

Sequoia High School PTSA  
Association Meeting  
February 5, 2013

Principal Bonnie Hansen presented a report to the PTSA and ELAC in the MPR:

Last month:

- The staff spent Monday, January 7 grading the all-school essays: the CAHSEE (California High School Exit Exam) essay for the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders and the EAP (Early Assessment Program) essay for the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders.
- Spirit Week had a new twist in which the 9<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders were paired against the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> graders. It culminated with a successful Winter Formal.

This month:

- There is no school on Friday, February 15 and Monday, February 18.
- Performances of the winter play, Odd Couple, are February 22-24.
- There is a dance/cheer exhibition on February 22.
- There is a parent education event on February 12. The topic is Cyber Safety.

Site plan: This year's version has just been completed. It contains an overview of the student population, lots of data regarding student performance, and what's new as far as Sequoia's programs and facilities. It provides an action plan for the organization, curriculum, assessment, and culture of the school, as well as how funding will be allocated.

- Some good news:
  - Over the past six years, the expulsion rate has dropped from 3.7% to 0.55%.
  - Over the last seven years, the number of students taking at least one IB class has increased from 27 to 670. This represents 80% of current juniors and seniors.
  - Sequoia's API increased 36 points from last year with every subgroup showing improvement.
- Some frustrating statistics:
  - An alarming number of freshmen are not on track to graduate at the end of the year. (Most of them get back on track to graduate with their peers by going to summer school.)
  - Sequoia's API goes up and down even though the quality of the staff remains consistently high.
  - It is practically impossible for Sequoia's API to get to 800—California's goal for all schools to reach by 2014—because of the nature of ESL students, a significant subgroup of Sequoia's population. (Note that Bonnie's frustration lies not with having ESL students, but with the state's system of measuring the quality of a school.)

**Call to Order:**

PTSA President Shoko Barnes called the meeting to order at 7:55 pm in the MPR.

**Attendees:** Sue Anderson, Shoko Barnes, Caroline Bauhaus, Deanna Celis, Lin Chan, Julie DiBona, Lisa Duncan, Rebecca Flynn, Cindy Fovenyessy, Marlena Griffin, Alice Henderson, Gaby Knauth, Cecelia Marquez, Betsy Parkhurst, Marie Salama, Tania Solé, Elisabeth Stitt, JoAnn Velayo, Andrea Vidal, and Julie Willett

**Minutes of Previous Meeting:**

The minutes from the association meeting on December 4, 2012 were approved as corrected.

**Statement of Account:**

Balance on hand as of November 30, 2012: \$43,723.42

Receipts totaling \$3,857.50

Disbursements totaling: \$3,952.75

Balance on hand as of December 31, 2012: \$51,506.26

Receipts totaling \$4,047.50

Disbursements totaling: \$3,159.81

Balance on hand as of January 31, 2012: \$51,857.24

**Ratified Checks:**

1541 Sherwood Forest Farms	Evergreens for Class of 2015 fundraiser	\$1,917.40
1542 Janice Zatarain	Class of 2014 stadium cushions	\$507.70
1543 Shoko Barnes	Class of 2014 basketball concessions food expenses	\$79.82

1544 Shoko Barnes	Office admin expenses for directory	\$13.52
1545 Marlena Griffin	Hospitality—December staff appreciation lunch	\$564.21
1546 LOVE Reusable Bags	Class of 2013 fundraiser	\$1,994.56

**Motions:**

Alice Henderson moved to elect Kristine Westerlind and Tania Solé to the nominating committee.

**Approved**

JoAnn Velayo moved to approve the purchase of 100 more stadium cushions for the Class of 2014 to sell as a fundraiser.

**Approved**

Lisa Duncan moved to approve the Treasurer’s Reports for December 2012 and January 2013 as presented and to ratify checks 1541 through 1546.

**Approved**

**Summary of Superintendent’s Report:**

Shoko presented a summary of a meeting she attended with the Superintendent. SUHSD enrollment is projected to increase from its current level of 8400 students to 10,000 students by 2020. To deal with this increase, school boundaries may be redrawn. The district is also planning on constructing new buildings. Of the four comprehensive high schools, only Sequoia has enough available land on which to build: Carlmont only has one site, Menlo-Atherton is maxed out, and Woodside’s remaining open space is taken by easements.

Another interesting statistic from the report is that one in three incoming freshmen in our district requests to go to a different school than they are districted for. Last year there were 700 requests for intra-district transfers; 500 of them were granted. All schools are equally represented in these transfer requests.

**Staff Appreciation:**

Shoko thanked Marlena and Maria for their work on the staff appreciation lunch that was held December 20, 2012.

**Sequoia International Festival—Saturday, May 25:**

Julie reported that progress is being made on planning for the games and food. They would love to find more groups to provide entertainment. The website is up and running; check it out at [www.sequoiafestival.org](http://www.sequoiafestival.org). Watch for a VolunteerSpot sign-up coming soon.

**Ed Foundation Report:**

Alice presented a summary of an Ed Foundation meeting she attended.

**Status of Online Registration:**

Shoko reported that she is working with district IT to implement changes to our online registration system.

**Junior Scholarship Committee Report:**

Lin noted that she and her committee members are working on publicizing this year’s program. Applications will be due right after spring break. Results will be announced at the awards night in May. Their budget is \$2,000.

**Treasurer’s Report:**

Rebecca presented financial reports for December 2012 and January 2013. The highlight was the announcement that there is only one gift card left—a \$16.50 certificate for See’s Candy.

**Status of Graduation Activities**

**2013:** Lisa Duncan reported that the \$628 from Honey Bear trees and the \$2260 from the Club Fox dance party mean they have met their minimum fundraising goal and can set the price for the grad night ticket at \$50. In conjunction with the Class of 2016, they are planning for a fun evening of Bingo on April 5 to include food, games, and prizes.

**2014:** Shoko reported for Janice Zatarain that they still need a coordinator for basketball concessions and they will order 100 more stadium cushions. JoAnn and Marie offered to work concessions for the PAL tournament on February 15 and 16.

**2015:** no report

**2016:** Alice reported for Lisa Pokorny that planning is underway for Bingo Night.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Betsy Parkhurst, Secretary