ASB students for making the year successful. She announced upcoming events as follows:

- Senior Prom will be held on May 16, 2008, from 8 pm until 12:00 midnight. In response to a question, she said that attendees needed to enter before 9:00 pm and that no one could depart prior to 11:00 pm. The price of the ticket is covered by senior dues for LJHS seniors, but guests who are underclassmen or LJHS non-students would be charged to attend. Further, everyone who will attend must register ahead of time.
- Awards assembly will be held on June 2.
- Yearbook signing party on June 9.
- Senior check-out day.
- Grad night on June 11, with breakfast the following morning when all seniors must attend meetings on campus where caps and gowns will be distributed.
- Graduation on June 16 from 2:00 pm until 5:00 pm.

**11<sup>th</sup> Grade** – Jan Gloven reported that the junior class sponsored the Big Man on Campus pageant as a fundraiser. She asked that parents of junior class students volunteer to work in the coat room at the Senior Prom. Jan indicated that parents are needed to help decorate the field for graduation and serve refreshments after commencement. She indicated that a fundraiser dinner might be held on June 1. Jan thanked all the volunteers who helped the junior class during the school year.

**10<sup>th</sup> Grade** – Tina Greenberg reported as follows:

- The sophomore class sold In-n-Out milk shakes at the multi-cultural food fair and raised \$180.
- The fundraiser at Cold Stone Creamery will occur this weekend.
- The sophomore class is considering another In-n-Out burgers fundraiser.

**9<sup>th</sup> Grade** – Patty Cohen reported that the 9<sup>th</sup> grade class had worked diligently this year and raised \$1,400 toward their senior dues.

Bee explained that the fundraising conducted by the different classes is intended to reduce the senior dues when the class members become seniors. The process of raising the funds also teaches the students about fundraising and some business operations, which are valuable lessons that would not be learned if parents simply wrote checks to fund senior activities.

**LJHS Foundation** – Jackie Helm, President of the LJHS Foundation, announced that two fundraisers remained on the Foundation calendar:

- 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 the LJHS Foundation's Save Our Teachers campaign. Jackie indicated that a local resident made a sizable gift to the LJHS Foundation with a

stipulation that the funds be used to improve the appearance of the entrance to the campus, and that work will proceed in parallel with the Save Our Teachers efforts. She introduced Kerri Smith and Mimi Swensen who described some of the upcoming aspects of the campaign that is designed to raise at least \$200,000, as follows:

- Postcards are being mailed to parents.
- The LJHS website shows the results of the fundraising effort, with a total of \$8,700 raised to-date.
- A telethon is being planned for June 4 – 6, 2008. Students will be encouraged to arrive at school early on those days to demonstrate against budget cuts and try to attract press coverage.
- 100% participation, in any monetary amount per LJHS family, is sought.
- Students helped with the mailing of the postcards.
- The target is to save teaching positions, not specific teachers (over which the LJHS Foundation has no control).
- The intent is to save teaching positions in order to diminish larger class sizes that will occur if teaching positions are lost.
- Banners are being prepared to be displayed on the campus.

Be thanked Jackie, Kerri and Mimi for their report and their efforts.

**Principal's Report** -- Principal Dana Shelburne reported as follows:

- He attended a meeting at Muirlands Middle School to discuss the possible SDUSD bond issue that would provide capital improvements for schools as an extension of Proposition MM. A focus group is being gathered for LJHS to identify how bond funds might be used best.
- Regarding the proposal of the SDUSD to change the bell schedule at Muirlands, Dana explained that it is critically important to keep LJHS and Muirlands Middle School linked. The opportunity to save money in busing triggered the proposal, and saving money in district operations is very important to the Board of Education. Dana recalled a vote in 1997 by the Board of Education that the linking of the two schools would be permanent, and as a result significant investments have been made by LJHS donors in sports facilities at the middle school that will not be fully utilized if the end of the school day is later at Muirlands Middle School than at LJHS.
- Superintendent Dr. Terry Grier will visit the LJHS campus on Tuesday, May 6, 2008, from 7:30 am until 9:30 am in order to talk with students.
- Ahead of the recent CST standardized testing, students were encouraged to perform at their best and warned not to engage in trivial activities such as randomly marking answer sheets. Two answer sheets were identified as demonstrating aberrant behavior this year despite the warnings.
- Dana recited some of the recent accomplishments of LJHS student teams, including the national 5<sup>th</sup> place finish of the NOSB Marine Sciences Team and the league championship of the Academic League Team.
- Regarding Save Our Teachers efforts, Dana explained that there were no budget updates beyond what is reported in the local news. Regarding use of the Save Our Teachers funds, he said that the cost of a teacher for a year averages \$80,000, including benefits. He indicated that he is looking at alternatives, including the use of part-time teachers.

With no further questions or announcements, the meeting was adjourned at 10:40 am.

Minutes submitted by Michael Briggs, Recording Secretary