

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

President Sarah Schrier called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

President's Report - Sarah announced the following:

- Teri Newlee, Linda Dowley and Ellen Brice volunteered to be readers of the minutes.
- A volunteer opportunity exists for a parent who will coordinate the Administrative Professionals Recognition Day on April 22, 2009.
- The San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD) has posted a budget survey on its website, and parents are invited to participate. The SDUSD has disclaimed any intentions that union-represented employees participate and subvert the collective bargaining process. Sarah indicated that a LJHS teacher sent her an e-mail voicing a concern that the SDUSD is creating friction between parents and the community on one hand and teachers on the other hand. Sarah encouraged attendees to be sensitive and stay informed.
- Expressions of appreciation went to the following:
 - Linda Dowley, who compiled a *Las Patronas* grant application for audiovisual equipment to augment the small amount of out-of-date equipment that is currently available to the La Jolla High School (LJHS) network/media group led by Kathy Renda.
 - Donna Spreen, who transcribed the Counseling Center's College Preparation Manual into Microsoft Word format so that it will be easier to update in the future.

Counseling Center – Sarah introduced Cathy Zimmer, Counselor at LJHS, who explained that the California High School Exit Exam will be given on Tuesday and Wednesday, March 17 and 18, to all 10th grade students in the large gymnasium. Cathy asked for volunteers to guide students into the gym and help with distributing materials to students. She also asked for volunteers to help at the end of the exam. A sign-up sheet was circulated among attendees.

Treasurer's Report – Amy Heap presented the Treasurer's Report, explaining income amounted to \$233.00 and expenses in the amount of \$5,166.37 were incurred, resulting in a balance of \$26,999.31 in the LJHS PTA checking account and a balance of \$10,522.49 in the savings account. A motion to approve the Treasurer's March 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.)

Nominating Committee – Sarah introduced Linda Dowley, chairperson of the Nominating Committee. She explained that the Nominating Committee annually seeks qualified candidates for the LJHS PTA executive board and all the other positions that are necessary for the organization to operate effectively. Linda stated that the Bylaws of the LJHS PTA require that a slate of executive board candidates be presented at a meeting, and then voted upon one month later, when nominations will also be received from the floor.

The slate of executive board candidates for the 2009 - 2010 school year is as follows:

President - Sarah Schrier

Executive Vice President - Linda Dowley

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Vice President Ways and Means - Cal Mann
Vice President Programs - Linda Rutgard
Vice President Membership - Margaret Ohara
Treasurer - Amy Heap
Auditor - Devon Frager
Corresponding Secretary - Sherry Macelli
Recording Secretary - Wendy Neri
Historian - Sandra Sloan
Parliamentarian - Lisa Kay

Linda expressed her thanks to parents who volunteered to run for open positions, and encouraged others to volunteer to serve in an unfilled committee chair position that interests them.

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

- There will be lots of programs in May. A Principal’s Chat session will be held on May 14, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.
- 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. Volunteers are being sought.
- Brainstorming is underway with Linda Rutgard regarding a program for high school seniors called “Life 101” or “Everything You Need to Know After Graduation.”

Ways & Means – Pam Zuckerman, Vice President of Ways & Means, explained that \$8,222 out of an annual budget of \$10,000 has been spent year-to-date. She provided a summary of the mini-grants being requested for PTA approval, as follows:

- \$334.95 for Ms. Lo in the World Languages Department for French CDs and videos for culture enrichment.
- \$350.00 for Nurse Lisa for supplies, books on understanding medications for emotional and behavioral problems and posters.
- \$350.00 for Mr. James in the Science Department for frogs for dissection.

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

Membership – Linda Rutgard, Membership Chairperson, announced that today is the final day to join the LJHS PTA for 2008 - 2009. The LJHS PTA has 963 members this school year.

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

Campus Beautification – Jane Wheeler reported that after more than 100 hours of work by volunteers painting emblems, mascots and inspirational messages, the school cafeteria looks much, much better. Jane showed photos from the cafeteria and expressed her thanks to the many volunteers who helped.

E-Waste Collection Event –Bee Mittermiller described the very successful E-Waste Donation Day that was staged with the assistance of the LJHS Clean Campus Club on Saturday, February 21, 2009. Over 19,500 pounds of equipment with screens was collected, and the PTA realized a net profit of \$1,169 (last year’s profit was \$750). Bee thanked Cindy Polger who played a key role with publicity, including on-site reporting by KUSI television news. Bee stated that the volunteers were great and many students helped, including members of the Clean Campus Club.

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Some of the people who dropped off equipment made very complimentary comments about the student helpers. In response to a question about the \$25 charge for an e-blast message in the budget, Bee responded that she needed to check the source of that expense. Bee announced that the funds will be used to purchase additional covered trashcans (that cannot be raided by seagulls) on the LJHS campus.

Sarah thanked Bee for her work and the excellent results.

GATE/DAC – Lee Trahan reported that recent GATE activity has included evaluations of possible program impacts due to the SDUSD budget issues. A recent five-hour meeting exploring budget options was held. Increasing the class sizes for GATE and Seminar classes is a possibility, but that would be better than eliminating the programs. In response to a question, Lee responded that the SDUSD continues to offer Seminar classes at all senior high schools per the SDUSD's new policy this school year.

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

- Referring to the November 2008 Board of Education approval of a contract for a consultant to help the SDUSD design a performance evaluation system for school principals, he explained that the PTA and Site Governance Committee at other senior high schools have been alerted to the existence of the contract and the opposition of the LJHS Site Governance Committee, however there is no news regarding whether the contract will be reconsidered by the Board of Education.
- 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 was distributed to VEEP parents who attended the Principal's Chat on February 11, 2009. Paper copies of the survey will be available in the administration building for those who do not have access to a computer.
- Michael introduced Bee Mittermiller, who is chairperson of the Governance subcommittee concerned about academic integrity at LJHS. Bee announced that the Governance Committee approved the use of a website (www.LJHSstopcheating.com) that will permit students to report anonymously incidents of classroom cheating. A link to the website will be placed on the LJHS homepage. Any report of cheating will be sent directly to the teacher with details of any incident in order for the teacher to be alerted and take corrective action. An extensive discussion of the situation followed. Bee explained that the subject would be discussed further at a meeting of the subcommittee of the Governance Team on Monday, March 9, at 2:30 p.m. in Room 302, and she invited all interested parents to attend.

Grade Level Reports

12th Grade – Elizabeth Allen reported as follows:

- Congratulations to the senior class students who have been accepted by a college or university.
- Senior Exhibitions are continuing.
- ASB Ball will be held tomorrow night.
- LJHS' Girls Soccer Team plays in the CIF San Diego Finals tomorrow.

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- Dates for Senior Activities are shown in the PTA Newsletter.
- An e-blast will be sent to announce Grad Night arrangements and ask for volunteers.
- Senior class merchandise is for sale.

11th Grade – Tina Greenberg reported as follows:

- LJHS Boys Basketball Team plays in the CIF San Diego Finals tomorrow.
- A parents dinner will be held on May 16th as a fundraiser.
- Last night marked the conclusion of the Big Man on Campus competition.

Candy Satterlee (Grad Night Coordinator) suggested that the junior class pick a Grad Night Coordinator for next year to work with Candy this year in order to see how arrangements are made.

10th Grade – Sarah Schrier reported as follows:

- March 13 is the last day to register for Advanced Placement Examinations.
- March 17 – 18 are the dates of the California High School Exit Exam.
- April 14 is the date of a college fair held in downtown San Diego.
- April 22 – 27 are the dates of the California standardized tests.
- May 2008 is when SAT II tests will be offered (with information at www.collegeboard.com).
- Anyone interested in helping as a parent representative next year should contact Cheryl McCarthy.

9th Grade – Jane Wheeler reported as follows:

- Freshman class parent dinner was successful, earning over \$1,000 toward senior dues. One innovative idea was that everyone brought a bottle of wine, which reduced expenses. Excess bottles of wine were donated to the LJHS Foundation.
- Freshman Girls Basketball Team finished its season with a record of 18 – 0. It is the first undefeated team!

Health and Safety – Pat Robbins reported Nurse Lisa has alerted her to the drug problems at LJHS. Pat explained that information for parents can be found at a parent anti-drug website: www.theantidrug.com. The website discusses use of cell phones to arrange for drug purchases. In addition, students sometimes go through cupboards at friends' homes looking for available prescription drugs.

Legislation – David Bark reported that the number one issue is the budget for California schools. He explained that there may be budget-impacting ballot issues in May 2009.

Library Tribute Fund – Gillian Moss suggested that friends and other family members consider making donations in the names of students, teachers and others. She indicated that a modest contribution of \$10 per parent at LJHS would help the Library Media Center update its antiquated collection of books. Gillian commented about the large number of students who use the library daily.

Sarah thanked Gillian for her report.

Library Volunteers – Sarah reported that Dianna Hoff continues to organize volunteers for the LMC, and expressed her thanks to the volunteers. Sarah explained that volunteers are needed on

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Mondays and Fridays during lunch in order to keep the LMC open for students. Parents interested in volunteering should contact Dianna Hoff.

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. The next review sessions will be held in August 2009.

LJHS Foundation – Sarah introduced Teri Newlee, member of LJHS Foundation Board. Teri reported that the annual Scarlet and Black Ball will be more informal this year with a beach party theme. It will be held on May 31, 2009 at the new building at the base of the Scripps Pier. Darcy Smith announced that she is seeking donated items that can be auctioned at the event for an amount in excess of \$1,000, such as trips and dinners at homes. The goal is to find seven or eight live auction items and also stage a silent auction.

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

- A freshman class parent fundraiser had excellent results. The parents of all the classes have been terrific this year!
- “Big Man on Campus” finals were held last night. It was lots of fun!
- ASB’s Scarlet & Black Ball will be held tomorrow night at the Hall of Champions. Today is the last day to purchase tickets.
- On March 20th the senior class vs. faculty basketball game will be held.
- ASB is exploring a powder puff football game vs. University City High School.
- A senior class fundraiser will be held at California Pizza Kitchen. That will be the final fundraising activity before senior dues are determined for the graduating class. Senior dues cover the Senior Prom, Yearbook, Senior Breakfast and other activities.
- A dodge ball tournament will be held during lunch period during the last week of March 2009.
- As an update on the SDUSD Board of Education approved “2-lunch period” policy to begin in September 2009, Raquel explained that she and ASB Presidents from other schools met 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. As a result, the Board of Education voted 4-1 to rescind the previously approved 2-lunch period.
- Everyone is encouraged to remain involved in actions concerning school budgets. Students are willing to help parents in their advocacy and fundraising efforts.
- Thanks to the PTA and parents for all the support that they have given to ASB and the school this year.

Sarah thanked Raquel for her report and expressions of appreciation.

Principal’s Report – Dana Shelburne, Principal of LJHS, discussed items as follows:

- At a recent Community Leaders Breakfast, Raquel Saxe was in attendance, and she received praise at the event from Superintendent Grier for her work with other ASB Presidents on the 2-lunch period policy. Then, yesterday, at a senior high school principals meeting, Superintendent Grier again praised her work. At yesterday’s meeting, Superintendent Grier indicated that more flexibility might be given to school sites regarding the duration of lunch periods.

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- Every six years, the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) reviews the accreditation of LJHS, with a three-year mid-term evaluation meeting. That meeting will occur in the near future, and the evaluators will meet with groups of administrators, teachers, students and parents, including the President of the PTA and other groups.
- Articulation is underway with students selecting desired classes for next school year. The proposed courses will be mailed to homes in order for the parents to review the choices and give their written approval. That input will be used to create the Master Schedule for next year, and making changes to class schedules will be difficult.
- Regarding budgetary issues, Dana said that the bad news is that the deficit for 2009 – 2010 has increased from \$66 million to \$106 million based upon current estimates. The good news on budgets is that the remainder of the 2008 – 2009 school year looks to be okay. Steps are currently underway to finalize the money that will be spent at LJHS. The school currently has sufficient supplies through June 2009.
- Dana discussed the 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"). While 2,500 people qualify, the SDUSD needs at least 600 to accept the offer in order to realize the desired savings. Dana explained that future savings from SERF depended upon how many of the possible 600 teachers would be replaced and at what salary. During the current school year, LJHS has three extra teachers due to the administration's decision to decline to hire an additional vice principal and the Board of Education's decision to fund two additional English teachers in order to reduce class sizes in 9th grade English classes. Those positions are likely lost for next year. The administration is considering which programs might be impacted or eliminated. Dana expressed his desire to keep LJHS as an outstanding comprehensive high school without sacrificing its current breadth of classes.
- Cookies were brought onto campus that were laced with drugs, and apparently knowingly consumed by students. Five students had negative medical reactions. The student who distributed the cookies might be suspended, and the others might be suspended for being under the influence.
- Good news announcements include the following:
 - Mr. James' National Oceanographic Science Bowl (NOSB) Team won the regional contest, sometimes called "The Surf Bowl." LJHS entered two teams, who would have faced each other in the finals except a rule prohibits that. The NOSB Team will compete in the nationals in Washington, D.C.
 - The National Association of Black Chemical Engineers (NOBChE) Team took second place in the regional tournament, but the first place team is unable to go to nationals in Washington, D.C., so the LJHS team will go!
 - The Academic League Team won a tournament in Arcadia, California and will travel to Chicago for the national finals.
 - In sports, the CIF Finals will be held tomorrow, and the Girls Soccer Team and the Boys Basketball Team will both be playing for the Championship. As a footnote, Dana explained that the teams' and coaches' high ethics were on display recently. In girls soccer, when two players were late for a game the coach had the players benched for the amount of time that they were late. In boy's basketball, when competitors resorted to rough tactics when they trailed in the game, the Vikings kept their composure and did not retaliate. Dana indicated that both incidents are evidence that there is a right way to do things, which is a theme that has been promoted by the LJHS Site Governance Committee.
 - The Math Team captured 2nd Place in the State of California.

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- Mr. Teachworth won a \$5,000 grant for the science department.
- The Site Governance Committee has approved use of a website for anonymous reports of student cheating, which Bee Mittermiller earlier explained.
- Thanks to Jane Wheeler and everyone who has helped to make the cafeteria look great with the new decorations!

Questions for Dana Shelburne:

- Regarding the budget, Dana explained further that the 2009 – 2010 budget cuts currently mean less money than in the 2009 – 2010 budget at LJHS. The word “cuts” does not mean a reduction in projected budget increases or COLA payments.
- Regarding the “golden handshake” retirement incentive, three or four teachers at LJHS are eligible to accept it.
- When asked about teacher layoffs, Dana explained that layoff notices must be given no later than March 15, 2009, under state law. To date, the SDUSD Board of Education has said that it will not issue layoff notices.
- Dana indicated that he is optimistic that that La Jolla High School will get through the current budget crisis because there are so many parents, faculty, staff and community leaders who desire to have the students affected as little as possible.

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

Minutes submitted by Michael Briggs, Recording Secretary