

Sequoia High School PTSA Board Meeting
Tuesday, December 3, 2013

This meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m.

In attendance: Alice Henderson, President, Elizabeth Stitt, Vice-President, Cecilia Marquez, Secretary. Yovani Alvarado, Sue Anderson, Rigoberto Araujo, Jhonathan Azurdia, Shoko Barnes, Carolini Bauhano, Geraldo Cadenas, Carmina Chavez, Maria Contreras, Sian Davier, Lubano De Leon, Andrea Dierolf, Benjamin Esquivel, Marleni Esquivel, Camilli Fischer, Rebecca Flynn, Yanira Garcia, Elizabeth Gomez, Julie Grossman, Janet Hart, Maria Lozzi, Elvira Macias, Nelson Martinez, Nancy Melmon, Betsy Parkhurst, Lisa Pokorny, Elia Ramos, Hector Ruiz, Celide Tolohire, Kristine Westlind, Greg White, Elia Zambrano, Evodio Zambrano

Principal's Report: Bonnie announced the Winter Concerts which will take place on Wednesday Dec 4 (Orchestra and Choir) and Thursday Dec 5 (Band and Drumline). Due to all the difficulties with the translation headsets at this meeting, Bonnie may decide to purchase new headsets. She thanked the PTSA for the staff appreciation luncheon which the PTSA Hospitality Committee will host on Thurs Dec 19. Bonnie gave a short description of dead week.

Adopt-a-Family: Kristine Westerlind announced that the VolunteerSpot is available. The Parent Center compiled the list for Sequoia's families in need. Parents can select the gift item(s) they will purchase using VolunteerSpot, all gifts should be dropped off at the Parent Center.

Common Core Math Presentation: Guest Speakers, Jim Karditzas and Laura Larkin, Sequoia HS math teachers, gave a PowerPoint presentation about the potential impact of the Common Core standards on Sequoia math program. The presentation can be found at http://www.seq.org/+uploaded/file_1130.pdf

The Common Core Standards were developed in a partnership between the Council of Chief State School Officers and the National Governors Association. The California state legislature adopted it in 2010.

Common Core is meant to be a national standard and is a roadmap of learning for students. Teachers will need to change the way they teach and the standards will change the way students learn.

What is the difference? There are fewer standards in grades Kindergarten through 6th grade. However, students are expected to go more deeply into subject areas. The intent of the Common Core is to make all students college or job ready. The standards are also internationally benchmarked to make education in the US on par with the rest of the world.

English and Math are the subject areas affected. The main impact will be on how content is packaged and sequenced.

The district will assess progress with local exams in 9th and 10th grade. Students in 11th grade will take 2 nationwide exams in Math and English. The English exam includes literacy standards. All testing will be computer-based which will be a major change for our students and staff. In the Math exam, 40% of the exam score will be based on the answers to multiple choice questions. 60% of the exam will be based on how well students explain how they got the answer for a problem. These exams will replace the STAR tests.

The district plans to have teachers and administrators prepare for this change. They will spend time learning the standards as part of professional development. Time will be allotted for teacher collaboration.

Math will be phased in over time. In 2014, freshman who would normally take Algebra 1 will take Math 1. All other students will not be affected. In 2015, those students who normally take Geometry will take Math 2. In 2016, students who would normally take Algebra 2 will take Math 3. Probability and statistics will be incorporated in all levels of math instead of being treated as stand alone topics.

The Common Core has an appendix the addresses acceleration. They do not want topics skipped. They only recommend compressing 3 years into 2 years. Further acceleration is detrimental to student learning.

The Board will be making a decision in January. Elementary schools are waiting to see what route the high school district will go with. The implementation will take place in the 2014-15 school year.

November Minutes: Geraldo Cadenas made a motion to approve the November minutes, the motion was carried.

Treasurer's Report:

Rebecca reported that PTSA's current cash balance is \$44,277.68
Total Expenses \$17,224.93
Total disbursements not belonging to Association for November \$2,640
Adjusted Cash Balance as of November 30, 2013 \$49,339.30

Ratified Checks:

1679 SHS Boosters Club Sept-Oct webstore subscriptions \$290.00
1680 SHS Educational Foundation Sept - Oct 2013 web store receipts \$2,000.00
1681 Flynn, Rebecca Love Reusable Bags Bulk order cost - Levin \$51.84, Barnes \$30.24, Mclucas \$63.72. \$145.80
1682 Sequoia High School -minigrants Teacher mini-grants - fall 2013 \$6,241.00
1683 Sequoia High School -minigrants club minigrants - fall 2013 \$745.00
1684 Sequoia High School - VPA VPA boosters - Sept/Oct 2013 (band-\$100 and orchestra-\$250) \$350.00
1685 Barnes, Shoko admin - stepstool \$21.79
1686 Barnes, Shoko football 2014 concessions expenses \$29.90
1687 Attorney General's Registry of Charitable Trusts Charitable Trust annual registration \$25.00
1688 Cadagan, Kara Class of 2017 community builder at Football game \$80.00
1689 Flynn, Rebecca Grad activities 2014 admin expenses - receipt books \$16.21
1691 Flynn, Rebecca organization expenses - ink, binders, postage \$83.68
1692 PTAEZ Webstore annual fee \$30.00
1693 Coleman, Karol-Ann refund of extra PTSA membership (672H, 736H) \$ 15.00

Elizabeth Stitt made a motion to ratify checks, the motion was carried.

Shoko Barnes made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented, the motion was carried.

Shoko Barnes made a motion to allocate:

- \$100 to Reflections and Awards
- \$100 to Freshman Family Welcome
- \$500 to support for County Court Schools

Motion carried.

Raveen Johal, Junior at Sequoia, started a club called Adopt-aVillage. This is part of a global organization called Adopt-a-Village which focuses on breaking the cycle of poverty in impoverished villages around the world. Sequoia's club will focus on helping one village in India by focusing on children's education. Locally, club members are volunteering at Orion once a week to help with homework. The club wants to have a booth at the International Festival to sell bracelets (that will be donated.)

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.