PTSO Board Meeting Minutes – November 9, 2017


PTSO PRESIDENT, Ashley Chao opened the meeting.

PTSO SECRETARY, Susan Vukovatz handed out the October 12, 2017 PTSO General Meeting Minutes for approval. Sarah Hung made motion to approve and Sheeba Garg seconded. Motion carried.

TREASURER, Sarah Hung, reported not many donations came in for the month. Check numbers 1634-1637 need to be ratified. Anita Parson motioned to approve check numbers 1634-1637 and Susan Vukovatz seconded. Motion carried.

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT: Paul Robinson, Principal, reported that Saratoga High has 5-6 new students who have moved into the area or transferred back from private schools.
• Construction of the 800 wing to be approved by end of this year.
• Paul Robinson reported that World Cafe at Saratoga High School will happen in order to understand our populations’ family background. He also noted that students are taking fewer AP tests. As a school need to work on a holistic approach. Wider community needs to be educated also.
• A parent noted that Saratoga has different electives than Los Gatos? Paul responded that if our students are willing to take challenge, we can provide them these other opportunities.

PTSO PRESIDENT, Ashley Chao reported that there are 26 teacher grants turned in, 10 of which are tech related. The PTSO Exec board had a meeting this Monday and decided to fund 13. A review of the grants was handed out. Annie Ying motioned to approve the 13 grants and Karen Sherman seconded. Motion carried.

LGSUHSD BOARD MEMBER, Cynthia Chang reported that she attends our monthly meetings.
• District Board meeting 2 days ago and she is glad to report they approved SHS’s Single Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA). She spoke about a data report. On the district website you can see the agenda with a comprehensive summary of the 2 high schools and how they are doing with AP testing. The report shows how many students scored 3 and above over the years. It shows the difference in the demographics between the two schools. Saratoga High is 60% Asian. White is dominant at Los Gatos. Report gives some perspectives on the history and direction of our school. Maybe Paul can present this information at your next meeting. Report shows that 91 % of last year’s graduation seniors went to a 4 year university and that many of them are selecting Liberal Arts colleges. 96% of students qualified for the UC and CSU’s. More of our students are electing to go out of state, especially to the Midwest like Chicago, Illinois
• Parent asked if Naviance tracks alumni and success rates. Naviance has a tool to do that. From 2017 on we can track that with a special id number that follows students. It is always a higher percentage students complete a 4 year college, if they originally start there. Assistant Principal, Brian Safine can bring the data report to the next meeting.
• Parent asked what is the SPSA? No one knows what that is and it would be nice to know. Asst Principal, Brian Thompson or Principal, Paul Robinson should present this at the next meeting.
• Parent asked if the racial discrepancy between the two high schools population is problematic and what are we doing to desegregate? Naturally, people do self segregate themselves, but there is something for everyone at both schools. District has contracted Dr. Nancy Dome who is doing work on both sites. Both students and teachers are going through equity training to celebrate diversity of students, as well as community forums going on around town.
- *Senior Living Room Conversations* is coming up 4th Tuesday of every month. This time the topic is "Exploring Religions" and she highly recommends it if you have one hour of time to invest to check it out.
- At our next meeting, Thursday, December 7th, Superintendent Bob Mistele will be here.

**Announcements**
- Sheeba Garg announced that Sunday, November 19th there is a Robotics tournament and they are looking for judges. Location is the SHS gym.
- Sarah Hung announced Saratoga Music Boosters (SMB) is having a concert in the new music building.

**Parent Education** chair person, Anita Parsons, introduced our speaker, George Anders who is Editor at Large at LinkedIn.
- He used to work at the Wall Street Journal. In 1997 he shared the Pulitzer Prize, he wrote “Perfect Enough, Carly Fiorina” which was a New York Times best seller, and is a parent of two children, one of whom is a stay at home teen.
- He says there are many college choices and many opportunities out there.
- As we approach careers, sometimes we reinvent ourselves and there are many places people can thrive. One can rise high going anywhere.
- Many politicians make fun of non-vocational choices, such as Governor Bevin.
- Mobility matters. One with a high school degree will have choices of 4.7 jobs, 5.2 choices with a community college degree and 5.8 choices for college graduates.
- There is government data on jobs. Non-routine cognitive jobs such as internist or construction worker. These jobs thrive.
- Now empathetic for bookkeepers and travel agents as their jobs all being mechanized. Many of these jobs will be done by algorithms. However, a graphic designer cannot be mechanized. They need to have an eye for what looks good and create names for paint colors.
- The jobs most secure will involved empathy, curiosity and creativity. These are skills that pay. Survey jobs have also become a growth area as well as genetic counselors.
- Block chain companies, like IBM and Intuit are bringing in those with a Liberal Arts degree such as sociology majors and political science majors. Companies are looking for people that are good learners. Check the Indeed job ads and you will notice five key elements employers look for. They are: eager to tackle uncharted areas, first rate at gathering data and insights, clever at solving complex problems, highly skilled at reading the room, able to persuade and inspire people, research and analytical skills.
- Attending a high school like this, you have many skills like this. Confidence picks up at high school and also the colleges your students are applying to.
- The college major does not define what you are going to do. Technology needs the humanist's touch and the ability to tell stories with numbers.
- What should colleges be doing? Job fairs? No one really gets a job this way. For smaller companies, this is not how they hire, involves far too much planning ahead for companies. Colleges really need a career services dept.
- Students should spend 30% of their time researching, 60% meeting people, and 10% shipping resumes. It is important to build connections and have informational interviews. People are generous with their time. Job shadow with someone. Take ownership and take initiative in creating job search. Need to have ability to find your own opportunities. Lots of networking needs to happen for first generation students, like practice interviews. In college, make friends and contacts.
- Tell me about your best day ever? is what VP talent asks as a first interview question.
- Parents, life is not always a tightrope. Often it is a trampoline.
- LinkedIn is a good way to make connections.
- Focus on some kind of personal connection. Make connections with professors. Be comfortable going out and meeting people and talking to many adults.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Susan Vukovatz
PTSO Secretary