

**LA JOLLA HIGH SCHOOL PTA
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
October 3, 2008**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 a.m. by President Sarah Schrier.

President's Report - Sarah announced the following:

- Ellen Brice, Mary Jane Linsky and Lee Trahan volunteered to read the minutes.
- Sarah explained that she created a special sign-in sheet for the meeting that included volunteer hours plus a survey on participants' preferences for starting times for LJHS PTA meetings: 7:30 a.m. or 9:00 a.m.
- Sarah asked that people who try to contact members of the LJHS PTA Board please be patient and make two attempts. She indicated that the PTA roster on the website is up-to-date.
- Sarah reminded attendees that proposed e-blast documents should be submitted in Microsoft Word files, and need to be approved by Sarah before distribution.
- Existing openings for volunteers with the LJHS PTA include the following:
 - SAT preparation class coordinator (beginning in Spring 2009).
 - Teacher Appreciation Week Coordinator for events during the first week in May 2009. Sarah announced that other parents have volunteered to help the coordinator.
- Announcement:
 - LJHS Madrigals have a fund-raiser on October 17th at Don Carlos. Further information is available in Room 804. The money is being raised in order to pay for the Madrigals to travel to Northern California and perform in the spring.
 - The San Diego Police Department and the Bird Rock Council announced that uniformed and plain-clothes officers will be on duty on Halloween in the Bird Rock neighborhood again this year. Suggested hours for trick-or-treating are 5 – 8 p.m.

ASB President's Report – Sarah introduced Raquel Saxe, ASB President, who reported as follows:

- LJHS' Blast Off! event was held on September 19, 2008. It was a huge success and the classes raised a total of approximately \$1,300 toward senior dues.
- Yellow Ribbon Week, which promotes suicide awareness, is coming.
- Red Ribbon Week, marking substance abuse prevention, is also being planned.
- An ICC meeting is being held where the presidents of all on-campus clubs can discuss and plan for booths and merchandise sales in the Viking Village.
- Tonight the JV and Varsity football teams are hosting Lincoln High School. Everyone is encouraged to attend.
- Regarding the senior class: Senior Parent Dinner will be held on Sunday, October 26th, with a requested donation of \$30. At the dinner, LJHS towels and senior shirts will be on-sale. Parents of seniors are needed as volunteers at the Snack Shack during the football games on October 7 and 14. Counseling workshops for college applicants and preparations are being offered during lunchtime in the Parker Auditorium with excellent attendance.
- Homecoming will include a football game and floats at half-time on November 14, 2008 and the Homecoming Dance on November 15, 2008. This year's theme is "Las Vegas." Classes have great ideas for floats. Parent volunteers are still needed, and offers of flat bed trucks are appreciated.

Sarah thanked Raquel for her report.

Treasurer's Report – Amy Heap presented the Treasurer's Report, including the current balances of the LJHS PTA savings account and checking account. She displayed and described the receipts and checks issued. A motion to approve the Treasurer's Report and ratify the checks as written was seconded and carried. Amy also reviewed the variations between the amounts budgeted and the amounts actually expended. (Note: the actual report is filed with minutes.)

Programs – Tina Greenberg, Vice President of Programs, reported as follows:

- The first Principal's Chat of the school year will be held at La Jolla Methodist Church at 7:30 a.m. on October 16, 2008. The Principal's Chat will have a theme of the upcoming Proposition S, which is the ballot measure to continue the former Proposition MM capital improvements program for LJHS and the San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD). Questions and answers on other topics will also be welcome.
- Future Principal Chats will be held in January 2009 and again on May 14, 2009.
- An evening education program for parents is being planned, and suggestions are welcome. Last year's program covered drug and alcohol use.
- In May 2009, a college preparation night for parents and students will be hosted by the PTA with a panel of parents.

Membership – Wendy Roos announced that 992 members had joined the LJHS PTA. Applications from new members are still being accepted. Membership cards are also available, which can be used to obtain discounts from some vendors. A list of all new members will be featured in next month's LJHS PTA Newsletter.

Ways and Means – Pam Zuckerman, Vice President of Ways and Means, explained that the LJHS PTA makes mini-grants available to LJHS teachers in amounts up to \$350 to supplement their supplies and equipment. She presented the following requests for mini-grants:

- \$100.00 for Georgina Lyon for 2 portable CD players – one for her classroom and one for the cheer squad.
- \$350.00 for Michelle Bertier in the science department for equipment and chemistry replacements for laboratory use.
- \$118.53 for Michael Palm in the computer science group for memory upgrades for 2 computers to run PhotoShop, DreamWeaver and other useful applications.

In response to a question, Pam explained that teachers are eligible for a \$350 mini-grant each semester if funds exist.

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

Parliamentarian – Parliamentarian Lisa Kay discussed the LJHS PTA By-laws and explained that some minor changes were being proposed. Today's meeting constituted the required notice period, and a vote on the amended By-laws will be held at the next regular meeting. Lisa offered copies of the amended By-laws to anyone who desires them.

Advanced Placement Workshop – Anne Howard explained that the AP Workshop is hosted by LJHS as an event where approximately 400 teachers from across the U.S. come to prepare to teach Advanced Placement classes, and the College Board pays the school to host the event and provide breakfast and lunch to attendees. The event is the single-largest fundraiser for the LJHS PTA. The event will be held on Saturday, October 11, 2008, so a total of 35 volunteers are needed

the day before to procure the food and then two shifts of workers (6:30 - 10:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.) on the day of the event. Anne circulated a clipboard with a sign-up list for volunteers.

Blast Off! – Blast Off! Co-Chairperson Vanessa Ratliff explained that Blast Off! was a big success and she expressed her thanks to everyone who volunteered and participated, with special thanks to Vera Pitrofsky and Karen Davis. It seemed that a record number of fans attended the football games and filled the home team stands. There was lots of fun and food. The PTA raised almost \$2,000. Remaining recycled shopping bags are still being offered for sale.

CPR Training – Ellen Reardon reported that CPR training of sophomore students will occur again this year during a ten-day period (January 6-16, 2009) shortly after the winter holiday break. Ellen explained that the PE teachers give CPR instructions to the students and parent volunteers are present to supervise and assist the students with their learning. The heaviest load is during 5th period, so volunteers are asked to consider volunteering for that time period when possible.

GATE/DAC – Lee Trahan explained a GATE parent meeting with teachers was held yesterday. This meeting included students making presentations of their activities. Lee announced that SDUSD sponsors a lecture series each year for parents. Flyers for this year's lectures are available on the back table at the meeting. Lectures are held on four Wednesday evenings throughout the school year at the school district offices, and an e-blast will be used to notify parents of an upcoming lecture in the series. Lee announced that a flyer for the California Association of the Gifted is also available, and memberships are being solicited.

Grade Level Representatives Coordinator – Parent Rep Coordinator Anna Marie Cameron could not attend, so Sarah announced that Anna Marie has been setting up parent-student meetings to plan class activities.

Grade Level Reports

12th Grade – In Elizabeth Allen's absence, Sarah reported that a meeting for senior class reps will be held next Friday, October 10th, at 7:30 a.m. All parents of senior students are invited to attend, not only the parents who volunteered as grade level reps.

11th Grade – Barbara Daitch praised the junior class officers for their ideas, energy and hard work. The planned junior parents' dinner has been postponed until April. The class has been very successful in its fundraising efforts. One major effort is having class members serve as poll workers on Election Day, November 4th, with their compensation donated to the junior class, which might raise \$10,000. Another initiative is a "birthday package" to celebrate friends' birthdays at school.

10th Grade – Cheryl McCarthy also praised the sophomore class officers. Several merchandise sales have resulted in proceeds of more than \$400. The class wants to begin work on its homecoming float, and is seeking a garage or yard where initial assembly can take place. Cheryl reminded parents that the last date for sign-ups for the PSAT is October 8, 2008.

9th Grade – Vera Pitrofsky volunteered to serve as the head rep for the freshman class pending confirmation.

Governance – Michael Briggs announced that he was re-elected as Chairperson of the Governance Committee, and that Jerry Tellers and Linda Dowley were elected as Vice-Chair and Secretary, respectively. Michael introduced the other parent members of the Governance Committee: Pam Zuckerman, Mary Jane Linsky, Bee Mittermiller and Linda Dowley (the latter two were absent because of out-of-town trips). Michael invited parents to attend Governance Committee meetings, which are open and held on the first Monday of each month when school is in session that day at 2:30 p.m. in Room 302.

Health and Safety – Pat Robbins, R.N., Health and Safety Liaison, thanked everyone who donated supplies to meet some of the needs of the LJHS school nurse (Nurse Lisa).

Pat highlighted two other issues:

- Students at LJHS have been smoking Salvia, a hallucinogenic herb. Parents should be vigilant.
- The staph infection MRSA is present in La Jolla. Use of soap and hot water are recommended for families to keep clean and prevent the spread of this infection.

Legislation – Sarah introduced the new Legislative Chair, David Bark. David explained how the PTA tracks legislation and provides information through its website. He described how he will notify members regarding issues of interest. He noted that local Proposition S covering capital improvements and repairs for schools in the SDUSD will be covered at the Principal’s Chat on October 16th.

La Jolla Moneybooks – Susan Saeed announced that La Jolla Moneybooks that provide savings and free items at restaurants and local stores are available for only \$20. She said that they will be sold at PTA meeting and were available at the Welcome Back Dinner. Volunteers who want to sell the La Jolla Moneybooks were also solicited.

Newsletter – Jane Pulliam, Newsletter Editor, announced that the October/November issue of the newsletter was mailed over a week ago, and surveyed attendees to determine how many had received a copy. Approximately ¾ had not received the newsletter yet. Jane explained that attendees can obtain a copy of the newsletter on the LJHS PTA website.

Newsletter Mailing – Lee Trahan, Newsletter Mailing Co-Chair, explained that she will contact the post office and inquire about the delivery delay. She recommended that parents consider “opting out” of receiving a mailed copy of the LJHS PTA Newsletter and simply download and print it at home, saving printing and postage costs and volunteer mailing time.

Registration – Cal Mann asked attendees to participate in the on-line survey for feedback regarding the registration process in August of this year.

Cal also explained that as a member of the La Jolla Rotary Club he wanted to announce that the Riford Senior Center was hosting a non-partisan League of Women Voters ballot review on Friday, October 10th, at 10:30 a.m.

Welcome Back Dinner – Pam Zuckerman, Co-Chair of the Welcome Back Dinner, announced that 165 parents attended the dinner for all LJHS parents that was held on September 16, 2008. She complimented the speakers and student volunteers. In addition, she praised the excellent table and other decorations prepared by Anne Peterson, and the outstanding food prepared by Rod Coon and his catering team.

LJHS Foundation – Christina Orciuoli, Academic Committee Chair for the LJHS Foundation, introduced herself. She reported as follows:

- Thanks to the PTA and its members for the invaluable help provided to the LJHS Foundation, especially with the Save Our Teachers campaign.
- The Foundation will send its first newsletter of the school year in October to kick off its fall Academic Edge Campaign and solicit donations. Donations in any amount are welcome.
- The “Taste of La Jolla” fundraiser will be held on October 13th and will again feature La Jolla Village restaurants. Tickets are on sale for \$40 (\$45 on the day of the event). 100% of the proceeds go to the LJHS Foundation. In response to a question, Christina said that children are welcome at the Taste of La Jolla.
- LJHS Foundation meetings are held on Wednesday mornings at 7:00 a.m., and parents are welcome.
- Expenditures made by the LJHS Foundation are all posted on its website for everyone to see.

Kerri Smith, last year’s Co-Chair of the Save Our Teachers campaign, explained that the effort was successful because of the excellent PTA phone list and all the work by the students. Kerri announced that in May 2009 the LJHS Foundation will host “Cruisin’” in place of the Scarlet & Black Ball. The event will be staged at the new building at the Scripps Pier in La Jolla.

Principal’s Report – Vice Principal Bev Greco introduced herself and explained that she would deliver the report in place of Principal Dana Shelburne. She reported as follows:

- Enrollment at LJHS was as follows:
 - 9th graders: 461
 - 10th graders: 410
 - 11th graders: 389
 - 12th graders: 376
 - Total 1636
- The school is funded for 1666 students, so it may be necessary to raise funds in order to pay for the additional teacher at LJHS.
- The school budget was supplemented by the Save Our Teachers donations of \$96,000, the LJHS Foundation’s donation of \$100,000 and the fact that the SDUSD’s offer to add a third vice principal on campus was declined and converted into another teacher. Funding for LJHS will likely be unknown until at least November 1st.
- Library Update. For each \$15,000 that can be raised or received in excess budget funds from the SDUSD, LJHS can employ a librarian for one day in the Library Media Center. We are seeking volunteers to assist in the LMC. The administration wants to have the LMC open after school for tutoring and computer use, especially for ALEKS students in mathematics. Susie (Struhar) De Lacy will process volunteer paperwork and screening, including a TB test and fingerprinting background check. The vice principals are working in the LMC as well as in the locker rooms because there are no locker room attendants, except for a student teacher. A certificated person is required to be on-site, and volunteers cannot provide the supervision in the LMC, but the presence of special education teachers helps to provide the necessary supervision by certificated personnel. It is possible that a teacher might be scheduled to work from periods 2-7 so that the last period would be coverage in the LMC.
- In the counseling center, LJHS currently has five counselors, with each of the four counselors reporting to Ms. Behnke serving approximately 425 students. Ms. Cathy

- Zimmer has returned after receiving her lay-off notice due to her lack of seniority last spring.
- Regarding LJHS test scores:
 - California High School Exit Examination (CAHSEE). Each year the passage rate increases in the State of California. LJHS' results dropped slightly this past year. It is very important for students to be present when the examination is given, and LJHS' participation rate dropped recently. 42 current sophomores did not pass their first attempt at the CAHSEE during their freshman year.
 - The school's API is 818 (down slightly from 829).
 - The capacity of LJHS is 1550 students, and the student population exceeds capacity by approximately 100. Still, the administration wants enrollment to be where it is.

Questions for Vice Principal Bev Greco:

- How often are the locker rooms sanitized? Ms. Greco was not certain, but the example of the University of Southern California sanitizing its locker rooms hourly was not being done at LJHS.
- With teachers going on leave, what notice is given to parents of students in classes? Ms. Greco explained that some teachers were going on leave due to maternity and national guard/reservist obligations. She explained that long-term replacements were being interviewed. In addition, Mr. Baron will return from retirement in order to teach at LJHS from March through June 2009. Ms. Greco said that she would ask Mr. Shelburne about planned communications with parents.

With no further questions or announcements, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 a.m.

Minutes submitted by Michael Briggs, Recording Secretary