PTSO General Board Meeting Minutes – March 12, 2015

Attendees: Dory Albert, Stacy Alexander, Tom Alexander, Rita Cao, Cynthia Chang, Susan Chin, Amy Chiu, Alison Chung, Felicia Deng, Mary Eschen, Michelle Fan, Sheeba Garg, Kristin Gragnola, Jennifer Guidry, Sarah Hung, Cathy King, Katy Lee, Hsinyi Li, Yufan Lu, Joanne Makeever, Darrell Miller, Susan Nakahira, Shirley Pak, Grace Peng, Sudakshina Sarkar, Min Shen, Oma Shojaci, Sheila Stratakos, Rhonda Tung, Susan Vukovatz, Sherry Wang, Sandy Wu, Kevin Xiao, Annie Ying, Robert Yu, Ling Zheng

PTSO Co-President - Sandy Wu opened meeting thanking Michelle Fan, Sarah Hung, and Annie Ying for the wonderful Lunar New Year Luncheon for the staff.

- Naviance Training March 26th in library - bring your own laptop or phone
- Club Rush needs parent volunteers

Susan Vukovatz handed out the February 12, 2015 PTSO General Board Meeting Minutes for approval. Susan Chin amended to be added last month as an attendee and motioned to approve with Dory Albert seconding. All approved February 12, 2015 PTSO General Board Meeting Minutes.

Treasurer's Report: Michelle Fan handed out a current listing of expenses - check numbers 1360-1370 to ratify: new teacher stipends, recognition lunch, staff hospitality events, etc. Susan Vukovatz motioned to ratify the 11 checks and Sheeba Garg seconded. All approved.

PTSO Board 2015-2016 Nominating Committee - Two positions need to be filled - Staff Appreciation Chair and Co-President

Parent Education - Dory Albert reported "The Mask You Live In" by Jerrold Shapiro coming up. Check LGHS website. Tickets are $15 or $30 at door

- Susan Engel speaking at Harker School on the "Hungry Mind"
- Love and Logic by Mary Eschen is going on now
- Challenge Student Stress - Mary Eschen and group forming, one of the topics is what can we do for parents to help with college process
- There is an event in May presented by Vickie Kleinman, who is a former counselor at Leigh High School which includes a timeline, workable timeline, extracurricular activities, how much time it takes, safety nets, for struggling students alternative paths to a 4 year college, and does for all grades. Look for upcoming flyer.
- In Fall will present a college essay writing workshop with ideas, pointers, which will probably happen in August

Auditor - Jennifer Guidry completed the annual audit for the 2013-2014 school year – reviewing checks and found a $1,000 difference between checking, savings and Hyde scholarship account. Once/year should transfer, bank has more money than the books - money was transferred this school year. Also, reviewed checks and receipts and found some checks issued with no receipt support. The details are listed on the report. Audit report motioned to be approved by Darrell Miller and seconded by Alison Chung. All approved 2013-2014 school year audit report.

LGSUHSD - Cynthia Chang announced the district is looking at changing SHS to a rolling block schedule to align with LG - will study different options, forming a committee, need to define goals, looking at a rolling block with 7 periods, will look at other schools with one set of block and will choose what fits the school best for their learning environment.

- Looking at Mountain View High School Student Tutorial Center - this model helped them

Guest Speaker - George Fan - College software he developed called College Kickstart. He learned 3 lessons when his children were applying for college admissions
1) Find schools that fit, package student, find essay topics that make sense, can manage yourself
2) Good list - list tuned sensitive to academic performance of child, options, set up
3) Early admission advantage - should pay attention to this and take advantage of it. Early admission skews odds to your advantage, percent of enrolled class is over 40% with early admission, 400-500 schools don't offer it, for athletes, legacies, etc., many other schools competing hard for great students, way for students showing commitment, takes away competition, admission yield - number admitted/number accepted, yield for early decision 100%
   • Naviance scatter grams are just information
   • College Kickstart uses GPA, rank, SAT scores, list of colleges thinking of, then run College Kickstart- it gives you a grade, categories, how selective school is, how performed academically, admission rates for list of schools, looks at academic performance, gives a sense where your student fits (top, mid or bottom quartile), this is publicly reported data, every list should have 6 schools, 1 safety school, 3-5 target schools, 2 reach schools, list constructed that will yield success to student
   • Hope to report rigor and athletics in the future
   • Early admission - System looks through every school on list, recommends application strategy, tells you 2 schools to apply early, admit rate of 22% vs. regular admission rate, system looks for opportunities, can tell College Kickstart that really want to go there and figures out what is appropriate
   • For engineers have a detailed tab
   • Option - figure it out yourself or invest in a private consultant
   • Pricing $50 standard edition 6-12 schools, 250+ schools, $70 for plus version supporting larger lists, more choices up front, provides department specific information, 400 schools
   • He will send the slides for parents to view on the PTSO website

**Assistant Principal's Report: Kevin Mount** - Completed a WASC visit at Ridley High School, 13% of students are English learners, different socioeconomic class than Saratoga
   • Formative assessment - Had conversation yesterday with entire staff to look how we engage our students, really good staff to move things forward, no obstacles
   • Music building in final design phase - expect to break ground in June, field work begins as soon as Spring season over, two big projects this summer, projects starting will have impact for pick up/drop off and parking for student drivers

**Kerry Mohnike** – Attended an engaged classroom presentation by 1440 foundation on how to deal with social emotional learning
   • Site design team meeting after school today to discuss staffing related to special education - collaborative class, with bond measure, ASSIST program, facilities going to move
   • Media Arts students going on trip Wednesday through Sunday

**Other News - Stacy Alexander** announced Souper Bowl is April 28th - fundraiser for ceramics – choose ceramic bowl and buy soup - 4 choices of soup, gluten free, vegetarian option, etc. with salsa and chips, 4:30/5:00 - 8:00 PM. Volunteers needed to chop, cook, serve and clean up

**MAP** - Joanne Makeever announced game designer Dave Broyhill will be at Thermond theatre April 16th at 6:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Vukovatz
PTSO Secretary