

**LA JOLLA HIGH SCHOOL PTA  
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 6, 2009**

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m. by President Sarah Schrier.

**President's Report** - Sarah announced the following:

- Teri Newlee, Linda Dowley and Linda Rutgard volunteered to be readers of the minutes.
- Sarah circulated a thank-you card from a family who suffered a house fire and received assistance from the PTA.
- A volunteer opportunity exists for a parent who will assist Susie DeLacy in scheduling students for Senior Exhibitions next year.
- Attendees are reminded to avoid parking in 15-minute parking spaces near campus while attending PTA meetings or any event that last longer than 15 minutes.
- La Jolla High School (LJHS) was chosen to take part in the 2009 50 Science Festival where science events will be hosted at 50 local San Diego schools. Sarah circulated a handout with more information, including details of a lecture that will be given at La Jolla High School. Sarah explained that parent volunteers are being sought to assist with lunch after the event.
- Principal Dana Shelburne has requested that the LJHS PTA use approximately \$2,000 of its gift to the school this year in order to purchase two lunch tables for installation now. The tables will be placed in the PTA Plaza. Sarah explained that the request was approved by the PTA Executive Board. A motion to approve the purchase of the two lunch tables was seconded and carried.
- Regarding another beautification project, the cafeteria project is moving ahead very well. The next PTA meeting might be held there next month so that attendees can see the improvements.
- The school year is approximately one-half over, and the first semester was productive for the PTA. Volunteer participation and donations are very high. Thank you to those who have been involved.

Sarah introduced San Diego Unified School District School Board Member John de Beck. Mr. de Beck addressed the meeting and explained that although the school year is more than ½ over, the School Board does not have a budget for the current year, and a revenue shortfall of approximately \$80 million over the next two years exists. He indicated that up to \$20 million in savings has been identified. While some might be expecting a bailout from the U.S. Congress as part of the stimulus package, he explained that he believes that counting on those funds to reach the SDUSD through the State of California is imprudent. Mr. de Beck explained his earlier proposal to remove 9 days from the school year, which he described as a severe measure, but indicated that it saves \$4.4 million each day that schools are closed. He stated that some specific cuts being discussed include 6<sup>th</sup> grade camp, counseling and guidance positions, which involves cutting talent from the school district, and raises the question of how to re-implement programs in the future if the people who ran the programs have moved to jobs outside of the SDUSD. He explained that after March 15, 2009, the School Board couldn't issue lay-off notices to teachers and staff, which constitute 80% of the budget. He stated that if the School Board spends its current \$20 million reserve this year, there would be no surplus available for next year where the cuts might need to be larger. In response to a question about employees volunteering to work without pay, Mr. de Beck explained that he could not comment about that or any subject that would require collective bargaining negotiations to implement.

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Sarah thanked Mr. de Beck for his attendance and participation.

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

- The winter sports pep rally will be held today after 4<sup>th</sup> period in the big gym.
- The next two Mondays will be school holidays.
- A luncheon for new students who were not in attendance last semester will be held.
- Upcoming activities include Air Band on February 12, 2009, containing lip-synching and dancing. There will be shows that evening at 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Parents are invited to attend.
- Applications are due next Friday for new and returning campus clubs.
- On February 18, 2009, the senior class is hosting a fundraiser at Sammy's Wood Fired Pizza from 5:00 p.m. till 9:00 p.m. 20% of proceeds will be donated to the senior class. Information and flyers will be on the table at the rear.
- On February 17-18, 2009, the junior class is holding the "Big Man on Campus" competition, which is a "beauty" pageant for guys. The final competition will be held on March 5, 2009.
- The ASB Ball will be a formal dance held on March 7, 2009 at the Hall of Champions. On February 20, 2009, the ASB is hosting preview day with demonstrations and information on limos, make up and formals during lunch.
- On March 3, 2009, there will be a genocide awareness assembly with a guest speaker from Darfur.
- Here is an update on the SDUSD Board of Education approved "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 she and ASB Presidents from other schools have a meeting on Thursday with Superintendent Grier to discuss the issue and deliver results of a recent survey that concludes that long lines at lunch are not the major reason that students fail to receive lunches under the federal free lunch program.

Sarah thanked Raquel for her report.

**Treasurer's Report** – Amy Heap presented the Treasurer's Report, explaining income came from membership dues and donations, and expenditures included hospitality, mini-grant and newsletter costs, resulting in a balance of \$31,932.68 in the LJHS PTA checking account and a balance of \$10,514.02 in the savings account. A motion to approve the Treasurer's February 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 with details of all the checks that were written is filed with these minutes.)

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

- A Principal's Chat was held on January 15, 2009, where Principal Dana Shelburne reviewed the results of the Ethics Survey.
- Another Principal's Chat session will be held on May 14, 2009.
- On May 27, 2009, at 6:30 p.m., 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 “Life 101” or “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:

- \$350.00 for Mr. Jones in the Science Department for plant presses for Marine Science students.
- \$350.00 for Ms. O’Donoghue in the English Department for books for the English 3-4 curriculum.
- \$350.00 for Mr. Fournier in the English Department for 40 copies of “A Streetcar Named Desire.”
- \$135.94 for Ms. Solberg, Registrar, for a book regarding overseas schools to evaluate credits and grades of transferring students.
- \$350.00 for Ms. Brammer in the Science Department for DNA extraction kit and a beaver’s skull.
- \$309.00 for Mr. Palm in the Computer Science Department for 40 headphones.
- \$312.50 each for Mr. Tenenbaum and Mr. Quesnell for three oxygen gas sensors.
- \$0.62 for Mr. Teachworth for remaining postage from an earlier request that was funded.
- \$308.51 for Ms. Zagami for art biography books for the Library Media Center.

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

**Membership** – Linda Rutgard, Membership Chairperson, announced that she intends to contact parents of the new students at LJHS to solicit more members. Linda asked attendees to have other people join the PTA, too.

**Auditor** – Renee Savage reported on her recently concluded audit of the LJHS PTA financial records. She concluded that the financial records of the Treasurer are the LJHS PTA are substantially correct with recommendations as follows:

- use the “cash receipt system” suggested by the State PTA;
- use the “cash verification form” as suggested by the State PTA;
- the president and secretary should sign off on each LJHS Check/Reimbursement Request form as suggested by the State PTA;
- the LJHS PTA recording secretary should itemize all checks ratified by the membership (as opposed to stating that those presented were ratified); and
- check no. 3688 issued to United States Postal Service and dated 9/5/08 should have a backup receipt.

A motion to approve the auditor’s report was seconded and carried.

**Proposition S Oversight Committee** -- Mr. John de Beck requested permission to address the meeting for an additional moment in order to request assistance in making an appointment to the Proposition S Oversight Committee. Mr. de Beck explained that the \$2.1 billion bond issue for capital improvements called Proposition S was approved by voters last November and an oversight committee is being appointed by the School Board. Mr. de Beck seeks a volunteer who is a member of the PTA, the parent of a SDUSD student and has strong financial understanding and construction experience to serve at least one year and attend an oversight committee meeting at least once each month.

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

**Band Liaison** – Jackie Wigle reported as follows:

- The visit from local professional jazz musicians to work with the Jazz Band with a performance in Parker Auditorium was moved to February 23, 2009, at 10:00 a.m. 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.

**Library Volunteers** – Dianna Hoff explained that additional library volunteers are needed to keep the LMC open on Wednesdays and Fridays. Volunteers need to have TB tests and be fingerprinted. Dianna asked that attendees consider volunteering on Wednesdays before school and on Fridays at lunch and after school.

**e-Blast** – Dianna Hoff explained that her new assistant Kathy Fackler is getting up to speed nicely. A new interest group for GATE has been added for distribution lists. In addition, class representatives are being asked to send e-mails to those who have indicated a desire to receive e-mails targeted to a specific class rather than sending them to everyone in the general interest category.

**CPR Training** – Ellen Reardon addressed the meeting and expressed her thanks for all the volunteers who enabled the CPR training for sophomore students to run so smoothly. There were 136 volunteer positions for the training, and all of them were filled!

**E-Waste Collection Event** –Bee Mittermiller described the upcoming E-Waste Donation Day that will be staged with the assistance of the LJHS Clean Campus Club on Saturday, February 21, 2009, from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Bee circulated a sign-up form asking for parent volunteers for the event.

Sarah thanked Bee for her work and report.

**Governance** – Michael Briggs, Chairperson of the LJHS Governance Committee, reported as follows:

- Preparations are underway for the annual performance evaluation survey of Principal Dana Shelburne, which will be conducted on-line from mid-March until mid-April. All stakeholders (students, parents, teachers, staff and community members) are being encouraged to participate. A Spanish language version of the survey will be distributed to VEEP parents at the upcoming Principal's Chat on February 11, 2009.
- Related to the subject of the survey to evaluate the performance of the principal, Michael reminded attendees that 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 and the LJHS PTA passed resolutions recommending that the Board of Education terminate the contract. Copies of the resolutions have been sent to the School Site Councils/Governance Committees at other SDUSD senior high schools.
- Michael announced that the next Governance Team meeting will be held on the first Monday in March, at 2:30 p.m. in Room 302, and he invited all parents to attend.

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**Grade Level Reports**

**12<sup>th</sup> Grade** – Sarah reported for Elizabeth Allen that parents of senior class students should pay attention to items in the PTA Newsletter concerning senior class activities.

**11<sup>th</sup> Grade** – No report.

**10<sup>th</sup> Grade** – Nancy Pouk reported as follows:

- Air Band preparation is underway.
- A dinner for parents of sophomore class students is being planned.
- Sophomore class students are encouraged to wear class t-shirts to show their spirit!

**9<sup>th</sup> 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 will be held on February 26, 2009.

**Health and Safety** – Pat Robbins reported that a program of interest is being offered on February 27, 2009. It is a Health Fair will be offered at the San Diego County Office of Education offices. Also, there is an “Oxy Epidemic” in San Diego County high schools because students are experimenting with new uses for drugs found in family cupboards. Pat placed copies of an informative article regarding the subject on the table at the rear of the LMC.

**Legislation** – David Bark reported that the number one issue is the budget for California schools that still has not been passed by the California state legislature. David encouraged attendees to communicate with their state legislators regarding the issue, and explained that a form letter is available on the PTA website for use.

**Nominating Committee** – Linda Dowley explained that she was selected as chairperson for the Nominating Committee to find qualified candidates for the LJHS PTA executive board and all the other positions that are necessary for the organization to operate effectively. She expressed her thanks to parents who volunteered to run for open positions, and encouraged others to volunteer to serve in an office that interests them.

**SAT Preparation** – Susan Saeed explained that 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.

**LJHS Foundation** – Sarah introduced Jackie Helm, LJHS Foundation Liaison. Jackie reported as follows:

- The Vines and Vintners fundraiser was held on January 31<sup>st</sup> at the La Jolla Country Club. Jackie expressed her thanks to everyone who supported the event by participating or making donations.
- The annual Scarlet and Black Ball will be held on May 31, 2009. Anyone who wishes to volunteer to work on the event should contact Jackie.

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

- Dana thanked John de Beck for his attendance at and participation in the PTA meeting. He stated that Mr. de Beck has always been an advocate for LJHS on important issues.
- Regarding budgetary issues, Dana said that meetings on the budget were held as recently as yesterday. He said he was told that the \$31 million shortfall for the current school year was almost covered, and acknowledged that Superintendent Grier issued a voice mail message to parents of the SDUSD students explaining that steps to address the budget concerns would not affect school supplies. Current spending restrictions in the SDUSD are being managed by having LJHS forecast the budget for consumable items through the end of the school year. Next year, there appears to be a \$60 million shortfall, and the solutions to that budgetary problem are currently unknown. One item being considered is an inducement to current teachers and staff to take retirement now with one year's salary placed into an annuity paid out over several years (the offer being referred to as "SERF"). Dana explained that future savings from SERF depended upon how many of the possible 600 teachers would be replaced and at what salary. He indicated that the teachers' union wants any salary savings from a SERF program to be spent 100% on teacher and staff salaries of remaining employees.
- Regarding articulation, counselors are working with students to help them select classes for next year and plan the master schedule for LJHS. Counselors will meet with students at Muirlands Middle School and current LJHS underclassmen. New classes being considered for next year include Advanced Placement Environmental Science, Video Production and Three Dimension Design, the latter would be a University of California qualified class.
- Stars in Our Eyes! Dana complimented everyone who performed, worked on and supported the Stars in Our Eyes production. He gave special recognition to Ann Boutelle and Kathy Renda and their teams for their work. He indicated that the program cover was chosen from hundreds submitted, and was the work of a LJHS student. Cal Mann indicated that the program raised approximately \$156,000 for the Rotary Club Scholarship Program.
- Master Calendar. Dana stated that the LJHS Master Calendar is on-line, and updated by Susie DeLacy. Athletic and non-athletic events are listed.
- ASB suggested that the high school hold more than one pep rally each year, so now pep rallies are held with each sports season. The winter sports pep rally will be held today. Dana explained that the pep rallies are very good for school spirit.
- Regarding mid-year faculty changes, Dana explained that changes were necessitated by a variety of factors, including military service, maternity leave and a new teacher with excellent academic credentials who had difficulty teaching the subject. He explained that Ms. Lipton had to leave due to a family emergency and Ms. Olson retired at mid-year because of the SDUSD pension rules.
- Thank you to the PTA for approving the purchase of the lunch tables to be installed in the PTA Plaza.
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**Questions for Dana Shelburne:**

- Does the drug dog still visit? Yes, the last visit was two weeks ago. The good news is that the drug dog rarely finds indications of illegal substances.
- Was a boys track team coach hired? Yes, a boys coach and a pole vault coach (who earned an Olympic Gold Medal) have been hired. There will be a pole vault clinic offered for \$50 for the entire day.

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- Is there a defibrillator on campus? No. A parent noted that the fire station with paramedics is across the street from the school.
- Why are a TB test and fingerprinting required for library volunteers, but not other volunteers? Dana stated that he understood people who visit the campus on a regular basis as a volunteer are required to complete the SDUSD's required tests, while casual volunteers do not.
- Can the PE teachers read the bulletin during second period? Dana stressed that all second period classes are required to have the bulletin read. He stated that a student can read the bulletin aloud (or the video presentation can be used) while the teacher takes attendance. Dana noted that there are five extra minutes during second period for that reason, and the bulletin is only issued on Monday, Wednesday and Friday of each week. Dana asked that parents identify to him the names of teachers who do not read the bulletin.
- What needs to be proven in order to discipline an abusive teacher? Dana explained that parents and others can report abuse to the counselor, vice principal or principal. Reports that are given "confidentially" are less effective and cannot be used for disciplinary purposes with a teacher. Dana confirmed that having a teacher identify to other students the discipline meted out to a student was improper.

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

Minutes submitted by Michael Briggs, Recording Secretary