February 13, 2014 PTSO General meeting

Attendance: Sushama Thakker, Susan Chin, Sarah Hung, Kristin Gragnola, Tom Alexander, Paul Robinson, Sandy Wu, Dory Albert, Janice Chang, Jan Kleinsmith, Loretta Nussbacher, Sheeba Garg, Bela Desai, Margery Chen, Jennifer Guidry, Brian Safine, Kevin Mount, Kerri Mohnike, Pragati Grover, Ashley Chao, Cynthia Chang, Laura Tillett, Rebecca Marshburn, Jennie Tien, Janet Chyan, Gretchen Ludwig

Meeting opened 8:38AM

Holiday luncheon: thanks to Tracy Leonard and Tracy Nobles, holiday luncheon for PTSO thanks to Jennie, Maria and Laura for helping, National Service Day: thanks Loretta for 10,000 meals, 10,000 sponsored by PTSO. Lunar luncheon for staff: Sarah Hung, Sandy Wu, Hsui-mei Chen, Wendy Chang, Katherine Tseng, Woanyu Yu.

Loretta Nussbacher: thanks to Paul - marquee is on order. Hydration station to be installed in back of McAfee. Drama boosters will pay for, except for sink which school/district will pay for. All filtered water.

Sandy Wu: treasurer’s report. We will be reimbursed for bank fees. Motion to ratify checks #1266-1282 – Sheeba moves, Susan seconded. Motion carried.

Dianne: Souper Bowl – bought bowls in case they run out like last year. Sarah Rothenberg will be sending out volunteer signup list. PTSO allocated $400 last year. Is that needed again?

  Girls with courage: Sat Mar 22nd. Theme is “Growing Your Garden: respecting your mind, respecting your body, respecting others”. Three stations. Skits, videos, outside café. Each girl gets terra cotta pot to plant with a flag at one of the stations. Girls organizing: Hopefully girls will get sense of support on campus, and many will come. Will put it on Facebook: class pages, morning announcements, PTSO listserv, school listserv. It will be a fun event. All welcome (parents, etc.)

Benefit commission: Rebeca Marshburn: The benefit commission is a group of students planning benefit to assist a person or nonprofit. Active for more than 20 years. Starting a little late this year. Jan Kleinsmith is organizing donations for silent auction. Fashion show Sat Mar 29th at 7pm. Students are models. Need parent help for that. Helpers for silent auction needed. Parents to help for VIP food. Need volunteers overall. PTSO: 1. willing to donate PTSO theme basket for silent auction? 2. Contacts for silent auction donations? Theme of year is “granting wishes” Wishing Upon a Star. Hoping to grant a wish from Make a Wish Foundation. Need at least $8000 for an “entire” wish. We don’t know what child it is. Want to include the child in video or in person during Friday announcements. Jan Kleinsmith – talking about silent auction: need people who know retailers to donate items. Access to vacation rentals, dressing room monitors, procurement, baskets, setup help, lunch with principal and favorite teachers.. Need students waiting on tables, need table cloths, silverware, etc. for fancy lunch. Apple computer has been generous in the past if there is a direct connection. Services, restaurants, air miles, etc. List of donees so we can give them our business and thanks. It was recommended that Jan use Signup Genius to schedule people. Motion PTSO to donate a basket $300 from President’s fund: Laura Tillett moves and will put it together. Sandy seconded. Motion carried.
Principal’s Report: end of grading period. Guidance has finished parent nights and student meetings. Bombay in the Bay this weekend, conversations in classrooms regarding dangerous behaviors, need to continue conversations at home. Not a lot of drug activity here, but there is some, and we hear about things sometimes. Want to have informational nights for parents so you can be on the alert. Take a look at the link for the eAlcohol and eMarijuana surveys. We all need to take ownership even if we think our child is not using. Brian: Survey during project cornerstone: 11% of students have used narcotics. Kevin: Seems like drug use has declined over past decade (less reported), but with more awareness. It’s more likely to be better reported. Past 8-10 weeks: 10 students disciplined. Last year: 0. Years prior: around 3-4. Sometimes it’s just dumb luck. Kids are living through a period of end of “prohibition” of marijuana. Sense of “no big deal”, but there is no place for it at school. Need some proactive conversations with kids when their name comes up more than once. Calling parents. Trying to get a speaker to talk to parents about their responsibility of what happens in their house. Mandatory expulsion for those who sell or distribute. School has jurisdiction/privilege to investigate for on school as well as to and from, and if it might have school consequences (new). Dory: Dr. Mendelson spoke to students at LGHS and to parents. Parent talk was recorded. Need to be careful when you bring in a cop. Should we bring him here? Door slammers and door openers for discussing with your kids.

Kevin: WASC – yesterday delivered relatively final draft to staff, on time. It’s a living document, but 6 main areas for action plan: 1. transition to Common Core Standards., 2 site professional development plan, 3. Assessment, best practices, school wide agreement on projects and judging criteria, 4. alternative assessment methods, 5. Communication better with students, staff, parents. 6. Student support. For struggling students, help with foundational skills. Balance of academic, physical and emotional balance. Project Cornerstone data evaluated, but basically similar result as last year. Parents and staff will be apprised of Project Cornerstone data. Hasn’t affected self-study.

Brian: parent and student guidance meetings almost done. New form for students to fill out for scheduling. Balance is targeted. Four new things this year. The new form, student testimonials, counseling and teacher speeches, and course grades: math and foreign language grades are recommendations, not requirements for going on to the next level. Counselors visited classrooms and observed 55 classes. They benefited from seeing what was going on. The new scheduling form syncs well with concept of open access. Good for parents and students to fill out separately and compare.

Kerri: Speak Up for Change week was incredible. Wishes granted. No homework weekend was appreciated. Bombay in the Bay tomorrow, Jazz Cabaret March 1st. Sadie’s dance changed to March 21st, fashion show March 29th, Spring Fling March 24-28, ASB executive council attending conferences; one at Disneyland to organize leadership calendar for the year.

Board Update – Cynthia. Moving forward with Geo bond. Meeting Feb. 25th at LGHS. There will be a Common Core update from Jeff Anderson, and Board is moving forward to incorporate into the curriculum. Working with middle schools to make sure transition is smooth. AP Gov and Econ blended class under discussion. Review facility master plan: work in progress. Once bond is in place, facility committee at each site will present what is needed.
Dory: college essay writing assembly in fall. Another this spring? $250. Both? It was agreed to go ahead and have a second one this year. OMG event, well attended, recorded, well received.

Kristin looking for people to be on nominating committee.

Tom: sports boosters: - $60K for weight room upgrade

Kristin – Foundation – finished football field. Also funding tech in classrooms. Have started bathrooms, schedule on track for new bathrooms and concession stand, but short of funding. Letters will be coming home. Need donors. Critical time right now to get money. Some pledges have not come through.

Adjourn 10:16am