

Sequoia High School PTSA Association Meeting

Tuesday December 2, 2014

Principal Report

- Powell endowment- 2008 a former Sequoia High School Alum Robert Powell upon his passing set up an endowment for Sequoia High School. This endowment is to be used to enhance the IB programs. This month seniors in IB Art and IB English were able to go on a field trip to Alcatraz to view the art display of Weiwei. It has also been used to purchase rare books and articles in the library for IB research and to remodel the IB Art gallery. Mr. Powell also left money to UOP to be used for scholarships. Two students from Sequoia each year are chosen to receive full scholarships to UOP.
- Parent concern- The changing of ICAP teachers mid-year and the disappointment of the student to be losing a teacher he really enjoyed. Mr. Priest suggested reaching out to Mr. Ready (IVP) to see exactly what the plan is for the long term sub in that class.
- Parent question about hearsay that the IB program is going to be a lottery due to it being impacted- The answer is no. Any student wanting to take IB will be enrolled. If more teachers are needed they will be IB trained so they are qualified to teach the class.
- Parent question on obtaining long term subs especially in higher level classes- They do look for credentialed teachers in the subject area if the contract is for more than one week. The substitute pool as the year goes on becomes more difficult since the very qualified teachers in the pool are offered a permanent job. They work with all the schools in the district to get these openings filled but not an easy task.
- Parent reminder- Office depot will give back to Sequoia on purchases if you ask. Money goes directly to the school.

Meeting called to order at 6:30 by Alice

In attendance: Tania Sole, Betsy Parkhurst, Beatrice Carrot, Lisa Hane, , Alice Henderson, Sian Davies, Jayne Sungail, Rachel Levine, Rebecca Joslin-Davis

Guest Speaker: Ms. Mayela Ramirez

She is the Sequoia Parent Center Coordinator. This center was first opened in April of 2000. Helping parents navigate the school system and make referrals to community programs.

Mayela wanted to thank the PTSA for their generous support especially this Thanksgiving when the need for more Thanksgiving dinner baskets presented itself. They were able to put together 75 dinner baskets for our families in need.

14 years ago adopt a family started. Mayela runs the program for the school community who need a little extra help. A web link in the sentinel takes you to a site where you can see what each family member needs. Please bring the gift wrapped and labeled to the parent center. Last year 60 families were helped. This year it is up to 30 with the deadline to register this Thursday December 4th.

The family holiday dinner for the parent center is December 18th. All are welcome to come. Santa will be there to pass out small gifts to the young children. In the past the Police Department were able to provide these gifts but this year they are unable. A small toy with a value of \$2-3 would be appreciated. A box will be set out in the mail room to drop these unwrapped toys.

The 2nd Harvest food bank also partners with the parent center. Mayela is able to put together food boxes for parents in need when they stop by.

Mayela also collects prom dresses for students.

If any student would like to get involved at the center please have them stop in and talk with Mayela and she will put them to work. She also partners with the leadership class for wrapping gifts and having them help at the Holiday Party.

Next general meeting will be Tuesday February 3rd, 2015. There is no general meeting in January.

Meeting adjourned at 6:50 PM

Respectfully submitted by Jayne Sungail