PTSO Board Meeting Minutes – November 12, 2015

Attendees: Monica Berkeley, Stefanie Biay, Lisa Busse, Cynthia Chang, Jessica Chang, Cynthia Chen, Elisa Chen, Susan Chin, Hsueh Chiu, Pauline Chin, Janet Chyan, Jayshree Desai, Jaya Dutta, Sam Dutta, Shannon Edwards, Mary Eschen, Suzanne Foster, Sepideh Ghasseman, Tina Given, Jane Graham, Michelle Halteman, Yan Hu, Lily Hsiao, Joëlle Huck-DueroJ, Suzanne Huesby, Sarah Hung, Maria Houjua, Beth Kingsley, Manisha Krishnamurthy, Corina Kuo, Bounvieng Khometown, Diane Jew, Jane Jin, Amh King, Angela Kwan, Jennie Lan, Mark Lee, Susanna Lee, Tracy Leshkiw, Jian Li, Christie Li, Tatyana Lisovsky, Yufan Lu, Elizabeth Ouren, Joanne Makeever, Cynthia Miller, Mary Moriarty, Robin Navarro Strong, Judy Negin, Judy Nyin, Sharon Ooi, Erika Otsuka, Shirley Pak, EJ Park, Debbie Parsons, Karen Poelmann, Usha Rao, Shahama Shah, Omo Shajeri, Sheri Simmons, Terri Singer, Fan Steinke, Sheila Stratakos, Julie Stuart, Amanda Thai, Tina Tsai, Lolvuelle Tsu, Wendy Tung, Kathlynn Uenaka, Revathi Vosen, Dawn Voss, Susan Vukovatz, Yuchi Wang, Behnaz Westman, Jenny Wire, Sherry Wong, Sandy Wu, Jun Xie, Kevin Xhou, Annie Ying, Emile Zhang, Emily Zhen, Cowen Zhao, Chris Zuleeg

Approval of October Meeting Minutes – Susan Vukovatz passed out the PTSO Board Meeting Minutes dated October 8, 2015. Susan Chin motioned to approve and Dory Albert seconded. All approved.

Membership Update - Wendy Lei reported we have 638 members (58% of parents), have collected 80% of our budget, and still need 10-20% to go. Doing well, but could use more donations. The Directory is out, so anyone interested in joining that has not, contact Wendy Lei.

Treasurer’s Report – Checks to be ratified are numbers 1428-1435. Joanne Makeever motioned to approve and Annie Ying seconded. All approved.

President’s Update - Sandy Wu reported An Evening with the Principal went well, but there was not enough time to finish the presentation. Content was sharing the survey results.

- Holiday Luncheon is coming up; it is a Potluck lunch.
- There is also a Staff Holiday Lunch event; parents are able to donate dessert for this event. Look for Sign-Up Genius to sign up.

Principal's Report: Paul Robinson thanked PTSO for the great night, An Evening with the Principal. Will do another one, set up was really interactive, food was fantastic, and had opportunity to meet with each group.

- The use of alcohol and drugs is a societal issue, no matter where we are, statistics are pertinent to our area, 10-12% students have tried marijuana or alcohol, Junior year rises to 56% rises that have tried, sat with Officer some trends are the arising use of harder drugs such as LSD, heroin and cocaine, percentages have ticked up a little bit, also up among adult usage, how students access that is a great concern, have had a few instances where students have consumed alcohol and come to a school event, also there was some arranging of some type of deals to be done with police involvement – we are taking care of that. But as parents we need to have some real serious conversations with our children. Currently am reading a book about reviving conversation, putting electronics away and having a conversation. Author, Susan Terkel is very good, really donned on me to spend more time talking face to face as dinnertime sacred time. Will do something with Dr. John Mendelsohn during Speak up for Change, coordinate something for students, wish there was a solution for it, just being aware as a parent, maybe not trusting your child so much, know who they are with, where going, etc. Depending on national averages, our student averages are lower, so parents you are doing a good job.

Programs – Co-VP Mary Eschen Parent Ed Co-Chair thanked PTSO to make this event possible. Your generous donations allow us to put to different events such as the College Writing Workshop in fall with 60 juniors. Will do it again, giving priority to PTSO members. Please silent your cell phones as we are filming the following event for our website.

Guest Speaker: Carolyn Carpeneti (inventor of Co-Pilot Systems) presenting “I'm Ready for College but I Cannot Find my Backpack”. My son got accepted into his dream college. He learns differently, he has ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder) with NLD (Non-Verbal Learning Disability). It is hard for Anthony to understand tones of voices, is socially awkward, and life always was really hard for him. He got accepted to Embry Riddle Aeronautical Engineering August 2011. They rolled in with 27+ bags into dorm, finished the remainder of Freshman activities, was a little nervous, thought he will be okay, cried her eyes out and left. Eight
weeks later, Anthony is flunking every class, she has no idea what was going on, he was not turning in assignments which is very odd, so she had to make sense of his life and created a map to make sense of his day. She did 4 things: 1) got into the school’s Learning Management System which was very hard to understand, 2) made list of his assignments with all due dates, even put in free time, then started with due dates, big, bold red, backwards scheduled everything else, created word document, organized by subject with list of everything needed to do, sent him every night to check off what did, subscribed to some text messages, did for day, to week, he turned around pretty quickly, got a C average first semester, she was operating incognito, and used system 2nd semester. 99% of students who fail, cannot organize their time, texts could help millions of kids. 25% do not make it past Freshman year, 56% graduate in 5 years, 34% feel overwhelmed, and 10% depressed. Colleges don’t want to get into statistics. There is a critical piece here not being properly addressed, solution is complex, students drop out, change majors, 25% all STEM students change majors, simply overwhelmed, huge cost, we are 19/28 countries, 20 years ago we were number 1. Weak executive functioning is a road map which does not develop until ages 18-26, later for boys than girls, challenge slow pace of development, not how smart you are, set of skills that develop that allow you to show your intelligence, not a marker of intelligence, in charge of getting things done, planning, organizing, memory, time mgmt, flexible thinking is impacted, all this information coming in at faster pace than before, then students stop performing because overwhelmed, how they attack room is indicator of how brain is working, time management is a big problem, know what need to do, but does not get attention to last possible minute. Working memory, watch child make same mistake, reading efficiency, when read have to take meaning of word and retain information, initiation of effort, getting started hard at first to sit down and write 8 page paper, breaking things down high school, won't impact you when grow up, some of us have weak executive functioning, 80% have weak executive functioning, do not think in a normal sequential fashion, think differently, see things differently. ADD is another one, ability to apply appropriate amount of attention, sometimes not enough attention, sometimes just right, transition of high school into college is high, we do need to let them fail, is a set of skills that develops over time, and 2/3 of kids in their late 20s are still living with their parents. Her program makes it personal taking into account sleep habits, can you study while you eat, when do you like to study, how long is your attention? We are talking about kids who need the service, 1 assistant, have private room for test, gets more time on test, every time he takes a test, registers for test, walks into classroom to get big red envelope, teacher puts test in walks into Disability Services to take test. Should we be giving our high schooler this external support, learning difference would be easier and what about the responsibility of the professors who don't teach. Build some sort of calendaring system, help them set it up, sit down when get big assignment, minder to break it down, many wait until last minute, we learned to stay up all night memorizing information, but when break out over time actually helps them retain information, get to know your learning style, how learns best, need to be self-advocate for oneself. A book she wrote is coming out January 18, 2016 titled, “Taking Flight”, all on website, an app they can use called Co-pilot, there are not any that really exist, kids will not do anything that looks like more work, even if it is an app, even if tool, if it takes more time then will not do it, can look like extra work, needs to be seamless, Co-Pilot was created, builds a profile, learning style, sleep habits, sucks in class schedules in, system automatically breaks down workload, and can be modified for subject or student. She started company ½ years ago.  
Menlo College, University of Arizona, Duke College, and Emory-Riddle are using it. She got feedback from colleges, retweeked it, and made it high school friendly, believe if have weak executive functioning, working on standalone app, Anthony is ready to graduate, needed it first semester, little by little she removed scaffolding, and he was able to move own assignments that did not finish. Junior year he did not need it.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:15 am.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Susan Vukovatz
PTSO Secretary