

## Sequoia High School PTSA Association Meeting

Tuesday Nov 4, 2014

### Principal Report

- Surprise Guest Speaker came to Sequoia during 6<sup>th</sup> period for an assembly. Mr. Priest was able to get one of the Little Rock Nine, Minnijean Brown to come and speak. Heard from outside faculty and Minnijean herself that our students were engaged and responsive. Always nice to hear compliments about our students and school.
- Rolling into Thanksgiving break and then a quick jump to the end of the semester. Reminder for the students to stay focused since everything counts.
- The two day week before Thanksgiving will be assessment days. One day will be the all school writing assessment. 9-10<sup>th</sup> grade it is a practice for the CAHSEE. 11-12<sup>th</sup> grade it is a practice for the writing portion of the SAT. The other day will be the math assessment which began last year. It is a practice for the smarter balance test given in 11<sup>th</sup> grade.
- The smarter balance test this year actually counts with school and parents receiving the results
- Parent question about how the guest speaker came about. She was here for an event at Carlmont and since Mr. Priest had met her before he was able to have her come to our school also. Video of part of her talk may be posted on the school website.
- Parent question on the statistics of freshman who receive a D or F their first semester. Too many! Mr. Priest turned it around to what are they doing about it. Reminder that only C- or higher count towards the A-G college requirements. Quarter grades are considered a progress report and only semester grades go on the transcripts. The quarter grades are used for intervention. The faculty and administration look at those students who have one or more D or F and what other programs they are enrolled in for support such as AVID, BUILD. These programs help with the intervention. Those few students who are not in any program are referred to the counselors to be followed and may be a candidate for one of the academies.
- Discussion about the A-G. It is set by the UC's but pretty standard for all 4 year colleges. Not needed for community college but completion of the requirements is the #1 predictor of the success of completing community college and transferring to a 4 year. 80% of our students complete the A-G requirements.
- Parent question about the construction start date and how it will affect the students. Measure A bond passing resulted in our ability to build 10 additional classrooms to accommodate the increase enrollment expected by 2020. The construction will begin summer of 2015 with a projected completion date of 2016-2017 school year. Any construction is disruptive but will try to keep it to a minimum.

Meeting called to order at 7:35 by Alice

In attendance: Camille Fischer, Lisa Pokorny, Pam Ross, Cecelia Marquez, Julia Horak, Betsy Parkhurst, Beatrice Carrot, Lisa Hane, Jan Benway, Gayle Hoch, Alice Henderson, Sian Davies, Jayne Sungail, Rachel Krueger

October minutes approved as presented

Guest Speaker: Mr. Corey Uhalde

He is the director of student activities which is a new position for him this year. He has been at Sequoia for 6 years in a variety of positions including Social Studies teacher, AVID, coaching sports. He feels every student should have a well-rounded high school experience. Wants a feel good experience reaching all ages and demographics.

He teaches a class in leadership and facilitates the ASB. These groups run all the non-classroom events on campus as well as off. Examples are dances, blood drives etc. The leadership class is made up mostly of 9-10<sup>th</sup> grade. Taught as more of a class coaching students how to be leaders. ASB is student run with parliamentary procedures with Mr. Uhalde being the voice of the administrator and approving things.

A student store was opened this year with logo wear like beanies and socks, along with school supplies. The store is open at lunch and run by the leadership students.

The 8<sup>th</sup> grade shadow program is under the direction of Mr. Uhalde. Freshman and sophomores are the usual student hosts. He has 165 hosts which will be matched up with 500 8<sup>th</sup> graders from Oct-Feb about 9 per day excluding Mondays and big event days like PSAT and trying to avoid PE days. 90% matching rate meaning both the host and students actually show up. Students are matched by sex and IB non IB. Requests are taken for students to be matched with someone formally from their middle school. Working on a survey to help improve the shadow experience.

Will host a convention this spring in Carrington Hall for next year's elections. 4 students from each academic class will be invited to hear the speeches and vote for the candidates. Since 25% of the student population has not arrived yet, will reach out to the feeder schools and invite 4 students from each to the convention giving them the ability to vote.

#### Oct Treasurers Report by Sian

Please see October treasurers report file on PTSA website

#### Highlights:

18,000 from SHSEF deposited last 2,000 will come near end of year.

461 PTSA members as of Oct 31<sup>st</sup>.

Almost 3,000 in evergreen sales which ends Nov 7<sup>th</sup> for the class of 2017

2015 grad night tickets will go on sale after evergreens is done

Family Support will be making food boxes for families for Thanksgiving that the PTSA supports

#### Checks written Oct 1-31<sup>st</sup>:

1084 Loveland, Tricia Arena Day Check In -  
Reimbursement  
426.32  
1085 LOVE Reusable Bags Fundraiisng - 2015  
Love Reusable Bags  
2,396.01  
1086 Mitchell, Victoria Reimbursement - New  
Teacher Grant  
150.00  
1087 17th District PTA Membership Dues and  
Insurance  
1,399.00  
1088 Sequoia High School Education Foundation SHS Ed Fund  
Webstore donations  
Sep22-Oct 20, 2014  
2,150.00  
1089 Sequoia High School Sport and Spirit Booster Club Sports Boosters  
Webstore Donations  
Sep22-Oct 20, 2014  
500.00  
1090 Kim Vinh Reimbursement -  
Student Excellence -  
Registration Fees  
160.00  
1091 17th District PTA Membership Dues  
Pass Through  
482.00  
1092 Davina Gazulla New Teacher  
Reimbursement  
148.03  
1093 Katherine Talbot New Teacher  
Reimbursement  
148.74  
1094 Jordan Stone New Teacher

Reimbursement  
40.84  
1095 Max Friedmann New Teacher  
Reimbursement  
150.00  
1096 Steven Moreno New Teacher  
Reimbursement  
150.00

Motion to ratify checks as presented by Lisa

Motion carries

Grad Week Report by Alice

Thanks for continuing to work at the Football concessions. One last home game please sign up to help with Boosters or 2015 grad week concessions.

Mini grants by Lisa

25 out of 33 were approved for full or partial funding. Mr. Priest reviewed all and found funding for the remaining in his various allocated funds.

October and March difficult months for teachers since there is no holidays making them very long months. Traditionally a coffee cart is brought in for March to boost morale. October the Hospitality Committee came up with encouragement card with a peppermint patty that the PTSA executive board and SHSEF board were able to personally sign. These were put in each teacher's box on a Monday morning. They loved it!

Reflections Program has a dead line of November 14<sup>th</sup>. Encourage all students to submit. Six categories with the theme of The World Would Be a Better Place if....

Next meeting December 2<sup>nd</sup>

Meeting adjourn 8:30 PM

Respectfully submitted by Jayne Sungail