

Sequoia High School PTSA
Association Meeting
April 9, 2013

Principal Bonnie Hansen spoke to the PTSA and ELAC in the MPR in order to answer questions she has received since the February meeting. (She was unable to attend the March meeting because of a WASC visit to another school.)

Q: Why is there a strong smell of marijuana near the Teen Resource Center and Teremere Field?

A: The ground cover used there smells just like marijuana. She will ask the district to remove it this summer.

Q: How do we know that students who are using the library during school aren't cutting class?

A: The library staff checks the attendance sheet at the start of each period. Any student who is not on the list needs a note from that period's teacher.

Q: How many students participate in a school-sponsored activity after school?

A: About 70% of students try at least one activity. About 40% play at least one sport during the year. She estimates that about 50% of students regularly attend a SAFE class or participate in Sequoia athletics.

Q: How many IB Diploma candidates participate in Sequoia athletics during their junior and senior years?

A: For this winter and spring seasons, there are 19 (out of about 60) diploma candidates playing sports.

Q: Is the site plan available to the public?

A: Yes, you can find it on the Sequoia website by searching for "WASC Report".

Q: Is there more security on campus in the wake of the Sandy Hook school shooting?

A: No, she and her predecessor have been paranoid ever since the Columbine school shooting so there was already a lot of security on campus, especially during brunch and lunch. There have been two intruder drills this year, and over spring break, the Redwood City police conducted a practice lock-down.

Q: Is it true that enrollment will increase? Will this destroy Sequoia's culture? Where will we put everyone?

A: Enrollment is projected to increase to an average of 2,350 students at each of the four SUHSD high schools by 2023. The board is considering how to realign the boundaries to achieve balanced growth. Bonnie is confident Sequoia can retain its culture. Over the last four years, Sequoia's enrollment has increased from 1,400 to 2,000 and it is still a sought-after place to teach with a great staff. In addition to the five new classrooms that just opened, the district bus yard will be relocated, and more new classrooms will replace the portables.

Q: What is happening with the budget?

A: We will have a better idea in May, but really won't know anything concrete until October. The superintendent is currently budgeting for next year to be at the same level as this year. The district will cover ROP sections and a fifth counselor at all four schools, as well as backfilling our MAA (Medi-Cal Administrative Activities) deficit. MAA is a federally funded program that allows school districts to be reimbursed for costs incurred while performing certain Medi-Cal administrative activities. The federal government decided to take back some of the MAA funds that we spent in 2010 and 2011 leaving us with an \$80,000 shortfall.

She encouraged everyone to come out for the Sequoia Stampede this weekend, to attend the resource fair on May 7, and to attend the Sequoia International Festival on May 25.

Call to Order:

PTSA President Shoko Barnes called the meeting to order at 7:25 pm in Room 50.

Attendees: Sue Anderson, Shoko Barnes, Lin Chan, Julie Di Bona, Lisa Duncan, Rebecca Flynn, Julie Grossman, Alice Henderson, Gaby Knauth, Cecelia Marquez, Betsy Parkhurst, KJ Smith, Elisabeth Stitt, JoAnn Velayo, and Kristine Westerlind

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

The minutes from the association meeting on March 5, 2013 were approved as presented.

Statement of Account:

Balance on hand as of February 28, 2013: \$53,044.48

Receipts totaling \$387.30

Disbursements totaling: \$500

Balance on hand as of March 31, 2013: \$53,865.95

Ratified Checks:

1557 SUHSD mini-grants	Fall 2012 Larkin mini-grant—math tests	\$400.00
1558 Kendall Aozasa	2012 Junior Scholarship—replacing missing check #1486	\$100.00

Motions:

Alice Henderson moved to approve the slate of candidates for officer positions as presented. **Approved**

KJ Smith moved that we spend up to \$500 on a coffee cart for Teacher Appreciation Week. **Approved**

Alice Henderson moved that we give the Class of 2014 Grad Activities fund up to \$2,000 pending the outcome of the Sequoia International Festival. **Approved**

Alice Henderson moved to approve the Treasurer’s Report for March 2013 as presented. **Approved**

Alice Henderson moved to ratify checks 1557 and 1558. **Approved**

Lisa Duncan moved to allocate \$500 from the general fund for the senior brunch. **Approved**

Election of Next Year’s Officers:

The slate of candidates for the 2013-2014 executive board was approved by voice vote:

- President: Alice Henderson
- Exec Vice-President: Elisabeth Stitt
- 1st Vice President: Gaby Knauth
- Secretary: Cecilia Marquez
- Treasurer: Rebecca Flynn
- Financial Secretary: Anna Sanchez
- Auditor: JoAnn Velayo
- Historian: Betsy Parkhurst

Presentation by the Youth Advisory Board:

Several students from the Youth Advisory Board, led by Mike Johansen, Youth Development Coordinator at the Teen Resource Center, gave a presentation on “Moving Towards a Healthy Community” with the goal of restricting under-age access to alcohol in social situations (i.e. parties at students’ homes and their friends’ homes).

Sequoia International Festival—Saturday, May 25:

Julie DiBona reported the following:

- We received a \$3,000 grant from Redwood City’s Civic Cultural Commission.
- We have plenty of great prize donations and a full slate of talented performers for the stages.
- Boosters will let us use their barbecues.
- Lucky’s will donate drinks.
- Ten vendors have signed on.
- Only four clubs have registered for booths.
- We have a VIP Coordinator on board.
- We still need help with managing donations and barbecuing.
- If we can get five Kohl’s employees to volunteer, Kohl’s will donate \$500.
- Watch for a wish list of items we’d like to have donated coming soon through VolunteerSpot.

Junior Scholarship Report:

Lin Chan reported that her committee received 22 applications, but five were from seniors. There was discussion about how to categorize sports and the consensus was that they qualify as leadership, but not community service. Next year she would make the deadline be 4pm instead of 3pm to accommodate students who have a 7th period class and wait until the last minute to turn in their applications. She would also clarify the instructions to try to ensure that students know they need to be members of the PTSA, need to write legibly, and need to use a pen instead of a pencil to fill out the application.

Mini-grants:

Rebecca reported that her committee recommends approving the following grants:

Department	Name	Project	Amount
World Languages	Karina Chin	French Film Education	50.00
Science	Rebecca Rush	Computer Speakers	167.73
Clubs	Marijke Silberman	Africause Dance Workshop	100.00
Math	Steven Wong	Mounted LCD Projector	380.00
World Languages	Cristelda Guillen	Spanish 2 NS Class Books	183.57
Guidance	Joni Gordon	Dragon Naturally Speaking	70.00
World Languages	Martha Sigala & Belen Alvarez	Individual Orals Microphones	100.00
Social Studies	Nancy Berry	Classroom Laptop	400.00
Special Education	Karole-Ann Coleman	Differentiated Tech for Instruction	399.00
AVID	Teresa Yeager	AVID College Application Fees	200.00
World Languages	Scott Stalder-Skarmousos	Zambombazo! Cultural/Musical website	215.45
English	Barbara Morton	Class Library	200.00
Math	Don Hoban	Classroom supplies	100.00
World Languages	Karina Chin	Let's get reading!	120.00
Special Education, etc.	Elizabeth Guli, etc.	Teachers Book Group	200.00
Math	Kelley O'Hern	Whiteboards	339.84
English	Justine Rutigliano	IB Study Materials - Communist Manifesto	125.00
Math	Laura Larkin	Lunchtime Math Contests	170.00
Clubs	Anna Dagum	Bike club funds	230.00
Science/Physics	Allison Stafford	Scientific Calculators for Physics classroom	100.00
Journalism	Kim Vinh	Journalism camera/InDesign software	277.95
Math Department	Beth Peters	Twist-It Rulers	395.51
Social Studies	Lydia Cuffman	Promises DVD for World Studies students	112.95
Math	Laura Larkin	Scientific Calculators for Geometry classrooms	100.00
World Languages	Evelyn Nadeau	Laminator	230.00
Science	Ashley Dever	Biotech Supplies	400.00
TOTAL FUNDED			\$5367.00

The committee received 33 requests for funding for a total of \$10,776.94. They were able to at least partially fund 26 of them. They felt the other seven were less compelling or for one-time items that would not have a lasting impact. There was some discussion about whether the IB study materials could be bought through the IB book fund.

Summary of Meeting with County Superintendent:

Shoko presented a summary of her meeting with Anne Campbell, County Superintendent of Education, on the status of ROP (Regional Occupational Program) funding for CTE (Career and Technical Education) classes. ROP is being phased out throughout the state. San Mateo County has excess property tax (about \$1.5M) that is currently funding ROP. This money will continue to be collected from us, but the county will not be allowed to spend it. Shoko will follow-up with suggestions about how we can take action on this.

Teacher Appreciation Week:

We'd like to celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week this year. It is May 6-10. We budgeted \$500 to hire a coffee cart for the staff. The Hospitality committee will make the arrangements.

Ed Foundation Report:

None

Treasurer's Report:

Rebecca presented the financial report for March 2013. We agreed to move \$2,000 from the general fund to the Class of 2014 Grad Activities fund, assuming the Sequoia International Festival is a success.

Status of Graduation Activities

2013: Lisa Duncan reported that Bingo Night was successful in all respects except a rather disappointing turnout. We grossed about \$1500, which will be split with the Class of 2016. Next year, she recommends making sure Leadership promotes the event more aggressively at school. Grad Night tickets will go on sale soon for \$50. She is budgeting for 20 scholarship tickets. We agreed to allocate \$500 from the general fund towards the senior brunch since it is a mandatory event for all seniors.

2014: Shoko reported that the restaurant fundraiser on the minimum day after Open House was disappointing due to a lack of publicity.

2015: Julie Willett reported for Nancy Melmon that they will have a meeting in May.

2016: no report

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Betsy Parkhurst, Secretary