

Sequoia High School PTSA
Association Meeting
October 2, 2012

Call to Order:

PTSA President Shoko Barnes called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm in Room 50 following Principal Bonnie Hansen's presentation in the MPR.

Bonnie Hansen: Update on the Beginning of the School Year

- Sequoia has 1964 students, which is 50 fewer than last year, but the second largest population in the last 20 years.
- There has been a lot of schedule shuffling, especially for 9th graders, that took longer than usual due to receiving STAR scores late, but everyone should be settled in their classes now.
- Sequoia posted an estimated API growth of 31 points; all subgroup scores improved as well.
- Secretary of Education Arne Duncan kicked off his US tour here. Sequoia was chosen by a private agency over all of the other high schools in this area. Bonnie credited her hardworking staff.
- Fall sports are underway. These include waterpolo, volleyball, cross country, cheer, and football.
- The drama department is rehearsing for Cabaret. This production will not be racy, but the subject matter (political issues concerning the rise of the Nazi movement) makes it not recommended for younger children.
- Eye on the Prize College Day for 9th graders is Tuesday, October 16. Students must turn in a permission slip and are asked to contribute \$25, but the Ed Foundation will cover the cost for anyone who can't afford it.
- 10th and 11th graders will take the PSAT at school on Wednesday, October 17. They were asked to contribute \$25, but the Education Foundation will cover the cost for anyone who can't afford it. 9th and 12th graders will have an assignment to do at home in the morning and will arrive at school at lunchtime.
- The Homecoming football game is November 2. The Homecoming dance is November 3 in the new gym with an outer space theme.
- October 19 is the football game against Woodside. She is expecting a big turnout. In addition, the Ed Foundation is offering their donors free admission to the game.
- Bonnie recognized the PTSA under Shoko's leadership and ELAC under Elvira Macias's leadership for the wonderful support they have provided to Sequoia. She can now rely on the Ed Foundation for funding, but loves being able to count on the PTSA whenever she needs something to happen quickly, something to be communicated to parents, or lots of volunteers to get something done. Bonnie also acknowledged Rebecca for her work on the newsletter.
- Bonnie then answered questions from the audience.

Q: Was there a funding change that now allows 9th graders to take seven classes?

A: No, Sequoia is still only funded for six classes per student, but 9th graders have always been offered support classes and electives such as AVID, BUILD, journalism, yearbook, and band. Colleges are not looking for students to take more than six classes per year and six classes is enough to keep a student busy.

Q: How much funding would be needed to provide seven classes per student?

A: She estimates that about 600 of the 2000 students have seven classes and that each class costs \$20,200 per section. These seventh classes are currently funded by private donors or by running them with more than the teacher contract-stipulated average of 27.5 students (as in band). Providing every student with the option of take a seventh class would require an additional \$1.1 million in funding. In the next few years, it is more likely that *fewer* students, not more, will be able to take seven classes.

- Bonnie was surprised that no one asked about the change to the dress code that allows shorter shorts as long as no cheeks are showing. If Bonnie sees just one cheek, she will reinstate the rule that shorts cannot be shorter than mid-thigh.

Attendees: Sue Anderson, Shoko Barnes, Hernan Epelman, Lisa Duncan, Rebecca Flynn, Cindy Fovenyessy, Marlena Griffin, Alice Henderson, Julie Kelly, Alisa MacAvoy, Cecelia Marquez, Lauren Pachkowski, Betsy Parkhurst, Elisabeth Stitt, JoAnn Velayo, Kristine Westerlind, and Julie Willett

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

The minutes from the association meeting on September 11, 2012 were approved as presented.

Statement of Account:

Balance on hand as of July/August 2012: \$33,619.27

Receipts totaling \$3,101.61
Disbursements totaling: \$8,610.00
Balance on hand as of Sept. 30, 2012: \$29,457.85

Ratified Checks:

1 GL Scrip Center	Order #5341353 for \$50 Buca di Beppo ScripNow!	\$46
1512 Lynette Brydon	August staff appreciation lunch	\$400
1514 Sabrina Carroll	refund for double payment of 2012 Grad Night ticket	\$75
1515 Ted Cohn	refund for double payment of 2012 Grad Night ticket	\$75
1516 Hornblower Cruises	deposit for Class of 2013 Grad Night event	\$7,734

Motions:

Alice Henderson made a motion to approve the audit as presented.

Approved

Elisabeth Stitt made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report for September 2012.

Approved

PTSA Accomplishments:

Shoko reported the following accomplishments in October:

- Picture day was fully staffed.
- School directory is available; print orders must be submitted by Oct. 15.
- Notes from the senior and junior class meetings are available on our website.

This Month:

- Hernan Epelman offered to help update the PTSA website.
- Introducing the Reflections program.
- Proposing a community festival to take place Memorial Day weekend.
- Fall mini-grants are due.

Audit Report:

Joann has finished the audit. She didn't find any errors, but made a few recommendations pertaining to our record-keeping that have now been implemented.

Treasurer's Report:

Rebecca has converted to PTAEZ, so the report has a new format and there are a few discrepancies from last month due to the way PTAEZ tracks deposits.

The Ed Foundation has written our check.

Status of Graduation Activities

2013:

Lisa Duncan reported that the reusable bag sale will begin November 1. She will bring fliers to the next association meeting, and people can also place orders online and through the PTSA website.

2014:

Shoko reported for Janice Zatarain that they have approval to sell the stadium seats. They will be sold for \$10 at the football game on October 19, and can be ordered through our website for \$11.

They are having a carwash Saturday, October 6 from 9-2.

2015:

Julie Willett announced the evergreen sale and passed out fliers. They are the same price as last year and can be ordered online or paid for by check. They will be available for pick-up in San Carlos.

Cecelia Marquez volunteered to take notes at the sophomore class meeting next Tuesday night, October 9.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Betsy Parkhurst, Secretary