SHS Parent Teacher and Student Organization (PTSO) General Meeting Minutes

Date: Jan 12, 2017
Location: SHS Cafeteria

Attendance:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Executive Board</th>
<th>Wendy Lei</th>
<th>Y</th>
<th>Kalpana Ramakrishnan</th>
<th>Y</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lisa Busse</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Yufan Lu</td>
<td>Y</td>
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<tr>
<td>Susan Carter</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>Ranjana Sivaram</td>
<td>Y</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ashley Chao</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>Susan Vukovatz</td>
<td>Y</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sarah Hung</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Annie Ying</td>
<td>Y</td>
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Staff: Paul Robinson (Principal)

Guests: Deputy Chad Garton


Agenda:

1. General Meeting - PTSO Business
   - Approval of Minutes - Susan Carter
   - Financial Report – Sarah Hung
   - Vote on teacher grants – Ranjana S.
2. SHS Update – Paul Robinson
3. Speaker Series – Deputy Chad Garton

Call to Order: The General Meeting was called to order at 8:45 am by President Ranjana Sivaram.

Motions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item for Approval</th>
<th>Moved by:</th>
<th>Seconded by:</th>
<th>All approve?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Minutes from General Meeting on Dec, 2016</td>
<td>Jill Martin</td>
<td>Janet Galvin</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ratification of checks #1531 – 1534</td>
<td>Susan Carter</td>
<td>Susan Vukovatz</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher Grants totaling $9040</td>
<td>Sheeba Garg</td>
<td>Sarah Hung</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
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PTSO:

- Nominating Committee will be starting soon. Need a committee to help our Parliamentarian, watch for email about this. Will help identify next year’s board members. Please let us know if you are interested in participating on the Nominating Committee or next year’s board.
- Teacher Grants – Ranjana met with Mrs. Obenour (#7-8) and Mr. Boitz (#11-13) to get clarification on their open grants, details below.

Teacher Grant Discussion – Ranjana Sivaram provided additional information on these grants as follows:

7) Amy Obenour – Food/Water for Safe Classroom - $1,000 – Open classroom during breaks, LGBT
8) Amy Obenour – Speaker - Planned Parenthood/YWCA partnering with LGHS - $4,000. – PTSO has paid for this in the past.

HEALTH Total = $5,000

11) Percussion Workstation – To store drums, etc. - $1,970 – These are mobile storage units, to move them to field, as new building is farther from field.
12) Harmony Director 200 - $2,070 – Like having a laptop in the classroom, currently only have 1 that was purchased 8 yrs ago, all music classes sharing.
Saratoga Music Boosters not paying for these items as 80-85% of funds raised by SMB goes to elementary and middle school programs.
13) Music – Sight Reading Books - $1,720 – Books fall under curriculum, so SHS will pay for these, not PTSO.

MUSIC Total = $4040
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SHS Update (Robinson):
- Thanks, I really missed everyone and being here. Only so much binge watching you can do. It’s exciting to be back – I’m standing and walking, still doing some stretches!
- A number of our teachers live over the hill, and with this recent rainy weather they are on the road for 3 hours. Some stayed here in the valley vs. driving back and forth. Teachers here were covering for them, all great teamwork, from a great, dedicated staff!
- Staff, Teachers appreciate all that PTSO has done for us, grants, etc. Thanks!

Announcements:
- The next PTSO General meeting will be February 9, 2017, at 8:30 am in the SHS cafeteria.

Adjournment: The PTSO business portion of the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 am by President Ranjana Sivaram.

Parent Education Speaker Series – Discussion with Deputy Garton
Anita introduced the guest speaker, Deputy Chad Garton (#2063), Office of the Sheriff, Saratoga School Resource Officer. Chad came in to talk to us during his paternity leave, stating that he sometimes thinks it’s easier to work with the parolees than 2 small boys…

Background on Chad:
Nine years with the Sheriff’s Department, 3 yrs in Saratoga, before that in East San Jose and Gilroy areas. Former US Army Intelligence Officer, graduated from Cal Poly in political/military science.

Today’s topics:
Teen related issues in our area: Alcohol, Drugs, Parties, Sexting and Digital Media, Teens & Parents, Traffic
We need to have these difficult conversations with our kids. We all want our kids to be safe. Saratoga is a very safe campus – we are not dealing with gangs, guns, knives – but there is always room for improvement.

Traffic Issues:
Last month, targeted traffic enforcement done at every school – goal is to improve safety around schools. Not targeting SHS, these are random checks. Tickets mainly go to parents – most students obey traffic rules. The more tickets we write, the more people obey laws - get compliance by hitting you in the check book.

Top safety issues: At SHS, stopping on Saratoga-Sunnyvale Road and letting kid run across the street, speeding, using cell phone, driving in bike lane. Last major injury accident was in 2004…want to keep it that way.

Roads and congestion are what they are. We can’t change that. Schools can’t change that. We all need to get up earlier, get there earlier. I understand that we have very similar start times at the local schools. Schools and Sheriffs have considered traffic circles, lights, different pick/drop off ideas – none were ideal or a good fix.

Public roadways are an okay place to drop off the kid a couple blocks away – if it’s raining, good, it will build their character. Make sure to avoid private roadways.

Alcohol:
By age 15, 35% of kids have binge drank (5 drinks in one night). By 18, 65%. Kids are consuming both on and off campus.

#1 step – Talk to kids about alcohol – have the discussion, tell them the issues. They will probably still experiment, but you can influence them to be safe about it.

If you suspect they are drinking alcohol, they probably are. If they come home late, with bloodshot, watery eyes and smell like alcohol, say “we need to address this…” Talk to them, don’t yell, work with them.

Alcohol signs: Blood shot red watery eyes, slurred speech, unsteady gait, smell of vodka, unconscious, loss of fine motor skills, lack of concentration, sweating, heavy rosacea (redness on face).

Smell – As the body synthesizes alcohol, the body will smell like vodka. Alcohol will remain on breathe for hours after consumption.

Alcohol is a true gateway to other drugs. I’ve never met anyone who didn’t start with alcohol before doing harder drugs.

Alcohol impairs judgement, diminishes cognitive capacity. Heavy dose can led to brain damage, organ failure, and death.
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Kids pass out at parties, and we find kids very near alcohol poisoning. Our first concern is helping sick kid, not processing the other kids for drinking. Please have kids call 911 for help!

Your family needs to come up with your policies for this. My dad’s policy – no questions asked until next day. I will pick you up any time, day or night, just don’t drive after drinking.

**Parties, your legal liabilities:**
Whatever happens at YOUR house, YOU are legally responsible, even if you are not there, or even aware of the event. Your house, your booze, YOUR problem.

If you provide alcohol to another minor other than your child in your house, you will be prosecuted and cited at the scene for contributing to the delinquency of a minor—zero tolerance.

**Alcohol and Driving:**
Under age of 21, any measurable amount of alcohol (0.01) results in a DUI (Driving Under the Influence). Minors can’t refuse an alcohol test in the field. Car will be impounded for 60 days, get ride to sheriffs’ office for fingerprints and booking. Minors can’t be released without a parent, so they will be booked into juvenile hall—not a great place to be.

There were 62 minors that got DUI’s in Saratoga last year, not specifically SHS students, could be minors driving through town. Time frames when we see an increase in DUI’s is around the holidays and graduations.

**Drugs:**
Narcotics use is up amongst HS aged kids. Most abused narcotic class — not what you think — it’s prescription opioids (pain medications) like Demerol, Percocet, Vicodin.

Prescription pills — very, very accessible — huge risk for kids.

In the city of Saratoga, there’s cocaine, LSD, Ecstasy, marijuana, opioids, mushrooms, amphetamines, heroin (is getting cheaper, but is mostly injected and younger kids avoid that). Kids are also abusing Xanax — used to treat anxiety disorders. No signs of methamphetamine.

**Signs:**
- Opiates - droopy eyed, slurred speech, cotton mouth, sleeping too long. Central nervous system depressant.
- Cocaine — pupils large like a raccoon. A stimulant, more prevalent in San Mateo County.
- MDMA — (Ecstasy), a stimulant, “club drug” — watch for paraphernalia: pacifiers, large beads, bright clothing, candy lollipop suckers. Drinking lots of water (core body temperature goes way up), inability to stop talking, rolling - rapid movement of hands, jaws, fingers, rolling balls between finger and thumb.
- Mushrooms (shrooms) — a hallucinogen, person likes to remove clothing, acts erratically, says weird things.
- LSD — stimulant — robotic movements, muscles contract, incoherent ramblings, hallucinations, inability to stay still. LSD never goes out of your system, stays in your synovial fluid, can reoccur. Small squares on paper or gummy bears.
- Marijuana - depressant, smell (skunk-like), green tongue right after smoking, sloth-like behavior, blood shot eyes, slow response to normal stimulus, lack of ambition.

Drugs not a huge issue for SHS, but see weekly issues in other parts of the county.

What parents can do: Watch for the above signs and remember that kids do not have an absolute right to privacy. If we suspect, we need to search their car, backpack, room. Kid will be upset. I’d rather have kid be mad at me than to have the kid get in trouble.

**Digital Media and Sexting:**
#1 issue on campus and throughout Bay Area is sexting. SHS, RMS, Elementary schools. Kids start sexting before 12 yrs old. **BIG DEAL. A CRIME.** Kid can get charged with production and distribution of child pornography.

Talk with your kids about this!!!
Kids get pressured into doing it. Males pressuring females for nude photos. Tell your daughters it’s ok to say “No.” Teach your sons that it’s not ok to ask. Teach them to respect themselves and others.

Trust your kid, but verify. Know what apps they have on their phones and see what’s in there.

Recently, law enforcement found an online account with ~30K photos of underage girls — not aware of any SHS kids involved in this, as either suspects or victims. Underage individuals almost all have been id’ed, and none so far are SHS kids.
**Teens & Parents:**

How to prevent issues:
- Look for changes in behavior or appearance. Happy, vibrant – then go dark, change hair, change music, cut themselves off… TALK to them or talk to Kim C. at CASSY - great assets.
- Need to search kids' room and their belongings… don’t wait until there is a reason, do it randomly.
- Get passwords for phones and computers – make it a condition for them to have these, randomly search.
- Know their friends, know where they are going… call parent of sleepover to make sure they will be home.
- Sit down and talk face to face with your kids… communicate your expectations.
- Be involved in their lives.
- Don’t cover for them. Example: 8 kids arrested, 6 parents said the school and sheriff were responsible for the kids problem. We have to act by law. SHS has to report sexting, Robinson will lose his job if it’s not reported.
- Turn in any leftover prescription drugs to any fire station or sheriff’s office.

Our kids are the snowflake generation – we don’t want to hurt them, want the best for them. We are going to do things for their benefit that they will not like, we need to keep them safe. Every snowflake is different and precious.

**Q&A’s:**

Where are kids getting narcotics? From home medicine cabinets or online. We only see 3% of internet. Other 97% is called the Dark Web, you need special internet access or coding to get there, filled with illegal activity.

What issues do you expect with the legalization of marijuana? With respect to kids use, not much change as you have to be 21 to consume marijuana. However, Denver, where it’s been legal for a couple years, has seen a 400% increase in violent crime and a huge increase in DUI crashes.

Ranjana closed the discussion by thanking Chad for sharing all this valuable information. She mentioned a common theme with our speaker series – we have a brilliant school and great academic kids, but we really need to be able to communicate and be involved with them.

Respectfully submitted by,

Susan Carter
Recording Secretary