PTSO General Board Meeting Minutes – August 18, 2017

Attendees: Sharon Bender, Yasuyo Brands, Lisa Busse, Xiaohua Cai, Rita Cao, Susan Carter, Tharini Chakraborty, Mona Chakravarthy, Cynthia Chang, Ashley Chao, Meijuan Chen, Amy Chiu, Shaomei Chu, Erin Craig, Selena Dai, Felicia Deng, Jayshree Desai, Deepti Devanagondi, Thierry Doyen, Flower Eller, Michelle Fan, Yue Fan, David Frederick, Janet Galvin, Sheeba Garg, Kerstin Goguen, Shalini Govilker, Shaughna Green, Michelle Halteman, Liqiong Hao, Vansong Hong, Michelle Huang, Joelle Huet-Ducrot, Suzanne Huesby, Sarah Hung, Mala Iyer, Azra Jovanovic, Manisha Kanekar, Barkha Katiyar, Beth Kingsley, Manisha Jain, Kathleen Kuang, Michael Lai, Wendy Lei, Hsinyi Li, William Li, Debbie Lin, Yufan Lu, Michelle Ma, Deepti Mangal, Lucy McGuire, Cynthia Miller, Darrell Miller, Kathy Miller, Smitha Mohanan, Mary Moriarty, Anne Munbcha, Indira Munukutla, Arati Nagaraj, Kamala Norris, Trisha Nugent, Sudha Pai, Anita Parsons, Vandana Pawar, Pehana Pehman, Kristi Petters, Jennifer Pyon, Sapra Raghuvanslu, Sudha Rao, Svaram Rao, Monica Reddy, Raj Reddy, Varsha Rhandelpal, Maysam Sadeghi, Mina Sadeghi, Parul Samdarshi, Sveta Shandilya, Karen Sherman, Stephanie Shi, Julie Stewart, Ann Sun, Lingling Sun, Saritha Sundaresan, Biao Tang, Rinku Thomas, Sherin Toms, Joyce Tu, Tulika Tyagi, Susanne von Stern, Susan Vukovatz, Karen Wu, Elizabeth Xu, Annie Ying, Emilie Zhang, Nicki Zhang, Wenlei Zhang

* Bold indicates PTSO Board Member

PTSO President, Ashley Chao called the PTSO General Meeting to order at 8:40 am. She spoke about her second child going through SHS now, how she loves SHS and the kids here.

Introduction of New 2017-2018 Board Members and reports from VP’s

Co-president Parul Samdarshi – In background learning for next year

Membership Deepti Devangondi and Sheeba Garg – Can go online to share information with PTSO directory. If you just check the aeries box, it cannot be printed in the directory. Every year must refresh. The link is on the yellow sheet. You must be a member of PTSO to get a copy of the directory.

Fundraising Rita Cao – Joining PTSO allows us to fund all the wonderful programs for parents, teachers, and students. Your donation to PTSO funds the following: All School Barbeque, Alumni College Videos, Career Day, College and Career Center, College Essay Writing, Falcon Fest, Falcon Newspaper, Food for Finals, Link Crew, National Service Day, Parent education, PTSO Directory, Staff Grants and Hospitality, and Senior College Scholarships. Susan Vukovatz, previous VP of Fundraising, mentioned the free money available when you sign up and shop via Loyalty programs such as eScrip, GoodShop, Smile.Amazon, and SHS’s Fruit and Vegetable Fundraising Program

Special Events Wendy Lei, Sudakshina Sarkar, and Cynthia Ho

Volunteers Annie Ying and Yufan Lu

Programs Anita Parsons, Lisa Busse and Felicia Deng

Communication Michelle Fan

Secretary Susan Vukovatz

Parliamentarian Shaughna Green

Auditor Poonam Shah

Treasurer Sarah Hung
Review and Approve Budget: Treasurer, Sarah Hung asked for the following checks to be ratified, check numbers 1582-1613. Last year we did not spend our entire budget as we were trying to be conservative and some teacher grants have not been spent yet. Checks are for reimbursement for Staff Appreciation Week, meeting expenses, Senior Scholarships of $5,000, Volunteers’ Recognition Event, Food for Finals and College Essay Writing. This will close out the 2016-2017 school year. A motion to ratify check numbers 1582-1613 was made by Thierry Dolen and Poonom Shah seconded. All approved.

Next, the budget for 2017-2018 school year needs approval. Sarah Hung passed out the budget for the upcoming school year and reported that she lowered income, as in the last few years’ income has not been as high as the budgeted income, and took out events such as Souper Bowl and Special appreciation for teachers. If we exceed income, those items can be put back in. Deepti Devanagondi motioned to approve the budget for 2017-2018 and Saritha Sundaresan seconded. All approved.

Meet VIP's of SHS: Principal, Paul Robinson, welcomed everyone to SHS which is America's best high school. It is his 39th year as an educator. He says we are not perfect, but because of all the hard work you do as parents and the work of our amazing staff, he is super excited about the year. He urged us all to do something we always wanted to do, but held back, urging us to not hold back, as there are people around you for support and we have many things to work on. My administration team and I have been together for 3 years and I work with students with last names beginning with T-Z, along with guidance counselor, Mrs. Satake.

Jean Poo is the translator into Mandarin or Cantonese for all that SHS sends out. According to Paul and everyone else, Jean does an incredible job translating all that comes from SHS.

Brian Thompson, Assistant Principal, responsible for last names beginning with H-M says how unique this campus is with students anxious to see their teachers. He said the last two days have been the safest yet, though there is a bottleneck on the streets. Please turn a blinker on for Mr. Hernandez in the parking lot, as everyone is being sucked into campus at the same time. Leaving earlier is an option and thank you for your patience as we adjust.

Mrs. Mohnicke, Assistant Principal, works with last names beginning with N-S along with guidance counselor, Ms. Allen. Mrs. Mohnicke oversees Special Education, Media Arts, and works with Mr. Torrens in Leadership. She has been an Assistant Principal for 3 years, but it is her 27th year in education.

Mr. Safine has been an educator for 23 years and takes care of A-G students, while heading the Guidance department. He did not go into great detail, but four guidance events are coming up; first group is for Senior parents on Sept 5th @ 7 pm, Sept 7th is for Junior parents, Sept 12th is for Sophomore Parents and Sept 14th for Freshman Parents. There is a new Guidance Facebook page. Mr. Safine thanks PTSO for the alumni student videos featuring our alumni, who have agreed to be filmed, talking about the colleges/universities they attend. There are almost 80 videos showing different paths and options beyond high school students can take.

Principal's Update: Paul Robinson mentioned the all school BBQ coming up next week, August 25, 2017 and the back to school night dance is tomorrow night in the quad area and should be a lot of fun.

Student Population: We have 360 students in the class of 2020, 350 for class of 2021, junior class has 300 students and senior class has 320 students. For freshmen this is their first high school student experience and a lot have survived the first week.

Campus Construction: We have a new building on campus and the building of it was the best experience. Building was supposed to open by August 1st, but opened August 2nd. These guys are so dedicated; there were a number of delays on the intricate structural steel designs and they came in on Saturdays and Sundays to make up the time lost. If it did not open in time it would have been chaos again. It is a sight to see with band students going through the doors. Parents should peek in the doors to see it.
LGSUHSD School Board meeting [Sept 12] will be in the new Music building with a ribbon cutting ceremony beforehand. Hope you can make it. If you are a sophomore parent you will be here anyway. Since band vacated 8 or 9 areas on the main campus, those areas will be transformed into Drama storage, more classrooms, and a new Media Arts program annex. Now seniors get to be in one room together to start working on their senior projects, editing films, etc. The old choir room will be turned into another multimedia lab to do animated graphics for media arts. 300-400 students are in Media Arts.

**Tutoring Center** is what Paul is excited about. The current center is bursting at the seams seeing 100 students per week. The research lab is a great donation from the SHS Foundation. The whole room will be a fantastic tutoring center to study, get help, and it will be fantastic to see that grow. It will officially open on Tuesday. It has an outdoor access that we can leave open allowing another access through another door.

**Wellness Center** will be housed in the 800 building which is completely vacant and the Student Center will be there as well. Construction will begin in October and should be completed sometime in the Spring semester. This is very exciting.

**Technology:** We have a lot of new technology, which you all have all supported. Thank you for supporting the bond, the Foundation, and PTSO.

LGSUHSD School Board Members, Cynthia Chang and Katherine Tseng introduced by Paul Robinson who is very excited they come to our meetings to get some idea about what we are doing. **Cynthia Chang** has been on the High School Board for 23 years. She has two boys that graduated from SHS in 2000 and 2006. She noted that high school parents look younger and younger and she looks forward to serving us under the leadership we have.

**Katherine Tseng** remarked that it is a great pleasure to meet everyone. SHS is a great school and parents make a difference. Our education funding is low, as we are in the bottom fifth of funding. However, with everyone working together, putting in time and effort, cherishing our kids while they are at home, getting involved and volunteering, we make it great.

Paul mentioned next Friday, 8/25, is a big PTSO sponsored event, the all school BBQ. They need a lot of hands to flip burgers and serve 1,500 students and staff in 35 minutes. It is an amazing sight to see.

**Upcoming School Events:**
- **8/23** Back to School Night, starting at 6PM
- **8/25** All School BBQ
- **9/11** UC Application Seminar @ McAfee, 7 PM
- **9/14** PTSO 2nd meeting General Meeting at SHS cafeteria
- **9/14** PTSO Parent Ed presents . . . .

**Next PTA Meeting:** Thursday, 9/15/2015, 8:45AM in the SHS Cafeteria

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 am by PTSO President Ashley Chao.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Susan Vukovatz
PTSO Secretary