PTSO Board Meeting Minutes – April 16, 2015

Attendees: Dory Albert, Stacy Alexander, Tom Alexander, Susan Chin, Janet Chyan, Sheeba Garg, Kristin Gragnola, Michelle Halteman, Sarah Hung, Karen Holz, Yufan Lu, Joanne Makeever, Darrel Miller, Jean Poo, Omo Shojaei, Terri Singer, Laura Tillett, Rhonda Tung, Susan Vukovatz, Sandy Wu, Annie Ying

Co-President's Report - Laura Tillett reported on group Challenge Student Stress – Paul Robinson and Brian Safine are on board to construct a Student Center to be used as a tutorial center, testing center, will have conference rooms, etc.

- Nominating Committee is still looking for President Elect to shadow Sandy Wu. 2015-2016 Board Members to be voted in. Stacy Alexander moved to approve the slate and Joanne Makeever seconded. All approved the 2015-2016 PTSO Board.

Susan Vukovatz handed out the March 16, 2015 General Board Meeting Minutes for approval. Sandy Wu motioned to approve and Susan Chin seconded. All approved.

Review and Approve Budget: Sandy Wu for Michelle Fan presented the list of checks to ratify 1371-1374. Other board members should look at the budget vs. actual spending amounts. All teacher grants met budget. Terri Singer motioned to approve and Tom Alexander seconded. All approved check numbers 1371-1374.

President's Update - Paul Robinson noted Robotics is off to World championships

- Gearing up for Smarter Balanced Testing next week for Juniors. Due to testing, teachers will slow things down. For students to opt out of test, they need a hard copy note from parent.
- Parents, please submit responses to survey. Survey was given to students using their phones, iPods, and computers in library.
- Junior Prom on Saturday at Silvercreek Country Club. They will be bused.
- Graduation is in 5 weeks - Open auditions for speakers.
- Really proud of the staff - This is the second day looking at situation of student stress and questioning whether teachers and school itself can really change.

Guest Speaker - CASSY - Common Roots - Offers emotional support to students who are feeling depressed, left out or suicidal. This is a prevention model from the Sources of Strength program. All freshman and new students to school are trained on suicide and depression awareness. Liz presented what goes around in country, same as what goes on here. 1 in 8 students are clinically depressed. Kids refer themselves (25%) or are referred by another student or teacher (52%). They see 60-80 kids per week, providing crisis intervention and treatment, student having a bad day who needs to talk, staff consultation or training to parents. Most is academic stress – this could mean many things; need to get to the root causes. They have a mandarin speaking therapist. Everything is confidential and must get consent from parents.

- ASSIST program available for students who cannot function all day in a mainstream class. May have a medical need (anxiety or depression). The classroom has teacher and therapist, a small percentage of students, because of mental health, helps avoid kids from not coming to school, and has 13 students in it.
- 1440 Foundation funds capped at $10K for CASSY.
- Outreach.com is a fantastic website for teens.
- Common Roots students are also creating an app. They have a Facebook page.
• CASSY attends the Welcome Coffee for incoming freshman.

Asst Principal's Report - Brian Safine spoke about Outreach
• Common Core Assessment known as Smarter Balanced next week. Testing divided alphabetically, 2 days of testing for half of students, 4 days of testing in total, 170 students testing at same time, 2.5 periods with lunch in between. This year Math and English required by state and he strongly encourages participation.
• Naviance presentation to parents has been done in two trainings.
• Guidance – Juniors - May 22 - Private college workshop for students applying to private vs. public colleges.
• May 27 for parents at 2:30 PM in library regarding written recommendations from teachers.

Asst Principal's Report – Kevin Mount reported that a Bell Schedule committee is being formed consisting of 6 students and 6 parents from both schools. If want to be considered will need to apply for it. Timeline is March/April is survey. April is identify members of committee. August - September meetings start. October - Bring recommendations. They hired Ken Yale to mediate. Schedule is aggressive. Also, looking at a late start in LG.

Parent Education: Dory Albert spoke of New Parent Orientation – Like a Parent Linkcrew. Mary Eschen and Dory Albert will present May 5th, both morning and evening in cafeteria. On Sign Up Genius. Brian Safine and Jean, who spoke in Mandarin, did this with non-native speakers to extend guidance message to new parents. This will be an offshoot of that with liaisons. Groups are coming from mainland China – Parents come with limited English abilities. There is a translation online and a face to face meeting. Want to have a list of liaisons to help new families who walk in.
• Tonight Dr. Ryan McKelly, Unmasking Masculinity (a movie) at Mtn View High School with discussion afterwards. Goes over things with boys. Tickets at Eventbrite.
• Welcome Coffee for Redwood parents - CASSY will come. Will be a power point talk about basic things. Will go over website, homecoming, 4 year umbrella how to pace out classes, and peer pressure. Mary is collecting information from seniors on how to survive high school. On sign up genius. May cancel in evening if people don't sign up. Would like PTSO to attend. Extracurricular information will be available providing more information when making choices on what to do. They created a freshman glossary of terms on website. Time is 8:30-10:30 am with a tour of campus. Brian will be there on 4 year plan.
• MAP Speaker series cancelled this evening.
• Smashem is May 29. Like an Oscar's night for kids. Phenomenal event.
• Souper Bowl April 28. Need people to sign up to chop on April 27th.
• Next week Teacher Appreciation Breakfast. Please sign up on sign-up genius.
• Pancake breakfast approaching for Music Boosters.
• MAP Boosters is looking for PTSO liaison. Job is to attend meetings and share notes.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Vukovatz
PTSO Secretary