PTSO General Board Meeting Minutes – October 12, 2017

Attendees: Rita Cao, Cynthia Chang, Arita Chao, Ashley Chao, Deepti Devanagondi, Sheeba Garg, Cynthia Ho, Teresa Huang, Sarah Hung, Tong Li, Wendy Lei, Yufan Lu, Darrel Miller, Anne Minocha, Sri Narasimo, Anita Parsons, Rehana Rehman, Parul Samadarshi, Karen Sherman, Susanne von Stern, Sam Therington, Susan Vukovatz, Anne Whyte, Nick Whyte, Annie Ying, Emile Zheng

* Bold indicates PTSO Board Members

Approval of September 2017 Meeting Minutes: Susan Vukovatz, PTSO Secretary handed out the September 14, 2017 Meeting Minutes and asked for a motion to approve. Rita Cao made a motion to approve and Deepti Devanagondi seconded. All approved.

Treasurer’s Report – PTSO Treasurer, Sarah Hung reported corporate matching funds money is coming in, still $20K short, filed income tax return, paid for accountant, and made extra payment to pay taxes.

- Check numbers 1625 - 1633 need to be ratified. Yufan Lu motioned to approve check numbers 1625-1633 and Rita Cao seconded. All approved.
- 500 families joined PTSO, but less than half doing through Membership only $50, and not $150. Next year we should talk about not offering just Membership, but Just Do It. However, doing well on spending and under budget.
- A lot of money goes to teacher’s grants; about $40K. The grant requests have started to come in with October 25, 2017 as the deadline. SHS Foundation and PTSO go through the grants and if big budget item SHS Foundation supports it. At next General PTSO Meeting will come back to review and present the grants for teachers. Many grants are technology updates for classrooms.

Parent Education next month, November 9, 2017 with author, George Anders, of “You Can Do Anything” talk on the importance of a Liberal Arts education; he has a good sense of humor.

- Discussed non-PTSO members paying to hear the talk if they are not members. However, would need two signups. Discussed other options like paying at the door, $10 with basket, checking members off a list, or printing labels of those that signed up that are PTSO members. When directory comes out will get a few more members. The first meeting is always the most well attended meeting.

Principal’s Update: Paul Robinson thanked the community for their generosity to the fire victims. SHS is working with an evacuation center in Marin County to fulfill their need for supplies for the fire victims. Doing a second day of loading truck to drive there with supplies. Students are doing an online GoFundMe campaign to raise money for relief efforts. PTSO may want to donate to the relief fund. A parent reported that a school for autistic children was totally destroyed. It is important for children to reestablish normalcy. If students could simply leave and go to a place to be normal. For small children it is especially hard as their sense of security is completely gone. 500 families lost their homes. Services came to work with students, worked with staff, losing everything takes time, and hopefully nearby schools will take other students. Leadership can do something later on and will keep it on their radar. Sheeba Garg motioned to donate $200 from PTSO and Annie Ying seconded. All approved.
- Air Quality is on everyone’s mind, lingering smoke in buildings, mornings are better, did cancel outdoor activities yesterday, cancelled Field Hockey game, monitoring how much kids are outside, and literally relies on which way wind blows. Friday night football game in jeopardy as well.
- Thank you for the process you go through for teacher grants. PTSO and Foundation together have funded almost every grant. Department leaders make a good job asking for things to make an immediate impact on their classroom today.
- Spanish 3 workbooks still being copied. Costs $8K to purchase workbooks. Paul should ask district. They are trying to transition out of buying workbooks every year. There is a $100K book budget and have spent $106K. Maybe should look into online Google forms.
• Thank you to parents on the Traffic Commission that have stepped up. Having an adult there with vest sure helps with traffic control between 7:55 AM-8:20 AM. Cynthia Chang from LGSUHSD Board volunteered to help as well.
• This Saturday PSAT will be held here.
• Tonight there is a Life after High School Workability Program presentation featuring local colleges & previous students, at Los Gatos High School library.
• Band competition has started.
• Robotics is going to Cal games at Aragon High school this weekend.
• November 9th will have Jr college reps to talk about Career Tech Joint Metro Education. They are celebrating their 100 years. There is some career tech education provided at local high schools. There are 6 acres on Capitol Expressway offering CTE course. Also have many courses satisfying A-G coursework. They work with local community colleges for credit. This is open for Junior and Senior students. Many kids go to community college and then go to 4 year college. Starting salary $20-$30 per hour.

• **Membership Update: Sheeba Garg** reported membership has been low and PTSO School Directory will come out as soon as Aparna and Monica say approved. Directory is getting thinner year over year. We could make it available online, secure, and the ability to have it right on your phone. Cupertino schools have this and it works very well. We should get connected with someone at West Valley Elementary. Private schools all do it online. This is only for interschool family communication and not for business solicitation.

**LGSUHSD Board Member, Cynthia Chang**, is representing the Superintendent, Bob Mistele.
• Measure E funds are moving along.
• There is a $3.5M budget for technology update. G Suite has been introduced and implemented and integrated digital citizenship into curriculum, 100% teachers now using Canvas, but there is room for growth. They do have a professional team to work with staff to enhance their skills
• Social emotional growth for our kids and want to support student awareness. Nancy Dong has been hired to work with the District staff on a Train the Trainer model. Program is RIR- Recognize, Interrupt in a Respectful Manner and Repair, about stereotyping of a particular race. Parents need to discuss important issues like this at home as kids are learning things at home. Home is really the base. As parents we should do a self reflection to see if we are discriminating or stereotyping other people.
• Oct 9th was a Professional Development all hands meeting between the two high schools; now they talk to one another.
• Hired a new CVO, Rosemary Pottage who has been serving as interim CVO. Greg went to San Ramon. She is calm, friendly, sharp, and we got a good choice.
• There was a Joint meeting with the city of Saratoga with 6 school districts participating; Campbell, Fremont, Cupertino, Los Gatos, Saratoga, and ? to get everyone together. They were brought together by Saratoga Mayor Emily Lo to try to strengthen communication; plan is some communication can come through the School district. The School Resource Officer and Sheriff were there as well. Working with Sheriff on trying to change left turn timing into Herriman during morning times.
• If anyone is interested in a volunteer opportunity, check the City of Saratoga website, for adults as well as students for service projects. 
• School traffic has been smooth.
• October is the Mid Autumn Festival at the Saratoga Historical Museum; a group of SHS students are helping by volunteering
• “**Living Room Conversations**” started with two people to create a platform for both sides to talk. The City of Saratoga and local religious leaders are sponsoring this program. Was last Tuesday in November, 7-8:30 PM. Topic was race and ethnicity. October topic is freedom of speech at the Saratoga Community Center, across from Redwood.

Meeting adjourned at 9:34 am by Co-President, Parul Samardarshi.