

**LA JOLLA HIGH SCHOOL PTA
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 9, 2009**

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by President Sarah Schrier.

President's Report - Sarah announced the following:

- Venzel Hammershaimb, Cal Mann and Sudata Debchaudhury volunteered to be readers of the minutes.
- Sarah expressed thanks on behalf of the LJHS PTA to the following:
 - Crown Point Clippers, which trimmed all the trees on campus and hauled everything to the dump without charge.
 - Teachers and staff sent thanks to PTA volunteers who assisted with the PTA Holiday Breakfast for the faculty and staff.
 - Lynn Dull, School Secretary for Principal Dana Shelburne, expressed her thanks for the fruit that was sent by PTA during her recovery.
- More volunteer opportunities exist, such as the following:
 - A parent who would like to help compile questions that will be answered on the LJHS Counseling Center frequently asked questions (FAQs) page. In the absence of a volunteer, Sarah asked that questions be sent to her via e-mail.
 - The PTA will be more active in supporting the Principal's Chats that are held for VEEP and other remote parents, which are held at Memorial Preparatory School, including providing assistance with refreshments for which volunteers are needed. The next such meeting will be held on February 11, 2009, at 6:30 p.m. The subject will be financial aid for college.
 - Coordinator for Teacher Appreciation Week, beginning May 3, 2009. Sarah explained that others volunteered to assist the coordinator. Karen Feeney generously volunteered to be the coordinator, and Sarah promised to forward the list of current volunteers to Karen.

Treasurer's Report – Amy Heap presented the Treasurer's Report, explaining total income of \$890 and total expenses of approximately \$3,318 placed the balance of the LJHS PTA checking account at approximately \$31,798 and the balance of the savings account at approximately \$10,504. A motion to approve the Treasurer's January 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. In response to a question about why some of the money in the checking account was not moved to the savings account, Sarah explained that the intent was to avoid fees on the checking account. (Note: the actual report is filed with these minutes.)

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

- A Principal's Chat will be held next week, on January 15, 2009, at 9:30 a.m.
- An evening education program for parents with guest speaker Fred Becker on the subject of "How to Raise a Responsible, Self-reliant Child" will be presented in the Parker Auditorium on March 3, 2009.
- Another Principal's Chat session will be held on May 14, 2009.
- On May 27, 2009, a college preparation night for parents and students will be hosted by the PTA featuring a panel of parents.

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- Brainstorming is underway regarding a program for high school seniors called “Everything You Need to Know After Graduation” featuring a banker, a chef and other specialists.

Ways & Means – Pam Zuckerman, Vice President of Ways & Means, provided a summary of the mini-grants being requested for PTA approval, as follows:

- \$181.07 for Mr. Eveleth in the counseling center for materials for college night information and career unit for 9th graders.
- \$181.07 for Ms. Marron in the counseling center for the identical items as Mr. Eveleth requested (the total cost was \$362.14).
- \$9.64 for Mr. Volger in the computer science group for an additional \$9.64 to supplement the previously approved mini-grant of \$320.00.
- \$177.11 for Ms. Behnke in the counseling center for four Ruggs books on Recommendations for colleges.
- \$300.00 for Mr. Teachworth in the science department for a Leopard software program to back up an Apple computer.
- \$350.00 for Mr. Quesnell in the science department for DNA and RNA simulation kits for more than 170 students.
- \$250.00 for Ms. Benito in the world languages department for reference books to help students with different learning styles.
- \$350.00 for Ms. Rodrigues in the AVID group for 25 SAT preparation guide books.

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

Membership – Linda Rutgard, Membership Co-chair, announced that 944 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, so Linda asked attendees to have others join the PTA.

Historian – Sandra Sloan reminded attendees to list any and all volunteer hours for LJHS activities.

Parliamentarian – Lisa Kay announced that a nominating committee is being formed to identify candidates for LJHS PTA officer and committee positions for the 2009-2010 school year. She asked for an additional member, and Michael Briggs volunteered. Teri Newlee and Christina Orciuoli volunteered as alternates.

Band Liaison – Jackie Wigle reported as follows:

- On February 25, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., the LJHS Jazz Band will receive a visit from local professional jazz musicians to work with the Jazz Band with a performance in Parker Auditorium. It is the third year that such tutoring has occurred thanks to the La Jolla Rotary Club.
- The LJHS Band is exploring fundraising opportunities for 2009, and anyone who is interested in participating should contact Jackie. Funds will be used to support the instrumental and choral groups' trip to San Francisco in the spring.

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

- As a new semester is approaching, applications are now available for ASB Commissioner positions for the spring semester. Applications close on January 16, 2009. Students need

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to have space in their academic schedule to take ASB during fourth period in order to be selected.

- Upcoming activities include Air Band on February 12, 2009, containing lip-synching and dancing. There will be two shows that evening. Parents are invited to attend.
- A second winter pep rally will be held on February 6, 2009.
- The Global Leadership Connection conference for students in the junior class begins on Monday. Because other high schools chose not to participate, additional openings are available for interested students.
- The SDUSD Board of Education approved a “2 lunch period” policy to begin in September 2009. The ASB Presidents Council has taken a strong position in opposing the change despite the claim by the SDUSD that such a change would save the district \$1.2 million. Raquel explained that the new policy would impact clubs at LJHS (because they normally meet at lunch) as well as cause noise for students in classes when ½ of the school is having lunch. Raquel explained that the Council submitted a position paper to the SDUSD. Linda Rutgard offered to place the subject on the agenda of the PTA Executive Board Meeting that is scheduled for Monday, January 12, 2009.

Sarah thanked Raquel for her report.

E-Waste Collection Event –Bee Mittermiller described last year’s successful E-Waste Donation Day staged with the assistance of the LJHS Clean Campus Club. She explained that last year’s event was so successful that the Second Annual LJHS E-Waste Recycling Program will be held on Saturday, February 21, 2009, from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Steps are being taken to publicize the event in the La Jolla Light and at the local Farmer’s Market.

Sarah thanked Bee for her work and report.

CPR Training – Sarah reported that CPR training of sophomore students is in progress and going very well. She announced that three more training periods were added, and as a result additional volunteers are needed on January 12 – 14, 2009, from 10:30 a.m. until 11:35 a.m.

GATE/DAC -- Sarah announced that flyers were placed on the table at the entrance with information on four lectures on how parents can better teach and meet the needs of gifted children.

Governance – Michael Briggs reported as follows:

- Michael discussed the efforts of the Governance Committee to develop actions to improve academic integrity at LJHS. He explained that the results of the Josephson Institute for Ethics biennial study for La Jolla High School students were posted on the LJHS homepage. Michael acknowledged that the theme of next week’s Principal’s Chat is academic integrity and results of the survey.
- As a reminder, in November 2008, the San Diego Unified School District approved a contract for a consultant to help the SDUSD design a performance evaluation system for school principals. The LJHS Site Governance Committee passed a resolution recommending that the Board of Education terminate the contract. Michael proposed that the LJHS pass a similar resolution. Copies of the draft resolution were made available and Michael read it to the attendees. A motion to approve the resolution was seconded. After discussion, the motion passed. (Note: the resolution is filed with these minutes.)

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- Michael announced that the next Governance Team meeting will be held on the first Monday in February, at 2:30 p.m. in Room 302, and he invited all parents to attend.

Grade Level Reports

12th Grade – Sarah reported for Elizabeth Allen as follows:

- Senior Exhibitions begin next week.
- Final examinations are coming – be prepared.

11th Grade – Barbara Daitch reported as follows:

- The junior class raised \$7,000 toward next year's senior dues as poll watchers in the November election.
- The class raised \$10,000 as a result of the Power Puff Football Game.
- Air Band preparation is underway.
- A dinner for parents of junior class students is being planned for May 1, 2009.
- The "Big Man on Campus" competition will be held on Thursday, March 5, 2009.

10th Grade – Nancy Pouk announced the following:

- Thanks to everyone who ordered a Candy Gram. It was a very good fund-raiser for the sophomore class.
- Air Band preparations are being made. Nancy stated that it is a very good show, and that parent can attend.
- PSAT review session will be held in Parker Auditorium on January 21, 2009.

9th Grade – Vera Pitrofsky reported as follows:

- The Freshman Class is selling flannel PJ pants as a fund-raiser.
- A dinner for parents of freshman students is being planned for February 26, 2009.
- Productive meetings have been held between the class parent representatives and the ASB 9th grade officers.

Health and Safety – Sarah reported for Pat Robbins that a program on Teen Relationships and Gender Violence will be held on January 15, 2009, from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. at the San Diego County Office of Education. A flyer is available with additional information.

Reflections – Martha Ready announced that there had been one La Jolla High School student who submitted an entry into this year's contest, with the theme of "WOW." Martha displayed the artwork submitted. She explained that she is trying to increase the interest and participation in the program for next year.

SAT Preparation – Susan Saeed explained that she has assumed responsibility for the program from Erica Knowles. Upcoming SAT review classes will be sponsored by the PTA on March 21 and 28, 2009 for mathematics taught by Ms. Thomas and on April 18 and 25, 2009 for the verbal section taught by Ms. Visconti. The price is \$45 for one subject and \$80 for both. Forms are available on the LJHS PTA website. Additional sessions will be scheduled for the summer.

Library Media Center – Sarah introduced Jill Zagami, part-time LMC librarian for LJHS and for Muirlands Middle School as well. Jill explained the following:

- She works in the LMC on Tuesdays and Fridays.

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- Outdated textbooks are being removed from the LMC.
- She discovered that students did not realize that they could go into the non-fiction room and look through books there.
- Gillian Moss, a parent volunteer, has been making much-needed labels for books.
- New books for how to conduct research have been ordered and should arrive soon.
- She is teaching MLA formatting to students.
- There are no books on careers, so 120 have been ordered.
- The LMC website has been upgraded. Jill distributed handouts with the LJHS passwords.
- Jill is working with the librarian from the La Jolla/Riford public library on Draper Street, where a book club is offered that encourages student participation.
- A new on-line database is available this year: the WorldBook.

Sarah thanked Jill for her work and her presentation.

Senior Exhibitions – Sarah reported for Gail Buechler that opportunities for additional volunteers to judge the senior exhibitions are available.

Stars in Our Eyes – Cal Mann, parent of an LJHS student and member of the La Jolla Rotary Club, reminded attendees that the annual *Stars in Your Eyes* 90-minute program will be held on Friday, January 30th, in Parker Auditorium. It is a collection of talent from the four La Jolla-area high schools, which draws rave reviews each year. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$10 for students, and Cal circulated a list for attendees who wanted to buy their tickets early since the event sells out every year. This event raises money for Rotary Club of La Jolla's college scholarship fund.

LJHS Foundation – Sarah introduced Christina Orciuoli, LJHS Foundation Board Member. Christina reported as follows:

- The Foundation provided new trashcans for use in the LJHS quad area.
- The Vines and Vintners fundraiser will be held on January 31st at the La Jolla Country Club from 6:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. Tickets to the very popular event will be sold at \$75 per person. Underwriting donations are welcome as well with a very popular silent auction.
- Tickets to the Buick Invitational Golf Tournament are available. The proceeds go 100% to LJHS.

Principal's Report – Dana Shelburne, Principal of LJHS, discussed the following:

- There are new covered trashcans on campus thanks to the LJHS Foundation. They have received an overwhelmingly positive response. The custodians like them because students cannot use them like basketball baskets where "missed shots" end up as garbage on the ground. Further, the sea gulls cannot get into the trashcans because of their covers. Currently there is a big push by ASB to keep the campus clean, and the new trashcans are helping.
- The Ted and Ann Peterson family has been a huge help in keeping the campus landscaping attractive. Thanks to Ann and her entire family. A group of people under supervision of the country sheriff is working on the campus grounds once a month for a very reasonable fee. The group also has worked at other local high schools with good results.

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- A group of educators from Vladivostok, Russia, visited LJHS for a tour and discussion of how LJHS educates and involves students.
- California budget issues still have a possible impact on the budget of the SDUSD and La Jolla High School. The SDUSD has indicated that it can reduce its budget by \$20 million during the current year without cutting personnel, however some forecasts show that a reduction of \$40 million might be required depending upon the size of the California budget shortfall. Until a California budget revision is issued, the amount of the deficit remains unknown. The current intent is that no changes be made to the teaching staff.
- Proposition S was passed by the voters in the November election. Capital improvements at LJHS center on access to the football stadium and replacement of the artificial turf field (in 2011). In addition, the Turf-It fundraising efforts at Muirlands Middle School (where LJHS uses the athletic fields) are important because an artificial turf field would save approximately 1 million gallons of water annually.
- The Principal's Chat on January 15, 2009, will focus on results of the Josephson Institute survey results for LJHS students. Already, Dana has met with academic department chairpersons and the LJHS Governance Committee to review the results, which tie in with the R.O.O.M. efforts to instill character building at LJHS from last year. Dana stated that the survey results are available on-line at the LJHS website. He explained that he is soliciting ideas on how LJHS can use the results of the survey.

Questions for Dana Shelburne:

- What plans are there for viewing the presidential inauguration? Dana indicated that he would encourage teachers to view it or tape it (where it occurs outside the history class hour) for possible viewing and use later.
- Regarding integrity, what is being done at LJHS regarding ethics generally? Theft of student property remains a problem, including the loss of personal information in a student's binder that went missing on campus. What is being done by the administration to minimize theft on campus? Dana explained that the administration investigates cases of reported theft on campus and follows up on leads. In addition, students are advised to leave non-essential personal items at home and not bring them to school in order to minimize possible losses.
- What is being done at LJHS about the SDUSD's two-lunch periods policy? Dana explained that a senior high school principals meeting was held the previous day at which the subject was discussed. He indicated that the policy was adopted by the Board of Education prior to having two members replaced in last November's election, which might give the newly constituted Board of Education an opportunity to reevaluate the policy prior to its going into effect in September 2009. The ASB Presidents Council is opposing the policy, and students and principals have voiced their opposition. The rationale of saving the SDUSD more than \$1 million in funds carries great weight with the Board of Education. Dana indicated that the direct impact on LJHS would likely be mitigated because of the policy's impact on academics and the academic autonomy agreement that LJHS has with the SDUSD.

With no further questions or announcements, the meeting was adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

Minutes submitted by Michael Briggs, Recording Secretary

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