PTSO Meeting 9/12/2013

Attendance: Sushama Thakker, Jennie Lau, Kristi Petters, Dory Albert, Laura Tillet, Loretta Nussbacher, Susan Chin, Paul Robinson, Kristin Gragnola, Sarah Hung, Jennifer Guidry, Ashley Chao, Sandy Wu, Kevin Mount, Katherine Tseng, Grace Jens, Nancy Lan, Sepideh Ghassemian, Janice Chang, Rhonda Tung, Sheeba Garg, Kim VanTran, Gretchen Ludwig, Kerry Mohnike

The meeting was called to order at 8:35 by Sushama T.

Thanks to Pragati, Mary and Jennie for fabulous Falcon Fest, Pragati and Jennie for BTS coffee, Laura and Kristin for school picnic and Grace for listserv reminders

Principal’s report: Good beginning to school year. PTSO fed 1400 people in 15 minutes. The Importance of Being Earnest, red pride tailgate, football game well attended, getting rid of CST testing to be replaced by Common Core: next API will include 8 categories. One is academic testing, but one is measurement for parent involvement in the school. We should score very well. Two years away. API now is 938.

Vice Principals - Kerry Mohnike – thanks to parents. Homecoming very close, Quad days Sept 28-29, dancing practice already. Leadership group involved in lots of things: Speak Up for Change week in January, inviting teachers to lunch in quad, etc. great ideas. Leadership met with educators/delegates from Taipei yesterday.

Kevin Mount: Teen Truth Live, administrators went in to classes and discussed school culture and school rules. This was 1st week of WASC self-study. Monique Young in focus group says we should include bullying culture in self-study. From a 12 question survey of students: 50% believe TTL would have impact on student culture. Kevin has been going into each health class to talk about bullying, and School Resource Officer goes in and talks about cyberbullying

Every freshman gets 4 week session on bullying, cyberbullying, internet safety, etc. Kids are reporting more, seems to be making a dent.

Treasurer’s Report - Sandy Wu: 6-7K unspent last year. $2000 of that allocated for umbrellas and grill. Carrying over $6000 to $7000. This year’s budget is more aggressive. We may have to dip into $40K reserve. Income is projected to stay same but spending is about 10K higher, mostly due to increased grants to teachers. Also raised speaker budget to 5K. Decrease in JDI spending since we will not have a reception this year, just send ThankYou cards., Grad night is a wash. Expenses (51K) match income. Remove grill from budget. Renting is cheaper. We haven’t reached income projection. We’re at 85%, but let’s be conservative until money comes in. Also need carryover for next year’s start-up costs. Added girls’ challenge and boys’ challenge. Also $500 for Souper Bowl is new funding. Removed club support (~100 clubs) if they come to ask, we’ll consider on case by case basis. We’ve funded Dr Pena the past two years. Are we bringing him back? Now that we have CASSY, do we need it? Maybe cut social-emotional support.

Ashley made motion to approve the budget with cuts/additions mentioned. Sepideh (Sheeba?) seconded. Motion passed. SHS PTSO shorthand not accepted, so Sandy will go to CITIBANK and ask for an alias. Now we will scan checks instead of photocopying and storing paper binders year after year. Hand thumb drive to auditor.

Membership Report - Ashley: Total raised so far is 88K. Need 12K more, but still getting checks. People want directory, so some are joining now. Numbers are similar to last year. Do we have a banner stored to remind people? Need also to push corporate matching.
District Update - Katherine: WASC accreditations process. Thanks to Kristin and Judy Goldman, parent reps. Also students and staff. Technology plan: asking for expert input from parents and friends. Online textbooks, for example: budget tradeoffs, and long range plans. Working on a tech plan over the next few months. However if teachers ask for iPads, for example, that won’t be held up just because plan is not in place. Tech plan is not static document, but living document as things change. Tech plan to make sure we have prepared for new developments, and decide how to incorporate things like students bringing their own technology, tech labs, We need to shore up wireless network bandwidth., add mobile equipment so students can get on wherever. Susan said Trig Precalc classes don’t have textbooks, Katherine didn’t know about that, so district board needs to look into. Also tech plan to gear up for Common Core. For now talking about CC curriculum and how to implement.. Need online testing capability; 350-375 student assessments over two weeks for two-hour exams. May need to upgrade labs, library, etc., to handle it. Technically we have enough computers, but do they need upgrades? Parents can join tech committee or put input, can look at tech plan, etc.

Booster clubs: Drama boosters – 1st meeting last night. Comedy sportz on calendar. Improv team first show Saturday at 7pm. S7. Importance of Being Earnest was very successful. Next month is Much Ado about Nothing at end of Oct. Want to purchase a new marquee facing parking lot. For students, not parents. ~12.5K-20K

SMB – Jennie: business as usual. Marching Band is ready to perform at next home game. Tailgate party was a success. Held first meeting of the year; everything going well. Orchestra played for teachers and Taipei folks in library – lullaby/folksong from Taiwan.

Foundation – Kristin: have you seen the new field?. Getting close to be able to do new bathroom. Next would be concession building. Asking for $500 but folks can give more. Phase 2 is to redo the other fields. Plans are submitted to department of state architects: On schedule for breaking ground Dec 1st. $2M shy of Phase 2 funding. Just about up to completing plaza. Foundation is still funding technology. ½ set of iPads.

Dory: support for college application help for seniors, Sept 26th at 7pm. Felicia Fahey. Benjamin Zander is coming to LGSYS. We put $2K toward his fee. Oct 7th evening. Awaken new possibilities in your Family. Parent support network – Project Cornerstone needs a person to handle email notices. Mt View/Los Altos has speakers, and we’re going to co-promote the speakers.. Parent Education calendar on website. Love and Logic may be coming. Oh My God I Forgot to Apply to Harvard – working on having a Challenge Success speaker come to monitor that. Alternate paths to success. JDI has had speakers – alumni Rhodes scholars: maybe bring in people a little less high achieving. Maybe bring in other alumni. For kids and parents. Dory maybe work with MAP on their speakers to get well-rounded areas of careers.

Paul thanks PTSO for the refrigerator. (paid for by the Principal’s fund)

Adjourned 9:54PM

Respectfully submitted by G. Ludwig