

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

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 A.M. by President Sarah Schrier.

President's Report - Sarah announced the following:

- Ellen Brice, Teri Newlee and Linda Dowley volunteered to be readers of the minutes.
- Beth Behnke, Director of Guidance in the LJHS Counseling Center, will make a presentation at next month's meeting and answer questions. Sarah encouraged attendees to submit written questions for Ms. Behnke.
- There will be no school held on Veteran's Day, Tuesday, November 11th.
- Parent directories available for sale for \$6 each.
- Funding requests that received preliminary approval from the LJHS PTA Executive Board and are ready for the general membership approval include the following:
 - \$500 to be matched by the LJHS Foundation for beautification work on the PTA Plaza on campus (located between the 800 building, the 900 building and the band building).
 - Up to \$500 for painting a Viking insignia in the school cafeteria and motivational words on the pillars inside the cafeteria. The project is headed by Jane Wheeler, who led similar beautification efforts at Muirlands Middle School very successfully.

It was moved, seconded and passed that the two beautification projects be funded.

- Donations of LJHS- and school-related items are being accepted as prizes for drawings at upcoming Principal's Chats.

ASB Report – Sarah introduced Sasha Vaghefi, ASB Vice-President, who reported as follows:

- Homecoming Plans are being made for the football game at 6:30 P.M. on November 14th and Homecoming Dance from 8:00 P.M. to 11:00 P.M. on November 15th. Decorations are being planned and arranged for the Homecoming Dance, and donations are also needed.
- Homecoming will be marked by spirit week with events on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. A Viking Village with booths and activities by various school clubs and groups will be staged at the Homecoming football game. During half-time of the football game, a float parade will take place.

Sarah thanked Sasha for her report.

Treasurer's Report – Amy Heap presented the Treasurer's Report, including the current balances of the LJHS PTA savings account (\$10,485.21) and checking account (\$26,918.39). She displayed and described the receipts and checks issued. A motion to approve the Treasurer's November 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 these minutes.)

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

- The first Principal's Chat of the school year was held on October 16, 2008. It was successful, and the refreshments provided by Georgia Hornback were widely praised.

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- Future Principal Chats will be held on January 15, 2009 and again on May 14, 2009.
- On May 27, 2009, a college preparation night for parents and students will be hosted by the PTA with a panel of parents.
- An evening education program for parents is being planned, and suggestions are welcome. Last year's program covered drug and alcohol use.

Ways and Means – Due to the absence of Pam Zuckerman, Vice President of Ways and Means, Sarah presented the following requests for mini-grants:

- \$350.00 for Ms. Brammer for Physiology classes for pigs' feet, cow femurs, and rabbit muscle in order to teach suturing, muscle physiology and long bone dissecting.
- \$320.00 for Mr. Volger in the Computer Science department for "Classroom in a Book" series to help with the Adobe CS3 Design Premium Program.
- \$300.00 for Mr. Friberg for Photo and Printmaking classes for two scanners.

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

Membership – Linda Rutgard announced that 938 members had joined the LJHS PTA – the goal is 1009 this year (in honor of the Class of '09). Applications from new members are still being accepted. Membership cards were distributed.

Linda announced that the LJHS Foundation is planning for this year's Vines and Vintners fundraising event with Rob and Gina Hixson as chairs. The event will be held on January 31, 2009, at the La Jolla Country Club. Last year, \$62,000 was raised. Donations were being solicited.

Parliamentarian – Parliamentarian Lisa Kay discussed the proposed changes to the LJHS PTA Bylaws that were announced at last month's meeting. On a motion that was seconded and carried, the proposed changes to the LJHS PTA Bylaws were approved. (Note: a copy of the new Bylaws is filed with these minutes.)

Historian – Sandra Sloan reminded attendees to sign in and list any and all volunteer hours on LJHS activities. She also explained that a survey of preferred PTA meeting starting times was being conducted, and encouraged attendees who did not indicate a starting-time preference at the October meeting to indicate their preference today.

Advanced Placement Workshop – Anne Howard announced that the AP Workshop was successful and she thanked the 35 volunteers who assisted. The event is traditionally the single-largest fundraiser for the LJHS PTA, and this year's event raised \$4,700. Anne stated that she is retiring as chairperson of this event, and she encouraged anyone interested in taking this responsibility next year to contact her for information and details contained in the notebook compiled by Anne and previous chairpersons.

CPR Training – Ellen Reardon reported that CPR training of sophomore students will occur again this year during a ten-day period shortly after the winter holiday break. Ellen explained that the heaviest load is during 5th and 6th periods, so volunteers are asked to consider volunteering for that time period when possible.

e-Blast – Dianna Hoff announced that over 1,000 people have enrolled to receive e-mail blasts about LJHS activities. She reminded attendees to encourage others to enroll.

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Library Volunteers – Dianna Hoff explained that there is only one day during the week now when the Library Media Center is not open: Wednesday. There is a desire to have the LMC open before school, at lunch and after school on Wednesdays so that students can use reference materials, receive tutoring and access the computers and school databases. So, volunteers are being solicited for shifts that last approximately one hour. Volunteers require clearance by the San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD), which consists of a TB test (performed by the LJHS school nurse) and fingerprinting for a background test. The latter test costs \$33, which is refunded by the LJHS PTA with a receipt. Dianna stated that anyone interested in volunteering could contact Ms. De Lacy at LJHS, and appointments at the SDUSD offices for fingerprinting are advised.

Governance – Linda Dowley announced that the Governance Committee is concentrating on Academic Integrity this year, and is working to create the right environment. This effort is a continuation of last year’s R.O.O.M. program, which encourages every member of the LJHS community to “do the right thing.”

Linda explained that “doing the right thing” applied to parental behavior when driving near the LJHS campus. Parents were encouraged to drive safely and model good behavior for students, including avoiding driving into teacher parking lots and other areas where signs indicate “no student drop-off.” In response to a question about whether pedestrians would be safer with a painted cross-walk and possible cross-walk sign on Draper Street at Westbourne, Linda promised to raise the issue with the Governance Committee at the next meeting.

Linda invited parents to attend Governance Committee meetings, which are open to parents. The next meeting will be held on Monday, December 1, 2009, at 2:30 P.M. in Room 302.

Grade Level Reports

12th Grade –Elizabeth Allen reported as follows:

- A meeting of Senior Class parents was held in October, and another meeting might be held during an evening in January 2009.
- An e-mail list of Senior Class parents was created, and other Senior Class parents can be added.
- A successful Senior Class parent fundraising dinner was held at the Wheelers’ home with excellent food provided by the Thota family. Over \$3,000 was raised.
- For Homecoming, Julie Matibag has volunteered to lead the float planning and construction.
- College applications are underway, and use of Naviance is important to seniors.
- T-shirts will be sold at Homecoming.
- Senior Exhibitions are being planned, which are required for graduation from LJHS. Volunteers to attend and grade the presentations will be needed. Students are required to write, present and have a visual aid. Students are expected to dress as though they are going to a job interview.
- Senior video is being planned by Julie Matibag and Jan Gloven.

11th Grade – Barbara Daitch indicated that:

- Junior Class students are working on their Homecoming float, and need a location on Saturday and Sunday for building the float with parental supervision.

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- A parent fundraising dinner might be hosted in spring 2009.
- While lots of students volunteered to be poll workers in the election, there were fewer openings than volunteers. Still, \$5,000 was raised by the volunteers who donated their stipends to the Junior Class Fund.

10th Grade – Cheryl McCarthy announced the following:

- The Sophomore Class Homecoming float is being built at the Weber's house on Sunday from 2:00 P.M. until 5:00 P.M. Some needs are large speakers with an iPod or CD compatibility and an electric guitar.
- Sophomore Class President Melissa Pouk and crew are working to increase class involvement, and are selling class t-shirts for \$10 each.
- On November 19th the Counseling Center will host the 10th grade review night for parents of sophomore students.

9th Grade – In Vera Pitrofsky's absence, Jane Wheeler indicated as follows:

- The Freshman Class float for Homecoming was progressing with Las Vegas themed candies, examples of which were circulated.
- The Freshman Class will sell stadium blankets at the Homecoming football game.

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 three other issues:

- Cold and flu seasons are here. Students should stay home if they have a fever above 100.5°. The best way to prevent illness is to wash your hands.
- A PTA conference is being held on October 19th at 8:30 A.M. on health and safety. Pat placed an information flyer on the back table so that interested attendees could read it for details.
- Students at Chesterton Elementary School are in a pilot program to help students with visualization problems. It is a form of "Brain Gym."

La Jolla Moneybooks – Susan Saeed announced that La Jolla Moneybooks that provide savings and free items at restaurants and local stores are still available for only \$20 until December 2008. When a parent suggested setting up a coupon exchange basket for unwanted coupons that others might want to use, Susan indicated that might be done after sales of the La Jolla Money Books ended for the school year.

LJHS Beautification Project – Sarah introduced Jane Wheeler, who discussed the LJHS cafeteria beautification project and displayed sample art work that might be used on the wall and columns in the cafeteria.

LJHS Foundation – Sarah introduced Teri Newlee, LJHS Foundation Board Member. Teri reported as follows:

- Plans are being made for the Vines and Vintners fundraiser as previously described by Linda Rutgard.
- A May 2009 fundraiser will replace the Scarlet and Black Ball with a casual event with an "on the beach" theme. The event will be staged at the new oceanfront forum at Scripps Institute.

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Announcements:

- Teri Newlee stated that the La Jolla Recreation Center needs volunteers in order to continue operating despite budget cuts. She said that students should consider doing volunteer work there.
- Lee Trahan noted that the LJHS School Profile that is sent to colleges by the Counseling Center should be updated to indicate that LJHS does NO class ranking. Linda Dowley volunteered to discuss it with the Counseling Center.
- Jane Pulliam, Newsletter Editor, announced that articles for the upcoming issue of the newsletter were due tomorrow, November 8th.
- A parent asked about whether LJHS tracks student volunteer hours, and the response was that students need to track their own volunteer hours. Additional information regarding the importance of volunteer activities is located on the Counseling Center page of the LJHS website.

Principal's Report – Principal Dana Shelburne greeted attendees and reported as follows:

- Library. Money from the Save Our Teachers Campaign and the LJHS Foundation in the amount of \$185,000 was transferred to the SDUSD in order to pay for the extra teachers and two days of Muirlands Middle School Library Media Teacher Jill Zagami in the LJHS LMC. Lynn Stell, LJHS Library Technician, will work two days a week.
- Regarding faculty and staff:
 - Mr. Olson was recalled to active duty and his initial long-term substitute will be replaced on Monday, November 10th, hopefully with a person who will be satisfactory for the remainder of the school year.
 - Dana's secretary, Lynn Dull, was recovering nicely after her surgery.
- The SDUSD budgets will be further impacted with the newly announced shortfall in the State of California budget. If the shortfall is \$5 billion, that equates to a \$40 million shortfall in the SDUSD budget. The SDUSD announced that more central office cuts will be made, but the extent is unknown, and information on additional cuts is uncertain.
- Academic Integrity. Dana discussed the work of the Governance Committee and the pending survey results from the Josephson Institute for Ethics, which has 1-Minute Lessons available that Dana hopes LJHS might be able to use without paying additional licensing fees. Anne Howard noted that in the past she worked on a program for La Jolla Elementary School using monthly themes of virtue that teachers incorporated into their lessons. Dana further explained that Josephson's 6 Pillars were being blended with the R.O.O.M. ethos at LJHS. Academic Integrity was part of departmental meetings held last Wednesday at LJHS. A parent suggested that LJHS consider using an honor code similar to that in place at some colleges and universities.
- Proposition S. Dana noted that Proposition S was approved by voters, which will give a 10-year window for construction of improvements at LJHS. Priority projects will be designated by LJHS. The SDUSD is interviewing candidates to select a Proposition S Implementation Leader.

Questions for Principal Dana Shelburne:

- What is the status of the cafeteria where the beautification project is underway? Dana explained that due to student misconduct in the cafeteria, it was recently closed for a week. He indicated that the beautification project might create more pride in the facilities and serve as an incentive for improved student behavior.

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

Minutes submitted by Michael Briggs, Recording Secretary