PTS General Board Meeting Minutes – March 8, 2018

Attendees: Yelena Belorusou, Christine Chang, Ashley Chao, Elisa Chen, Erin Craig, Janet Galvin, Sheeba Garg, Baoping Huang, Daisy Huang, Sarah Hung, Jackie Lin, Jessica Liu, Hsiao-Ling Lu, Yufan Lu, Carolynly Moe, Anita Parsons, Parul Samadarshi, Karen Sherman, Venkat Venkataratnam, Susan Vukovatz, Ann White, Jimmy Yang, Annie Ying

* Bold indicates PTSO Board Members

PTS President, Ashley Chao, opened up the meeting at 8:33 AM.

- Next PTSO meeting April 19 with Superintendent Bob Mistele speaking about allocation of Measure E monies.
- There is a request from the District Office to provide a bonding experience for all LGSUHSD employees to get to know each other by planning a family event for all to attend, but they do not have sufficient funds. Sarah Hung has found $1,000 from the budget to support this event. Each year PTSO does a fantastic job with their Teacher Appreciation Luncheon, but they would like to do something for the entire district together to show their appreciation. This signature event would be for staff and family to attend a SF Giants game for a day. Ann White made a motion to approve $1,000 for this event and Karen Sherman seconded. All approved. This is a wonderful cause for all staff and another little way to show our appreciation.

Parent Ed Chair, Anita Parsons announced there is a Sleep seminar tonight at McAfee, 7:30-9:00 PM, concluding Parent Ed for this year.

- Student Essay Writing will be held June 11, 13 and 15, will extend to 3 sessions from 2 due to need. There will be a morning and afternoon session, so if you have a current Junior, sign up as soon as the communication comes out, as it is a popular class.
- “How to Survive and Thrive in High School” talk for incoming freshmen parents will be held this Spring and Fall.
- Naviance Training coming up.

Parliamentarian, Karen Sherman, noted that PTSO recruiting new faces for next year and if anyone is interested in serving on the Board or heading an event, please let Karen know.

Principal’s Update: Principal, Paul Robinson reports that SHS has 55 new families coming into the district.

- Department chairs are building a master schedule for classes; a very busy and exciting time.
- April will be here before we know it, when we do Smarter Balanced testing, then we do AP exams
- In June there is Graduation at 6:00 PM – no tickets are required to attend Graduation.
- Paul visited another school in Fresno doing their accreditation; it is so much fun to go to a different campus to see a different school and how they do things. Similarities are that they use Illuminate, are big on social emotional learning and have been using a program Breaking Down Walls that we will be bringing to SHS. 100% of their students get free or reduced lunch and they have 100% graduation rate. They do a fantastic job supporting their students, campus is clean and orderly, and they have someone campus that cares about them, if they need someone to talk to.
- Power to vote is important. We want students to register to vote and now they can at age 16. A parent noted that voting is a responsibility.
- March 14 is National Day for students across nation, at 10 AM doing a walkout to make a statement to show unity and show support for those lives lost. There will be a meeting in gym to talk about how important for them to come together to honor the lives lost.

Guest, Jessica Liu (Redwood Middle School) invites us to attend their celebration of Spring tomorrow 6-8:30 PM in Redwood MPR with lots of games and food from other countries

Guest Speaker: Brian Elliott, Special Ed Dept Chair for the last 4 years.

Guest Speaker: Michael Sloan, School Psychologist notes specific learning disabilities with the most common being brain based disabilities, which is a true severe deficit in processing information, problems speaking, getting thoughts on paper. Usually, a basic processing disorder that has been there, usually identified in elementary schools.

- Assessments are done on how to be successful. All students are eligible for a free and appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment – which is usually a general education class with support. Classifications are mild, moderate to severe.
- A 504 is an accommodation plan, i.e. a reader; small group setting, preferential seating, scribe, extended time for testing, etc.
- IEP (Individual Education Plan) under Special Education program - will have goals, services, accommodations, consult, occupational therapy, adaptive PE, different classes, and/or study skills class. They will work on important goals and have support in general education classes, such as small group English class, or collaborative class with 2 teachers – a General Ed teacher and Special Ed teacher.
- ASSIST is also available for students that refuse to go to school, have severe mental health needs – a mental health therapist is available all day long
• CBI - Community Based Instruction, Adaptive Daily Living Skills and Workability on how to function as a citizen offered for those with severe disabilities.

**Guest Speaker: Parent Perspective - Kerry Mohnike** brought her daughter to Saratoga because she was different. Here kids treat her well. She graduated last year and now goes to West Valley College. There is a social stigma adults put on our kids and we need to destigmatize it for our kids. Need to help them on which courses to take as they are not capable of college prep level courses. School can make modifications. Kids need to be able to fail to become stronger.

**Guest Speaker: Student Perspective – Mandy Armes** was a student here and now works at SHS in Attendance. She did not go to Redwood, was never assessed or tested. She had difficulty with multiplication, felt left out and struggled with that. She served on all committees at school, never took an AP or Algebra 1 class, all her tests were in Special Ed, where she received extra time, having tests read to her to take a test, and felt very uptrooted by her mainstream teachers. She found ways to learn to cope with her learning disabilities and to be her own advocate. She went to college straight away because all her friends did, however in hindsight she should have probably started at a Junior College. She received a BA from San Jose State, all without accommodations.

**Guest Speaker: Guidance Dept. Brian Safine** - Open access is approach to scheduling students, for example in math, etc.
- IEP students have an individual study period to get work done.
- Today Mrs Mohnicke is at Fisher Middle School doing a Transition meeting with a student.
- Each student has a case manager and administrator and hand scheduled into classes, have more flexibility, changing schedules up to and including first day of school with lots of support.

**Guest Speaker: CASSY, Shelly** – Her fifth year of partnering with CASSY. Issues are 26% worry/anxiety, 24% academic stress, 16% depression, 13% communication with parents and 13% peer relationships. This is ADOLESCENCE.
- She collaborates with IEP team.
- Every student in this school has social emotional needs and important for this age group to have adults to talk to.
- Developmentally students should be pushing away from us.
- They monitor progress. It is confidential, with exceptions if they are to harm themselves or others or if abuse at home it has to be reported.
- There is a drop in area, we monitor them to improve their mood, help teach them what CASSY looks like and do a couple of social emotional games to connect with everyone.
- How do students report a student that needs help? Many times the Guidance Counselor gets the student to CASSY with a general pass taking them out of least impact class.
- TAs take pass to the student who then comes to CASSY voluntarily.
- CASSY is open all school hours, 8 AM - 4 PM, M-F. Sometimes students come early, during lunch or tutorial.
- How do we know if student needs special services? Figure out if student needs adaptability or academic help. Then there is a team meeting.
- If on an IEP, students are reassessed every 3 years with an annual meeting and team makes decision.
- Typically by ages of 2-3 children are diagnosed by looking at functional skills.
- 15 students here in Special Ed getting West Valley Support, individualized, mainstreamed, taking electives, PE, and arts.
- Special Ed program has 135 students in SHS with IEP, 13 in ASSIST, and rest in mainstream classes.

**Approval of February 8, 2018 Meeting Minutes: PTSO Secretary, Susan Vukovatz** handed out the February 8, 2018 General Board Meeting Minutes and asked for a motion to approve. Anita Parsons made motion to approve and Annie Ying seconded. All approved.

**Treasurer’s Report: Treasurer, Sarah Hung** reports that she emailed staff to send their check request in and we paid Amy Obenour for her conference.
- Check numbers 1666-1679 need to be ratified. Sheeba Garg motioned to approve check #’s 1666-1679 and Yufan Lu seconded. All approved.
- Scholarship from last year to be cancelled for Edward Peng, as the check has never been cashed, and will be put back into our account.

Meeting adjourned by PTSO President, Ashley Chao at 10:00 AM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Susan Vukovatz
PTSO Secretary