PTSO General Board Meeting Minutes – December 7, 2017

Attendees: Yoshiko Bartheri, Lingen Bhavani, Lisa Busse, Rita Cao, Annie Chang, Cynthia Chang, Ashley Chao, Elisa Chen, Angela Chou, Sophie Ciao, Amy Chiu, Alison Chung, Selena Dai, Felicia Deng, Sujatha Doraiswamy, Thierry Doyen, Yue Fan, Sheeba Garg, Cynthia Ho, Joelle Huet-Ducrot, Sarah Hung, Ming Lei, Wendy Lei, Hsinyi Li, Yufan Lu, Indira Munukilla, Cynthia Miller, Darrell Miller, Arati Nagaraj, Victoria Pai, Anita Parsons, Jean Poo, Monica Reddy, Parul Samdarshi, Poonam Shah, Karen Sherman, Stephanie Shi, Susan Vukovatz, Annie Ying

* Bold indicates PTSO Board Members

Guest Speaker, LGSUHSD Superintendent, Bob Mistele has Rec meetings at the same time when we have our meetings.

- District update - Strategic plan is to support all students. Our students continue to shine. UC and SU’s pathway is at 94%. This is a pretty incredible statistic, particularly from a high performing high school.
- SAT testing – Our students have performed at an incredible rate with a pass rate of 91%, while the state rate is 62% and the global rate is 60%. 91% of our students go to a 4 year college. National average SAT score is 1070 while 1383 is our average score.
- AP pass rate is at 61% - (3 and above is the pass rate)
- Very proud of the new music building at SHS; we used one time bond monies to pay for it.
- Also, pleased with tutoring center in the library with 45 students taking advantage of that center at any time.

Carrie Bosco, Asst Supt of LGSUHSD passed out parts of the LCAP (Local Control and Accountability Plan) which is a 70 page document. The District’s plan aligns exactly with the strategic plan; we are really focusing on Social Emotional Learning (SEL), increasing professional development opportunities, engaging students with 21st century learning tools, continuing to foster academic excellence, and a progress update.

- Carrie asked for us to go the last page of the document to give some input, feedback, comments on the goals, add some new goals, etc. The blue ink is the LCAP updates.
- There is work being done around professional development, instead of conference style, now doing a blended model, with them developing their own course alignment, and grading using best practices.

Heath Rocha, LGSUHSD Student Support Services and Special Education, spoke about the two disturbing social media prom asks that were racist in nature instigating Equity Training to be done with teachers and students by Dr. Nancy Dome of Epoch Education.

- Started by training all staff on implicit bias. Did train the trainer and worked with students.
- Meetings are coming up on site specific goals. March 1, 2018 will be another meeting.
- Bias starts young, i.e. princess dressed in white and evil dressed in black. This is a powerful image and this work is of high importance.
- Years ago used to do redlining, like in Oakland in certain neighborhoods, where no loans were given in those areas due to their racial composition.
- Will start with compassionate dialogue and use the RIR protocol which is Recognize, Interrupt, and Repair it (still working on how to move past embarrassed, ashamed, to moving forward.
- Goal for campus climate; Leadership team will be breaking down walls with training in Spring.
- Will be doing a film project on Microaggressions with 3 female students selected from SHS. Did not want to bring a speaker in, but will take what learned and communicate it via the Falcon Newspaper.
- World Cafe coming up March 2018.
Rosemarie Pottage – Chief Business Officer at LGSUHSD provided an overview of the district’s finances. It was a challenge to provide something meaningful to present. The blue line is our revenue and the orange line is our expense multiyear projection. $15K per student is allocated.
- Challenge is to estimate property taxes which may or may not go up and at what percentage.
- Revenue matches expenditures; we are solvent and doing well.
- 88% of our monies come from property taxes, other state revenue is 6%, parcel tax is 2%, and small amounts from elsewhere.
- Benefits cost 82%, 3% for legal fees and insurance and 12% for retirement benefits.
- School districts have to put in much higher percentage as investment returns not that good.
- Property taxes come in from assessor.
- CalPERS is having a big crisis across state as revenue is going to fund retirement benefits, 8% is the employer rate.
- PERS - 13%, now rates going up with raises built in to budget.
- Student numbers looking like enrollment is growing which impacts funding. LGHS is at 2,020 students and SHS has maintained around 1,300. This is a push on budget. Passing the bond helped fund new classrooms and the new music building, but does not help with teachers salaries, books, etc,
- LGSUHSD is not having problems hiring or retaining employees as they are well compensated, it is a good district to work for, and no issue in hiring experienced teachers. Attracting diversity is a continued focus.
- Block schedule, with both being on the same schedule has helped, so teachers can move between sites, thus saving dollars.
- Teacher evaluation system - Revealing what negotiating with teachers, working on goals, in progress with unions in discussing it, will become public, work group that met all last year met with unit and that committee made recommendations, really about clarity in article, and more support systems for teachers.

Cynthia Chang – LGSUHSD School Board member attended annual Education Conference. Says CalPERS is 15%, in a few years will be 20%, because salary increases are bigger. Other schools are cutting programs. Everyone aware of crisis and we should be calling our legislator and putting pressure on them to fund schools.
- Charter schools do not follow rules like public schools. There are no regulations on them as they do not take special needs students which puts public schools at an unfair disadvantage. We need to call legislature and have heard over and over that public education is the investment for our future. Everyone is entitled to equity.
- PERS – is determined by state for school districts. Pension reform - new employees do not get the same benefit, their benefits are trimmed, this is quite an accomplishment for Governor to make these changes, but not sure new Governor will continue to do this.
- Teachers’ contracts - problem everyone has
- Classroom necessities are lab equipment and books, ask every year, there is $115 per student allocated for supplies and materials which does not cover larger costs that are not in district’s budget, therefore parental support is asked.
- Parents asked shouldn’t the district provide the basic classroom necessities such as pipettes for science labs? Every year the allocation is upped, but no matter what the teachers will find innovative ways to ask for more. Science department can buy pipettes, but then they ask for something else then they are $100K short. Teachers are not asking for a whole lot.
- Bigger ticket items should be provided with technology dollars.
- Science has so many expenses and has the largest chunk of district funds.
- There is $3M dollars of tech bond money, so why is PTSO/Foundation getting requests for laptops?
Basic Aid – Saratoga is a basic aid school district that is dependent on revenue from property taxes whereas other others are based on student enrollment which is state funded.

President's Update: PTSO President, Ashley Chao noted that at last month’s meeting 13 staff grants were approved. However, the #3 grant for Science lab equipment was missed totaling 2,918.41. Sarah Hung made motion to approve this grant and Susan Vukovatz seconded. All approved.

- There is also another grant for Special Education – The ASSIST program with 15 students in the program run by the Assist teacher, Megan Hunt which involves food. Megan saves us all thousands of dollars each year as this is for students with severe anxiety, depression who would not attend school. Not only are they attending, but going back to regular classroom. It is not just a classroom, but they have created kind of a kitchenette there where the students eat. Gives them a place to have warm healthy food. Request is for $4,286.71, but she wants gift cards. Decided to get more information on this as the amount has increased by double from last year.
- The last grant is for YWCA and Planned Parenthood speakers $4,000 for Health class. Decided this should be a line item of each year’s budget going forward. A motion was made to approve $4,000 as a permanent line item to the budget by Karen Sherman and seconded by Thierry Doyen. All approved.
- This is the last meeting of the year 2017. The next one will be in February 2018.

Approval of November 9, 2017 Meeting Minutes, PTSO Secretary, Susan Vukovatz handed out the November 9, 2017 Meeting Minutes and asked for a motion to approve. Sheeba Garg made a motion to approve and Poonam Shah seconded. All approved.

Principal's Update: Principal, Paul Robinson thanked the parents for their tremendous support, through teacher grants, Food for Finals, etc. Nice to see staff members grab food, kids love it, such a great partnership we have, and you all work hard to make it a wonderful experience for all of us.

- 800 building plans submitted to DSA, hoped to be ready to start construction during 2nd semester, however will be complete in August, there is a 3-4 month delay they were not anticipating. They are doing many upgrades to many of the classrooms. Measure E dollars have not all been spent.
- Article in Falconfest on students not happy with condition of restrooms, they will be looked at
- Fire update; good news only a $10K deductible on $40K repairs and the best news is everything worked exactly the same way as a fire drill with the maintenance crew containing the fire quickly with everyone safe only losing half day of school. There is a temporary wall up, have a temporary fix in kiln room and doing repairs in midst of all of this. Never want to go through this again. A suggestion is that communication comes from school and not each student texting parents. If only I can make that happen. It is hard to say do not text anyone.

Review and Approve Checks, Treasurer, Sara Hung reports that the following checks need to be ratified, check numbers 1638-1645. A motion was made to approve check numbers 1638-1645 by Annie Ying and Monica Reddy seconded. All approved.

Meeting adjourned by PTSO President Ashley Chao at 10:25 AM.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Susan Vukovatz
PTSO Secretary