

**LA JOLLA HIGH SCHOOL PTA  
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES  
MAY 1, 2009**

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

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

- Ellen Brice, Linda Dowley and Margaret Ohara volunteered to be readers of the minutes.
- Kathy Fackler is helping with the composition and sending of e-Blasts as she prepares to replace Dianna Hoff, who has done an excellent job in setting up and operating the Constant Contact system. Dianna will be available next year to help Kathy with any questions.
- The May meeting is the last, full business meeting of the year for the LJHS PTA. There will be a short business meeting on June 5, 2009, and a luncheon at the home of Maureen Weber. All PTA members are invited to attend.
- A special thank-you goes to Karen Feeney who organized the Administrative Professionals Week activities at LJHS. A thank-you card that Sarah received from the LJHS staff was circulated for attendees to read.
- The PTA Executive Board approved a revision for the gift to the school line item of the budget, raising the gift from approximately \$12,800 to \$16,000, and approving the designation of up to \$3,800 of those funds to be spent on work to complete the PTA Plaza on campus (between the 800 and 900 buildings). A motion was made to increase the gift to the school to \$16,000 with up to \$3,800 to be spent on work to complete the PTA Plaza and the balance to go into the LJHS Foundation Academic Fund. After being seconded and a discussion, the motion was passed.

Sarah indicated that a couple of reports would be taken out-of-order to accommodate presenters' schedule constraints.

**Registration** – Sarah introduced Cal Mann, Chairperson for 2009 Registration. Cal explained that the next six weeks would be very active with the solicitation of more volunteers to help with student registration. In addition, the downloading of on-line forms for all students will be necessary, and that requirement will be publicized. The website for registration is [www.ljhsregistration.org](http://www.ljhsregistration.org). Cal described plans for a “Festival in the Quad” to be held during registration. More information will be available in the upcoming PTA Newsletter and in e-Blast messages.

**Senior Class Report** – Elizabeth Allen praised the Senior Class for raising \$36,000 toward Senior Class activities, which resulted in the amount of Senior Class dues being lowered to \$60 per student.

Further, Elizabeth reported as follows:

- The last full day for Senior Class students is June 10, 2009, the day for Grad Night. Students need to be in school all day on June 10<sup>th</sup> in order to attend Grad Night at Disneyland. Additionally, students must remain at school upon their return from Grad Nite on June 11th from 7:30 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. There will be breakfast and a program in the gym.
- Today is the final day to submit materials for the Senior Class Video. This year, instead of hiring a contractor, students are compiling the video. Julie Matibag has been on

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campus with a video camera interviewing students and recording classroom scenes for use in the Senior Class Video.

**Nautilus Fundraiser for the LJHS Foundation** – DeAnna Andrews announced that the big LJHS Foundation event will be held on May 30, 2009, at the Scripps Seaside Forum in La Jolla. Donations are being accepted and tickets for the event are now on sale.

**LJHS Foundation** – Jackie Helm reported that the Foundation’s annual tournament is still accepting golfers for the May 15<sup>th</sup> Viking Golf Classic at Coronado Golf Course. Information is available on the LJHS Foundation website or by calling the Foundation office.

**Salon-a-Thon Fundraiser** – Caroline Farwell and Ellen Brice announced that Salon José is staging another benefit for the LJHS Foundation in the form of gift certificates that can be purchased and used at Salon José and all proceeds go to the LJHS Foundation up to \$10,000. The certificates can be used anytime during the next year.

**Treasurer’s Report** – Amy Heap presented the Treasurer’s Report, explaining deposits amounted to \$2,109.32 and checks were written in the amount of \$6,712.96 (as detailed in the displayed projection at the meeting), resulting in a balance of \$20,579.11 in the LJHS PTA checking account and a balance of \$10,535.65 in the savings account. A motion to approve the Treasurer’s May 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.)

Sarah thanked Amy for her report.

**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. in the Ridgeway community center with Cindy Polger as host. While the previous Principal’s Chat sessions had a theme, this one is simply an open discussion.
- 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. The updated College Guide will be distributed to attendees.
- During the first week of June, students enrolled in Political Science will attend a pilot program for high school seniors called “Life 101” or “Basic Skills into Adulthood.”

**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. Allen (on behalf of non-teacher coach Karnopp) in the Physical Education Department for a camcorder and tripod for use by the male jump and track team.
- \$350.00 for Mr. Allen (on behalf of non-teacher coach Ford) in the Physical Education Department for a camcorder and tripod for use by the female discus and track team.
- \$288.00 for Ms. Boutelle in the Theatre Department for replacement of make up, color wheels and personal crème kits.

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Pam explained that the camcorders and tripods would be equipment owned by LJHS and kept by Coach Allen for use by others when not required by the track teams.

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

**Historian** – Sarah (on behalf of Sandra Sloan) reminded attendees to list any and all volunteer hours for LJHS activities.

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

- The annual performance evaluation survey of Principal Dana Shelburne concluded on April 20<sup>th</sup>. He thanked everyone who participated, and announced that 90 parents/guardians, 22 teachers/staff members and 46 students participated. The results on the 20 questions were positive, with an improvement over each of the past two years. Further, the median score for each question is either “above standards” or “meets standards” overall and for each significant subgroup. Michael offered to provide more information after the meeting to anyone who was interested.
- Michael discussed work by the Governance subcommittee concerned about academic integrity at LJHS. He announced that the LJHS homepage website link for students to report incidents of cheating was in the process of being reconfigured in order to send reports directly to the teacher. He explained that the Governance Subcommittee made a brief presentation at the LJHS Faculty Meeting. The members asked for and received suggestions on how to approve this tool as well as recommendations on other resources that might be helpful to teachers. Bee Mittermiller, Subcommittee leader, explained that while a union grievance was filed regarding the stop cheating website link, the legal department of the SDUSD had already approved of the manner in which the process was designed. Michael thanked Bee and the subcommittee members for their work.
- Michael announced that the next meeting of the Governance Committee will be held on Monday, May 4, 2009, at 2:30 p.m. in Room 302, and he invited all interested parents to attend.

**Grade Level Reports**

**12<sup>th</sup> Grade** – Given earlier during meeting.

**11<sup>th</sup> Grade** – Barbara Daitch reported as follows:

- Junior Class car wash held on April 8, 2009, was successful and raised \$370.
- A parents’ dinner will be held on May 16<sup>th</sup>, and it is intended to communicate information regarding senior year activities for parents.
- Junior Class fundraising activities are in progress, and poll workers at the upcoming special election should generate significant income.

**10<sup>th</sup> Grade** – Sarah delivered the report for Cheryl McCarthy, as follows:

- Melissa Pouk and Cheryl McCarthy sent expressions of thanks to the Sophomore Class students in ASB who worked so well together on class activities during the school year. They also sent her thanks to the parents who assisted on Sophomore Class activities, especially homecoming.
- The International Food Fair was a success, and the Sophomore Class sold boba tea.
- The deadline for registration for the final SAT II tests of the year is on May 5, 2009.

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- A reminder to Sophomore Class parents: ensure that your students prepare for SAT tests. In response to a question about the relative merits of the SAT and ACT tests, the questioner was directed to Ms. Beth Behnke in the LJHS Counseling Center.

**9<sup>th</sup> Grade** – No report.

**Health and Safety** – Pat Robbins reported that information on the swine flu could be found on the Center for Disease Control website at [www.cdc.org](http://www.cdc.org), which is updated frequently. Reportedly, there are 1,000s of untested cultures that have been taken because the huge demand has created a significant backlog with some cultures being untested after a couple of weeks. Schools are distributing alcohol dispensers and hand sanitizers for use in the classrooms, and masks are being used where suspected cases of swine flu exist. One over-the-counter treatment regarding the flu is Oscilloccocinum, a natural flu remedy.

Sarah stated that the SDUSD website, [www.sandi.net](http://www.sandi.net), contains information on any swine flu cases as well as informative links.

**Legislation** – David Bark reported on the upcoming special election regarding six ballot initiatives concerning state budgets and taxes. He encouraged attendees to read the ballot initiative language and to consult websites of organizations that support as well as oppose the ballot measures in order to be fully informed. He recommended the California PTA website as well as the websites for the California Taxpayers Association and the San Diego Taxpayers Association. Regarding the specific ballot propositions, 1A and 1B are interrelated and the most significant, with 1A raising taxes and 1B requiring that if taxes are raised, then certain money must go to public education in the state. Propositions 1C and 1D are the next most significant, with the former borrowing money from future lottery sales and the later shifting funds previously designated for children’s education to the general fund. Finally, Propositions 1E and 1F have a lesser impact.

Sarah announced that an e-Blast would be sent regarding the special election and that links to David’s recommended websites would be included. She encouraged attendees to be informed and to vote.

**SAT Preparation** – Susan Saeed reported that a series of SAT review classes recently finished with 46 enrollees, and 40 students attended a single session workshop on essay writing. She announced that SAT review classes will be offered during the summer from July 27 through August 12 from 8:30 AM until 12:30 PM taught by Ms. Visconti (Verbal) and Ms. Menders (Math). Classes will also be offered in the fall.

On the subject of La Jolla MoneyBooks, of which Susan is also the coordinator, she announced that she is looking for help from people who want to assist with the sales of the La Jolla MoneyBooks soon after registration in September 2009.

**Teacher Appreciation Day** – Karen Feeny reported that she plans to offer a picnic lunch to teachers on Teacher’s Appreciation Day, Wednesday, when LJHS has a minimum day. It will be called “Picnic on the Green.”

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

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- ASB elections will be held on May 22, 2009, and applications are available in Room 304 for elected offices (that will last one year) and fall commissioner positions (that last one semester). Applications are due no later than May 6, 2009.
- Senior Prom will be held on May 29, 2009.
- Senior Dues in the amount of \$60 are payable no later than Monday, May 4. After that date, the dues increase to \$65.
- SDUSD Board of Education forecasts budget cuts for the next school year, however, Mr. Shelburne forecasts little disruption at LJHS. The Board of Education recently reversed previous votes to cut some transportation and to require small schools to share principals.
- There will be lot of Senior Class events through graduation on June 15, 2009.

Sarah thanked Raquel for her report.

A parent complimented the manner in which Raquel had spoken and communicated at an event at Bird Rock Elementary School earlier in the week.

**VEEP** – Isabel Vega, VEEP Representative, expressed her thanks for all of the assistance provided by LJHS and the PTA to her, her family and the VEEP community during the many years when her children have been students at LJHS. She announced that since her youngest child is in the Senior Class, this will be her final year as VEEP Representative until her grandchildren “someday attend LJHS.” She proudly proclaimed that she is a Viking forever.

Sarah thanked Isabel for her exemplary efforts in communicating with VEEP students and their parents and for all of her work in improving LJHS.

**Announcements and Questions**

One parent asked whether the PTA might offer ACT review classes in the future, and another parent remarked that her student found that the SAT review classes helped him to prepare for the ACT as well.

Bee Mittermiller announced that Ellen Riordan will assume responsibility for the e-Waste recycling drive, which will be held on February 20, 2010, next year. In addition, Jane Wheeler has agreed to help coordinate volunteers for the event. Sarah announced that the PTA Executive Board voted to continue its involvement with the e-Waste recycling drive next year.

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

- Announcements of noteworthy student accomplishments:
  - Vice Principal Mr. Fairley is escorting the NOBChE team to Washington, D.C. for the national finals.
  - Mr. James recently escorted the National Oceanographic Science Bowl team to Washington, D.C. where it captured 6<sup>th</sup> place honors.
  - Ms. Thomas coached the Math Team to a 4<sup>th</sup> place finish in San Diego County.
  - Ms. Irwin and Mr. Quesnell will be escorting the schools two Academic League teams to the national finals in Chicago, IL.
- The SDUSD is offering a “golden handshake” for retirement eligible teachers, who have until May 8, 2009 to make a final decision. To date, LJHS teachers who have taken the first step toward accepting the offer are Mr. Bickley and Mr. Fournier. The SDUSD

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needs approximately 650 teachers to accept the offer to meet its budgetary goals, however approximately 170 teachers in the district have indicated an interest to date.

- Regarding teacher staffing at LJHS:
  - One teacher had indicated a possible move to Ohio.
  - Mr. Faulkner and Mr. Lindenblatt are on temporary contracts and might not be back at LJHS next year.
  - Four teachers were notified of possibly being laid off depending upon retirements and final budgets, however all existing programs are safe for 2009-2010.
  - SDUSD has budgeted teachers for LJHS based upon an expected student count of 1587, while the enrollment is more likely to be 1680 students, which will mean that all of the faculty members will be retained. One big unknown is the number of La Jolla residents who will come to LJHS as new students without having attended Muirlands Middle School (e.g., current students at La Jolla Country Day, All Hallows School and Bishops students). Approximately 21 students have applied to come to LJHS in order to study Latin.
  - The Library Media Center at LJHS will be open five days a week next year with a full-time library clerk and half-time librarian (shared with Muirlands Middle School).
- The budget for the next school year is okay, and all money in this year's budget has been spent, which should be fine because the school has all necessary supplies, including paper.
- In the next PTA Newsletter, the process for obtaining forms electronically for registration in September 2009 will be explained. Parents will be required to use a computer, go on-line and download then print the forms. Kathleen Doll is working to make the documents as concise as possible to minimize the number of pages that need to be printed. As part of the effort, the LJHS website will be upgraded probably using students.
- SDUSD Board Member John de Beck has been advocating recently for an examination of dividing the SDUSD into at least two pieces in order to make the operations more efficient. His current proposal is to make the high schools of La Jolla, Mission Bay and Point Loma (with their feeder schools) into an independent school district. The application is relatively straightforward, and if approved by the County Board of Education and in Sacramento, creation of the new school district would be put to the voters who reside in the proposed school district. Dana estimated that 40,000 students reside in the La Jolla, Mission Bay and Point Loma attendance areas. He explained that any new district must be composed of contiguous school attendance areas.

**Questions for Principal Dana Shelburne**

- In response to a question about redesigning the LJHS website, Dana indicated that it might be prudent to pay for some aspects of the work that need to be done, while ensuring that work that can be done by students that would also have the benefit of improving their skills was very desirable.
- In response to a question about textbooks for the new Advanced Placement Environmental Sciences course when the SDUSD is in a budget crunch, Dana explained that the GATE office had funded such textbooks in the past. He noted that Superintendent Grier has announced that he wants to offer more AP classes, which would require the purchase of more AP books and materials. SDUSD has not yet decided regarding payment for these textbooks.
- In response to a question regarding on-line textbooks in the future, Dana acknowledged that it is being considered, although several issues remained. He noted that up to

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\$20 million might be available to SDUSD in the federal stimulus package, which might be used for technology upgrades, including increasing existing broadband bandwidth and adding wireless access.

- In response to a question about the absence of soap in some LJHS restrooms with the swine flu problem, Dana promised to check with the custodial staff to ensure that keeping soap in restrooms is a priority. Dana noted that teachers are using hand sanitizers in their classrooms. A parent suggested that the SDUSD consider installing alcohol dispensers in restrooms and eliminate much water usage.

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

Minutes submitted by Michael Briggs, Recording Secretary