

SHS PTSO GENERAL MINUTES

Thursday, September 9, 2010

Meeting called to order at 8:40am by Teri Kasik in the SHS teacher's lounge.

PTSO BUSINESS, Teri Kasik and Katherine Tseng. The new parent coffee was well-attended. Katherine and Teri thanked the executive board for helping with the event. The executive board members introduced themselves.

MEMBERSHIP, Diane Hoe. 649 families have joined the PTSO to date. Membership is a little lower than last year at this time, perhaps because school started a week later. The cut-off date for inclusion in the directory is 9/17.

SCHOOL-WIDE BBQ, Patty Buchanan. Patty thanked all the volunteers for helping make the school-wide BBQ a success. 1200 hamburger, 400 hot dogs and 200 garden burgers were served and all of the food was consumed. Patty suggested that next year's committee increase the amount of food. There were 10 serving lines which helped speed service up (everyone was served within 20 minutes) and the students appreciated that they didn't have to wait. The final cost was \$3402. Patty acknowledged CB Hannigan's for donating the use of the big grill and Gene's for providing watermelon and lettuce at cost.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT, Jeff Anderson. The first week of school has been good. The movie "The Race to Nowhere" will be shown at the McAfee on 9/30. Students will take the Project Cornerstone survey on October 1st (the schedule will be adjusted to accommodate it). The survey will yield important data, and the results will be compared with results from three years ago. The data will be available for parents to see, probably at the district website. SHS will be doing a three-year check-in with WASC in March. The district is starting to look at next year's calendar, the goal being to wrap up first semester before Christmas Break. The MAP building is open and there will be tours for parents soon. Jeff is excited about the potential of the building and the program. There are funds for an additional program -- Jeff is considering a program to mentor boys. The vegetable garden is yielding produce! It is being used as an outdoor classroom for the special ed. science classes and a garden club has been started. The garden was made possible by PTSO grants.

VICE PRINCIPAL'S REPORT. Chris Cerbone, the new vice-principal replacing Joe Bosco, introduced himself. His areas of focus are athletics, discipline and facilities. He invited parents to contact him with any concerns about discipline or otherwise. He has experience in education, coaching and law enforcement and he is very excited to be at SHS.

Karen Hyde works with student activities and special education. She is involved with student government, speech and debate, drama, & leadership to name a few. The first student dance was attended by over 500 kids -- the kids liked the DJ, there were no discipline issues.

Brian Safine focuses on testing, academics, and counselors. He reminded parents of the upcoming parent nights, all at 7pm in the McAfee center: Seniors, 9/21, juniors 9/22, sophomores 9/28, freshmen, 9/29. He administers a staff of 4 counselors -- the ratio is 330 to 1. He also mentioned "Stride for Susie",

a race and walk hosted by SHS on September 19th at 9am in memory of Susie Nagpal to raise money for lung cancer research. Brian introduced Eileen Allen, a new guidance counselor and graduate of SHS.

LINK CREW. Mark Atkinson, school psychologist, Eileen Allen, counselor. Link Crew is a student-run program aimed at helping freshmen get more familiar and connected with SHS. Three student-leaders shared about the program. The leader training for 106 leaders lasted 2 days, where the leaders learned games and planned activities for freshman orientation. They spend an entire morning with freshmen doing an orientation program right before school begins. The leaders will check back in with their freshmen a couple of time during first semester. Freshman Focus is an additional program to help freshmen get oriented. The first two tutorials were spent with freshmen to impart study skills and important advice, like how to communicate with teachers, and to encourage more contact with link leaders.

NEW TEACHERS. Lynn Anderson is teaching one period of health at SHS. Kaitlyn Sullivan is teaching English, substituting for Mr. Peck for first semester who is out on medical leave. Jeff Scott is teaching 2 periods of Social Studies, World History and World Geography. Seth Jones is the new band director.

TREASURER'S REPORT. Sushama Thakker. The budget is similar to last year's. The goal is to spend the income on the students

BUDGET APPROVAL. Moved by Shinku Sharma, 2nd by Cindy Zuccarino, to approve the PTSO budget for the 2010/2011 school year as presented (attached). Carried.

SCHOOL BOARD REPORT. Cynthia Chang. Cynthia has been on the LGSHS Board for 12 years. Looking forward, the board is facing a \$1.1 million deficit. Property valuations are expected to drop by 5%. The parcel tax campaign is underway. The Saratoga side of the joint S-LG effort is being chaired by Cathy Thermond and Shinku Sharma. The board moved the teacher work day from January to October, because they heard from parents that students need a break in October. The board will be discussing the Grand Jury report recommending consolidation to achieve efficiency in school boards. Cynthia plans to propose that board highlights be available either on the website or via email. She invited parents to share any concerns or questions with her.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:05.

Respectfully Submitted,

Liz Guy

Recording Secretary