**PTSO Board Meeting Minutes – September 10 2015**

**Attendees:** Vandana Agrawal, Dory Albert, Stacy Alexander, Belen Alonso, Ashley An, Grace Chen, Jiang Chen, Barney Chin, Lai Ling Chiu, Janet Chyan, Molly Davey, Felicia Deng, Thierry Doyen, Michelle Fan, Shelley Fan, Susanne Foster, Sheeba Garg, Judy Goldman, Michelle Halteman, Anna Huang, Joelle Huet-Ducrot, Sarah Hung, Sophia Kew, Yunju Kim, Angela Kwan, Michelle Lan, Jian Li, Darrell Miller, Susan Nakahira, Karen Poelmann, Jean Poo, Monica Rhee, Jayshree Desai Shanbhag, Stephen Shi, Terri Singer, Ranjana Sivaram, James Te, Katherine Tseng, Susan Vukovatz, Yuchi Wang, Jennifer Wen, Sandy Wu, Annie Ying, Emilie Zhang, Realtor Zhang, Chris Zuleeg

**Approval of April Minutes: Susan Vukovatz** passed out the April 16, 2015 Meeting Minutes for approval. Jayashree Shanbhag motioned to approve and Susan Chin seconded. All approved.

**Membership Update: Wendy Lai** reported we have 638 PTSO members, 58% of parents, and collected 80% of our budget. Still need 10-20% to go.

**Review and Approve Budget: Michelle Fan** presented budget against expenses. The All School Picnic is paid from here; budgets remain the same every year, however have increased parent education expense. Will be budgeting for the preparation of 30,000 meals in February for Stop Hunger Now Organization. The Rotary Club will be matching monies and Freshman can earn volunteer hours. Sheeba Garg motioned to approve and Susan Nakahira seconded. All approved 2015-2016 PTSO budget. Ratification of checks is needed. Sarah Hung motioned to approve and Susan Chin seconded. All approved check ratification.

**President's Update: Sandy Wu** reported 60 high school seniors came to get help writing their college essays.
- “Untangling the College Application Process” meeting occurred with 250-300 parents and students in attendance. George Fan presented with his tool on how to pick your schools, and how to apply. Felicia Fahey talked about the overall concept of college applications, showed an overview of different schools, and we have a lot of great information on our own website.
- Laura Menard is starting a Facebook page for Seniors.

**Principal's Report: Paul Robinson** reported about new buildings being constructed. He anticipates beginning construction in March 2016 for new music building. Demo was done in summer months. Anticipated date of completion Fall 2017
- Also, redoing back fields which will be completed mid to late October. There has been some delay getting dugouts for softball team but that will be completed in December.
- Wi-Fi – Some days good, other days not so good, pulled a lot of new fiber, more access points and increased bandwidth.
- We have better sewer systems, all flushing fine now, and will have better drainage than before with all the rain we are expecting.
- Reproofing a lot of areas, like gymnasium. In summer spent a lot of money to redo entire gym floor, new graphics, lines, etc, Thank Tom Alexander and Sports boosters for $10K.
- Student body also redoing graphics on walls for us to make it attractive.
- Classrooms have technology upgrades.
- Got results from Smarter Balanced Testing. Results are extremely good for Saratoga. Close to 95% of our 11th graders either met standards or exceeded standards, with 70% exceeding standards. This is the first time we have taken this test, so breaking down data now and statistics will be coming out soon.

**LGSUHSD: Katherine Tseng** board member reported she had two kids who went through SHS. SHS prepared her kids very well. SHS has an excellent staff. Last night at local school board meeting with neighboring districts, statewide 33% passed at standard level, of course room to improve.
- Two days ago at school board meeting, a Resource Officer was approved. It will be a police officer patrol to patrol the school, work on anti bullying and anti texting. Will work with students.
- In late August received a phone call survey geared to upcoming parcel tax renewal. The district is looking for feedback. You will hear more from Paul and district.
At Board Meeting a concerned group of parents presented student stress. One of our administrators is working with them.

Taskforce to look at our bell schedule. Palo Alto just changed to a block schedule. We have two people from our parent group, Darrell Miller and Laura Tillett, on the committee.

Guest Speaker: Julie Grenier talked about Canvas, the new Learning Management System (LMS) being implemented in our district. Students are using Canvas. Teachers are posting to Canvas their online curriculum. Both Aeries and Canvas will be used side by side. Canvas allows for group work, forum discussions, posting of videos, homework assignments, syllabuses and online handouts if your student is absent. Aeries is used for attendance, transcripts, state data, grades, updating of personal records, and medical information. This is Canvas’ first official first year. Parents can see announcements, grades, comments, rubrics, syllabus, and course content. Parents are not allowed to take quizzes, see class discussions, or turn in assignments. Directions on how to log in on school website. If have problems, there is a help button at bottom. Parents use their own email, need child’s username and password (have your student type it in for you). You will receive an email to confirm and be able to set your own password. Will get an email alert or text alert when grade posted. Each parent needs own account. If you have more than one student, the classes are jumbled so need to observe and look. Students’ grades will either be on Canvas or Aeries depending on the teacher. Parents only can see the classes your students are enrolled in. Canvas is more secure having it behind a password firewall.

Asst. Principal's Report: Kerry Mohnike reported on Passageworks, funded by 1440 foundation, which is about social emotional learning. Looking for some volunteer families to host a couple of teachers to come to your home and visit about your education experience. If someone interested, please let Kerry Mohnicke or Paul Robinson know.

Guest Speaker: Jason Li started Uprosie, was on Shark Tank, at 16 years old started iReTron where they buy back electronics and refurbish them. He is currently a sophomore at University of Chicago. At SHS was yearbook editor and chief, and on speech and debate. In college he made a cool project; for him learning about college was really hard, he was inundated with too much information and you do not find out about what you really care about. Colleges always tell you about the people but nowhere online or in person can you reach those currently attending. Some families cannot afford to visit schools to get a feel for the school. He decided to pursue an online platform where uProspie connects students who have shared interests and similar backgrounds. He made a cool video where someone is having lunch on campus with a prospective student. On uprosie can book visits with nonspecific students, college student gets $20, payment processed after visit, online platform, mentorship program, completely free, gets to see who is writing what, personalization that wanted to bring to college process, book a visit online, can choose timeslots, visit on weekends too, finally get to write a short message about yourselves, received $50,000 in funding, 50 colleges on site, can post reviews about visit, bad host will be on review. Li thought he would get into the University of Pennsylvania, even did their summer program, did all math 98% chance would get in but did not. University of Chicago has a growing entrepreneurship program, well funded to do stuff like this. My parents thought Harvard, Yale, Princeton, but how can you really thrive there? There are some state schools and UC's on site. Also any suggestions on schools want to see.

Asst. Principal's Report: Brian Safine informed that Guidance Parent Nights are coming up with 1.5 hours worth of information

Sports Boosters: Tom Alexander reported if you are not a sports booster member there are forms in office, the Boosters support many different things on campus, first football game tomorrow, also if purchased family pass, Anna will have them in the activities office.

School Site Council: Judy Goldman reported the Council is developing a single plan for student achievement, it is a democratic body representing concerns of students, school site council page on website check it out, and meetings are at the end of month and all interested parties are welcome.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:50 am.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Susan Vukovatz
PTSO Secretary