

SHS PTSO GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, September 8, 2011

The meeting was called to order by Katherine Tseng at 8:40 am in the SHS staff lounge.

President's Report, Katherine Tseng. Katherine thanked Kristin Gragnola for her leadership and organization in chairing the school wide picnic, at which over 1500 students and staff were served. The event was also a success due to the help of lots of parent volunteers.

Approval of Minutes. Carolyn Doles motioned, Susan Chen seconded to approve May 12, 2011 meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Membership Report, Diane Hoe. To date, \$72,590 has been collected in membership revenue, which is less than the amount collected at the same time last year. However, with some additional promotion planned, the revenue goal is expected to be reached in another month. The deadline for including information in the directory was extended an additional week.

Principal's Report, Jeff Anderson. Jeff also thanked the volunteers that ran the school picnic and the first dance. The first three weeks of school have proceeded smoothly, with no big scheduling or class overcrowding obstacles. The first freshman focus session (designed to help freshmen feel more belonging and confidence in their ability to get the help they need from the administration) was held and another will take place in about a week. Shinku Sharma is forming an alumni parent group and collecting email addresses for a school messenger blast to alumni parents. PTSO will be supporting these communications efforts. The front of the school has been painted and the hope is to finish the entire school by May. Jeff has received lots of positive feedback about the project.

Jeff distributed a summary of the results from the Project Cornerstone developmental assets survey. The survey is a measure of the prevalence of 40 assets that help students thrive. The summary showed that many asset scores have increased since the last survey in 2007. The survey results were analyzed in a substantial report that Jeff will put in the library. He will also email a report to Katherine, who will communicate how to access it. Hard copies will be available upon request.

The administration has created an all-school calendar that is now available via the school home page. The calendar will be updated on an ongoing basis.

New computers in the research center will be funded with the support of the SHS Foundation. The computers were last replaced four years ago and have become worn out from use.

Library Report, Kevin Heyman. Kevin thanked the PTSO for its on-going support. PTSO funds the annual fee for the databases used in the library. Kevin works with freshmen via their English and Geography classes to teach advanced search skills, including how to choose the appropriate databases. Kevin is also exploring the introduction of ebooks to the library's online catalog. He is looking at a pilot program with an organization called Overdrive, which works with libraries to provide ebooks. In March, SHS is hosting the county competition of History Day. Last year SHS sent 3 groups to the national competition. One of our freshmen finished fourth nationally and won a state award. Kevin will be requesting volunteers to help out with History Day. To learn

more about History Day, check the link on the library website. PTSO has also funded the purchase of 60 pleasure reading books to the library collection. Research shows that students who read for pleasure perform better in college, improving their reading comprehension and cultural literacy.

Vice Principal's Report, Kevin Mount. PTSO provided half the funding (\$3200) for "Teen Truth Live," a film and discussion with an outside facilitator that was offered on August 31st to freshmen and sophomore students as part of a collective response plan to some of the bullying issues on campus. The message of the film is that students can make a difference every day in their behavior towards others and individual actions can have a meaningful impact (both positive and negative) on others' lives. Feedback from teachers and students was that the facilitator was direct and authentic. The school now owns a copy of the film and a resource book. More follow-up activities are planned. After the film, 13 students came to Mrs. Hyde and others in the office to report their worries or concerns about other students. The administration has intervened with their families and in some cases they feel they may have staved off a grave concern. Mrs. Hyde commented that kids are great at acting and masking even though we think we know what's going on with them. The administration's goal this year is to be more proactive. Mrs. Hyde is also working with leadership students on ways to positively communicate SHS values.

Vice Principal's Report, Karen Hyde. The first dance was held on a Saturday night due to a multitude of Friday night sports activities. While it wasn't as well attended as other dances, having it on a Saturday was a necessary choice and it went well.

The musical comedy "Putnam County Spelling Bee" will be held Sept. 9-11. On Sep. 13th, the Little Theatre will be dedicated to Cathie Thermond, due to her significant involvement with and support of the theatre arts program at SHS, as well as her involvement with the successful passing of the parcel tax.

Homecoming is Sept. 26-30. Elections will be online. Freshmen who apply to run are automatically accepted; others are elected. Mrs. Hyde stressed that the parents' role is to not build floats for the students but to encourage them to do it for themselves. This year's theme is children's books. Classes will receive additional points for donations of children's books. 750 students are expected at the Homecoming dance. Students can dress in theme or casually but must follow the dress code and will be sent home if they are not in compliance.

There are currently 55 active clubs on campus. The freshmen are eager to start new clubs but only a few have been allowed – guidelines are that there have to be 20 active attendees, 5 in reserve, and a staff advisor. Club day was held on at Sept. 8th in the quad.

Vice Principal's Report, Brian Safine. Parent guidance nights will be held in October, are posted on the school calendar and will be sent out via school messenger. Guidance staff have visited junior and senior classrooms to talk about college applications, testing, and other upcoming events. This is the same material that will be presented to parents during guidance nights. Individual questions can be answered in the guidance office. Due to community and PTSO support, SHS is able to staff 4 full time counselors. Contact between students and counselors has increased and staff is doing more and more outreach.

Guidance is having a college fair this year – at lunchtime and from 4-6 on October 6th. Format is similar to club day in the quad.

New Teacher/Staff Introductions, Jeff Anderson. Jeff introduced several new teachers and staff members: Karin Babbit (drama and English 9), Brian Elliott (resource), Danny Wallace (SHS grad, JV basketball coach, special ed intern, resource teacher), Mike McQuade (biology and anatomy/physiology), Amy Keys (English 10 and 12), Sariah Tolley (English 9), Andrew Narva (Spanish 1/2), Mike Slone (school psychologist) and Lisa Kellert (academic advisor)

The first PTSO-sponsored staff lunch is scheduled for October 21st.

School Board Report, Cynthia Chang. Cynthia has been a School Board member for 13 years and is also a parent of two former students in the district. She gave an update on parcel tax funds. \$938K income is projected instead of originally estimated \$800K. The district anticipated spending \$460K for election costs, but actually spent \$180K as a result of sharing costs with other districts. How to use this surplus is under discussion. The agenda for the Oct. 3rd Board meeting includes status of the budget and gathering of input on what to do with these surplus funds. Email the Board with input or come to the meeting. The search for a new superintendent continues. The board met in closed session 8/31 to choose candidates to be interviewed. They have identified 5 and will move forward in a closed session 9/17 and 9/18 to interview candidates. The goal is to make final selection then. Los Gatos stadium bleachers have been deemed unsafe and will cost \$1.1 million to replace. The board is doing a study of fields to let the community know about costs, and will need Los Gatos community support. Cynthia echoed Karen Hyde's comments acknowledging Cathie Thermond's contributions. Everyone was encouraged to attend the dedication.

Booster Report. A MAP open house will be held on Sept. 15th and will include a brief tour and information about the program.

Check the email blast every Monday morning for key dates and campus activities. If you have any information to put in the blast, send it to Katherine or Kristin by Thursday the week prior. Also check the school calendar on the website.

The meeting adjourned at 10 am.

Respectfully submitted by Judy Goldman