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

Date: Oct 13, 2016

Location: SHS Cafeteria

Attendance: 87 = Total number present, including the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Executive Board:</th>
<th>Wendy Lei</th>
<th>Y</th>
<th>Kalpana Ramakrishnan</th>
<th>Y</th>
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*Staff: Brian Safine (Assist P)*

*Guests: Bob Mistele (LGSUHSD Superintendent), Karen Hyde*


Agenda:

1. **PTSO Business**
   - Approval of Minutes
   - Membership Update
   - Financial Report
   - Audit Report

2. **LGSUHSD Update**

3. **School Report**

Parent Education Series Presentation – A Conversation with Karen Hyde, Path to Success: Raising a Confident and Independent High-Schooler

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 8:35 am by Sheeba Garg

Motions:

<table>
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<th>Item for Approval</th>
<th>Moved by:</th>
<th>Seconded by:</th>
<th>All approve?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Minutes from General Meeting on Aug 25, 2016 - with 1 change A. Parsons introduced speaker</td>
<td>Kalpana Ramakrishnan</td>
<td>Thierry Doyen</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ratification of checks # 1490 – 1501</td>
<td>Susan Carter</td>
<td>Heidi Magner</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ratification of checks # 1502 – 1517</td>
<td>Anita Parsons</td>
<td>Susan Rummler</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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PTSO:

- One change to Aug 23 minutes, Anita Parsons introduced Guest Speaker.
- Financial report – Budget status presented. $12K behind in Just Do It donations, $3K behind in PTSO Memberships. Reviewed checks from the summer and September.
- Membership – We are only at 55% members, vs last year 60%. Reminder to join PTSO and donate to Just Do It (JDI). PTSO membership is $50 per family and suggested JDI donation is $100 per SHS student. Online payment option is available at our website: [http://www.saratogahighptso.org/index.html](http://www.saratogahighptso.org/index.html)

LGSUHSD Update:

- Mr. Mistele – Superintendent for LGSUHSD – Thanked Brian Safine for covering for Paul. Thanks to Matt Torrens for energizing the students as new Activity Director.
- Introduced Cynthia Chang and Katherine Tseng, LGSUHSD School Board meeting. Cynthia finalizing Governance handbook, operating policies. This will be finalized and will be posted next week.
- Wants to come back to talk to us about LGSUHSD Strategic plan.
- Social emotional and building resilience, 100% buy in from this staff at SHS that we need to do more in the classroom
to support students. Issue we continue to struggle with is how do we help students with stress and help them become resilient.

- 1440 Foundation donated $250K to district to support social emotional efforts
- Outreach – District is on Twitter
- Tutorial Center opened up here at SHS.
- Measure E plans going well!
- Katherine Tseng – Thank you for supporting Measure E, Rosemary and Katherine reviewing all Measure E project Status. Updates posted online!

School Report:
- Torrens, new Activity Director. Sent an email to describe Homecoming activities, Quad day to Freshmen parents. Instead of Rally, a Lift Up. Will be a joint rally with LGHS this year.
- Leadership class of 65 students, new this year as a period during the day, vs. meeting at lunch.
- Satine – Covering for P. Rob, back recovery going well!
- Sr Quad Day – 228 Sr. participating. 2/3’s of class. Dance attendance great! 525 attended vs 372 last year.
- PSAT Sat 8:30 am
- Robotics top finisher, band top finisher in their recent contest.
- Letter writing season in Guidance office. 78% applying to private colleges…700 letters to write!
- 65 students going to out to do Community Service.
- Sr Football game Friday night

Announcements:
- The next PTSO General meeting will be November 10, 2016, at 8:30 am in the SHS cafeteria.

Adjournment: The PTSO business portion of the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 am by Sheeba Garg.

Parent Education Guest Speaker – Karen Hyde, “Path to Success: Raising a Confident and Independent High-Schooler”
Anita Parsons introduced Guest Speaker.
- Karen started teaching at LGHS, then SHS, Assist principal 30 yrs, now a college application coach.

Theme – “It’s not how you start, it’s how you finish!”

I am full with students because I’m cheap. I take kids for 4 yrs. I only have current openings for 8th graders.

Dramatic changes in HS across the country. College is special. Now most go to college, further degrees.

Kid’s share with her their worries: Competition has reached an all time high. What did I get on tests? How much time did I prepare? I want to succeed more than others. Money, security, marriage, peace.

Where is kid’s happiness?

EX – Kid came to her, his person to person skills non-existent…lawyer with degrees from Stanford, Michigan, can’t get a job because he has no social skills.

Don’t appy for colleges that are out of reach…rejection letters do hurt and impact the kids.

3 stories about SHS kids who did really well by going to State Schools:
- Kid who was the local AV system, computer fix-it guy, never went to class. Ended up at SD State. PhD at MIT. Now has a job that he can’t discuss: “If I tell you, I’ll have to kill you and then myself.”
- SD State. Owns 3 law firms Georgetown, NYC, SF…manages all 3 firms
- Went to obscure law school, works for State Dept. and teaching at a school in Washington, DC

Sometimes my first meeting with the freshman. Ask question to kid…parents start answering. I ask the kid another question, parent answers. I often have to tell them that I am asking the teen, not them. Let your teen speak and tell you their wishes and desires for college.

Relationship after they go off, is all you have. Know your kids, honor them, and let them follow their path. Offer options and let them explore.

Get recommendation letters from teachers with whom they have a relationship.
It’s more than just the top schools. There are 4K colleges out there. Match student to school...lots of good choices.

Look at who your kid is...genetics do not always pass to your kid. Just because both parents are engineers doesn’t mean kid will be good at math, science.

Let your teen do what they want, follow their passion. Ask yourself: Are you raising a caring thoughtful human being or are you raising a resume? Honor your child. Think: what kind of parent, role model are they going to be?

Q&A / Comments:

Parents call in sick for their teen so the teen has more time to study. Teachers creating workarounds – no make-up test, next regular test covers 3x more material.

Ex. Teen with 2.7 gpa got into UC Davis, due to his essay – his life goals, his experiences were vast, international– Davis looked beyond the grades

Privates look more holistically, UC’s going that way

Letters of rec critically important

Follow your heart.

Ex – 3 kids. 1st kid Tiger mom. Best major at UCSC? – marine biology, kid flunked chem, change major, declared Art major – mom saw this from early age. Got job right away as art teacher.

Apply for school or major?? 4 yrs there, need to be comfortable in that environment.

Harvard study, Turning the Tide, application not opened – hoping that things will change...this year is first year. 500 signed up to use it, but it wasn’t ready until May, so no colleges using it.

Avg applications per teen = 18.

Respectfully submitted by,
Susan Carter
Recording Secretary