**PTSO General Meeting Minutes - 2/12/2015**

**Attendees:** Kirk Abe, Dory Albert, Sanga Balebail, Cynthia Chang, Susan Chin, Alison Chung, Fan Lu, Jayshree Desai, Judy Goldman, Kristin Gragnola, Kately Kennedy, Fan Li, Yufan Lu, Heidi Magner, Joanne Makeever, Laura Menard, Cynthia Miller, Darrell Miller, Susan Nakahira, Karen O'Brien, Jean Poo, Terri Singer, Laura Tillett, Katherine Tseng, Susan Vukovatz

**President's Update: Laura Tillett** opened the meeting with the following announcements:

- School board meeting on 2/24/2015
- We will have another Naviance Training for Junior parents
- March 23, 2015 is Career Day
- Souper Bowl will happen. Stacy Alexander has offered to chair it.

**WASC: Judy Goldman** handed out slides and information on the group’s work. The report analyzes how we are doing as a school. This is a self study process and delves into what are the critical learner needs. The results were delivered last March 2014. The committee visited the school for 3 days to approve it. WASC was a diverse group of parents in which five groups were formed. 2007 was the last study done. The top 12 areas of concern are:

- **40%** students felt there were differences in teaching the same class depending on the teacher
- Time management
- Test Prep skills
- 50/50 feedback in a timely manner, whereas 88% of teachers felt their feedback is timely
- 18% of teachers take 3 weeks or more to update Aeries
- 60% of students get outside tutoring - This is a high number. Need to look if this tutoring is necessary.
- We have 1,400 students and 80 teachers so it is hard to change such a large population
- Action Plan - Tasks prioritized. WASC has a voice but not reflected in the report. We can amplify issues, but staff/admin needs to address them. This is a rare window into perspective of faculty and staff. School Site Council is an opportunity to find out status of WASC action plan. Darrel Miller mentioned a good way to voice your opinion.

Report on school website - Summary of 50 pages, amazing data, all recommendations have become part of single plan of student achievement, staff development teams, have a 6 year plan, and will address major topics in first 3 years.

**Vice-Principal Report: Kevin Mount** thanked WASC parent group noting that we are all in this together and moving forward is a planned, deliberated process.

- A recap what work done in the Fall; Aeries has a new platform called Canvas – Teachers are learning this and we are doing education on this. The teachers need more time on this.
- Doing a Common Core Standards Review and working on Curriculum Review
- Assessment is a huge topic, with formative assessment going on in classroom now
- Talk about rigor - How do we describe learning culture here, talking to staff, and results will be ready soon
- Formative assessment – Doing research on it, reading a book, Series of workshops and Cassandra Erkens coming in
- Articulation with Redwood on March 4th, all departments, 90 minutes
- School Site Council needs to be more robust and there are students there who talk

**Principal's Report: Paul Robinson** talked about Student Stress attending several presentations. Parents go home, hug your child, and listen to them. After each incident he spoke with the administrators at Gunn. He has weekly meetings with counseling staff to talk about stress to make sure students are okay as the copy cat syndrome is prevalent.
- We have an ASSIST program for students to keep them on this campus, with online classes
- Our therapists aggressively make contact with parents, and teachers and students have made referrals

**Brian Safine MACRO** - Open to ideas about balance, thrust of work you do, Juniors and Seniors matching abilities and interests in learning at higher level, students should live their lives in balance, is advanced coursework appropriate, 11 new courses, Art at Honors level, On micro level meet weekly talk about students of concern, friends coming in and telling us, many students in acute crisis, 30 over course of year, EMQ crisis referral, this year 5 crisis referrals, went through support services and activities for students, positive messaging places where can turn to support, peers and adults willing to help Guidance presentation been there - sleep key component.

**Student Activities: Rebecca Marshburn** reported Keith Hawkins came to talk about stress
- Finished week of carnival; great experience, seemed like kids could have fun and enjoy
- Speak Up for Change week - Made by Leadership class lesson plans for teachers and in its 3rd year
- Bombay in the Bay - March 7th - $12
- March 13th: Benefit Fashion Show donating money to veterans that have been injured
- Club RUSH - March 27, 2 years ago was the first time, during lunch 30 tables selling food items to raise some funds
- March 28th, 8 -10 PM - Sadie Hawkins scheduled but students want to move it to March 27th
- Spring Fling Spirit Week - Week promoting spirit, decorating entire quad area
- Thursday, April 9th Powder Puff football game
- April 18th - Junior Prom - working extremely hard to plan event held at Silvercreek Country Club. Will need parents to do table decorations. Gatsby is the theme but not announced yet
- Senior Ball - Big dance on May 23, have not announced location, staff does oversight, not sure if need parents there

**Parent Ed Events: Dory Albert**
- Tonight and tomorrow at Priory school JCC Yavneh - Ron Lieber On Finance, Priceless gift of financial literacy, a Common Ground event, so $20 at door
- Jennifer Siegel Newsom - 2/27 at Menlo School - The Mask You Live In
- Susan Engle – The Higher Mind - Harker School 3/24 at 9 AM
- Laura Kastner - 7 Essentials for raising teens and tweens, Getting to Calm and Wise Parenting are books she wrote
- Dr. Devin Prouty - Can see video of his talk on LG website

**Music: Sheeba Garg** March 6 - Bands Concert, 2016 going to Pasadena –hard to get into
- March 7 Board should be getting an invite and no Jazz Cabaret this year

**Foundation News: Kristin Gragnola** noted that the forgiveness of debt was a redirecting of debt. Foundation was already raising money. The field needed to be done first, then stadium, and new bathrooms. A large donor dropped out so School Board said they would take over payment of field. Foundation meets first Friday of every month at 8 AM and generally fund more long term projects.
- Turf is upgraded every 7 years
- Last Naviance training was wonderful, learned a lot, but do not think computer access necessary. Can roll in an iPad cart and/or parents can bring their phones, iPads, etc. to see what is in Naviance and the information to access. May move meeting to different location.

Meeting adjourned at 10:08 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Susan Vukovatz