PTSO Meeting October 10, 2013

Attendance: Katherine Tseng, Lyjune Tseng, Jennifer Guidry, Kristin Gragnola, Sheeba Garg, Bela Desai, Cynthia Chang, Bob Mistele, Grace Jens, Jennie Lau, Suman Goel, Paul Robinson, Carrie Bosco, Sushama Thakker, Sarah Hung, Sandy Wu, Susan Chin, Lennie Traina, Loretta Nussbacher, Hong Zhang, Pragati Grover, Sheetal Seth, Anne Walsh, Janice Roberts, Rhonda Tung, Ashley Chao, Dianna Stokes, Tom Alexander, Chia-Pi Tien, Dory Albert, Laura Tillet, Gretchen Ludwig, Kerry Monhike, Kevin Mount, Jeff Anderson, Brian Safine

Meeting opened at 8:35 by Sushama

Thanks to Dory and Kim for two events: College Essay Writing was well attended and Ben Zander’s speaking engagement was very well attended.

Approval of minutes with one change – motion by Susan Chin, Sandy seconded, motion passed.

Sarah on membership – $6500 more to reach goal. We got $4k more last month

Sandy: Treasurer report highlights - Insurance paid in July, payment for last year’s appreciation luncheon. Sarah moved to ratify checks 1244-1256. Kristin seconded, motion passed

Listserv goes out Monday morning. Sometimes too long. Suggestion to split it up to twice a week was turned down.

CASSY services presentation

Principal’s report - Homecoming weekend was successful. Thanks Kerry Mohnike, Brian Safine for coming in, even on Sunday. Homecoming dance was great, attendance 100 more than 1st dance. Project cornerstone surveys to be held tomorrow during tutorial. Anxious to get that data. Good start at developing student support programs and culture, Students are referring friends to CASSY, it’s OK to help a friend.

Brian Safine – guidance department closely linked with CASSY. Team approach. Guidance meets with CASSY weekly. All students will be seen at Guidance office. All Seniors and Freshmen seen in the first weeks of school. Every one of the 191 early college applicant seniors have been seen in office. Rest will be seen this month. Letter-writing season for counselors and teachers. Developmental asset surveys will be taken tomorrow during tutorial. These will help us see how are we doing in social emotional realm and progress toward goals and WASC

Kerry Monhike – Big events were Homecoming and Quad days. Lots of administration support. Shout out to sports boosters. Coming up: fall play, 3 hour leadership summit Friday “to be the difference”. Speak Up for Change week gearing up, annual fundraiser for junior class is Saratoga Idol. This year is a two night event paired with Darren Nelson, from Glee; he’ll be a judge on Nov. 13, and he performs on the 14th with the winner. Working hard on culture – nonbullying. Please praise kids for doing something nice.

Kevin Mount – how do we move from discipline model from consequences to intervention? It’s coming along. Team approach. If something comes up, we involve counselors whether the student is target of
harassment, or harasser themselves. Truants sent to counselors. Revised attendance policy this year- number of cuts way down and tardies are down. Lunchtime detentions especially working. Facilities – doing improvements, out front, pool boiler getting replaced by end of week, beautification around music building, softball batting cages, lighting, lost an oak tree, groundskeeper does an amazing job, WASC – moving forward, people getting trained, critical learning needs report and recommendation for action plan, teachers watching other teachers teach as part of plan, which is very effective for teachers. 1st draft by Thanksgiving hopefully. Man at Oakland Technical School is our examiner and will come down this month.

Bob Mistele – Ben Zander was great – event was coordinated with LGS and PTSO. Jeff Anderson is here; he’s central to common core transition. At district level, we’re fiscally healthy. General obligation bond under consideration for facility needs. 1998 bond only modernized half of campus. Opportunity to get matching state funds. Still looking at options and poll results. Tuesday night board will have architect with master plan for both schools. Come to the meeting or watch it. At Board level, looking at master plan, formulating a plan, then deciding if we move forward with bond vote. We don’t focus on good things often enough, but it is important to do so. SHS was nominated and accepted as CA distinguished school. This school is excellent academically. AP results through the roof.


Math program staying same at the high school level. Pathway to get here happens at the middle school. Saratoga USD is determining what happens at the 6th grade level. Los Gatos USD decided to offer one year of acceleration for 6th graders. Within Common Core (CC) you don’t have to change your content to meet CC guidelines. You can teach with integrated content or traditional content. It’s a skillwise content that’s important. Not just multiple choice, but more thinking, coming to conclusions. Job now is to determine how the middle schools can provide a CC pathway ready for incoming freshmen of 2017. Testing: 3, 6, 8, 11th grade assessments. Will still be a CST for 10th grade science which is STAR-like. Some coordination with private, UC and other state colleges. Not known yet just how it affects ACT, AP, etc. results. We won’t lower our standards.

Diane Stokes – Girls with courage: reintroduced last year by Mrs. Aguayo, ceramics teacher. 20 yrs. ago she started a girls program and boys program, and she felt it was time to revive it last year. Pulled in 12 girls originally and came up with title, mission statement and vision. “Courage to change” is their mission statement. There may eventually be a parallel group with boys. But girls communicate more. She held a movie day last year, on Nov 6th, a Saturday. They watched “Mean Girls”: watched, ate, discussed. There were 75 girls plus the original 12 at a seminar last spring. This year core group is 25, and wants to grow. Monday meetings. Seminar April 5th. Odd Girl Out book recommended read.

Tom – Sports boosters – next big event hosting 40yr anniversary for 1973 squad which won CCS championship.

4 booster groups contributing (SMB, Drama, Sports, MAP) $2k each. Can PTSO match the 8k? Cost is $15K. School putting 3K into powering and installation. PTSO will discuss the grant possibility.

SMB: 2K for marquee, may require permission from the state. SMB band and color guard having first competition this weekend, Redwood band also competing. General meeting next Monday at 7:00

Foundation (Kristin) –looking to make a donation to marquee. New concession stands, new bathrooms held up in CA approval bureaucracy but by graduation we should have nice entrance and bathrooms. Still need $2.5M to finish multipurpose field.

Suggestion – traffic man should wear a jacket and maybe use a sign.

Meeting Adjourned 10:20

Respectfully submitted: Gretchen Ludwig