

Sequoia High School

PTSA General Membership Meeting

Meeting Agenda & Minutes

7:00 PM, Tuesday, December 6, 2016 | Location: Sequoia High School

Attendees

In attendance: Sian Davies, Susie Gilbert, Marlena Griffin, Lisa Hane, Gayle Hoch, Sherri Horan, Rachel Krueger, Rachel Levine, Lauren Pachkowski, Jayne Sungail Carmen Alvarado, Douglas Villeda, Cynthia Gievaninetti, Erin Cespedes, Kate Sheehan

Principal Sean Priest

Agenda

- 7:00 – 7:30 Welcome and Principal Sean Priest – Q&A
- 7:30 – 7:35 Presentation by Sarah Norman, Friends For Youth Mentoring Program - Welcome and Call to Order, Introductions – Lisa Hane - PTSA president
- 8:00 – 8:05 Approval of Minutes
- 8:05 – 8:10 Treasurer’s Report – Gayle Hoch
- 8:10 – 8:20 Class Reports
 - 2017 Grad week Chairs –Donna Fiore, Jill Berry
 - 2020 Freshman Parent activities
 - 2019 Evergreen Sales update –deliveries complete, financial update
Sian/Susie/Lauren
 - 2018 Junior Grad team – winter basketball concessions coming up,
meeting on 12/12
- 8:20 – 8:45 Committee Reports
 - Reflections – Rachel Levine
 - Membership Report – Sian/Alice
 - Hospitality needs for Holiday teacher luncheon
 - Adopt-a-Family needs

8:15 – 8:30 Other Business

January Dialogs with ELAC TBD

Possible forum/meeting with teachers regarding election results and school reaction

8:50 Adjourn – Please stay to celebrate!

Meeting Minutes

General Session started at 7:00 pm

State of the School & Q&A – Principal Sean Priest

- Requested questions from parents on perceived school strengths or challenges
 - **Construction progress?** *Looks beautiful but not open to students yet. Possible move-in targeted for January*
 - **James street lot very tight with buses and other vehicles. Any plans to open up the James street lot to increase movement efficiency of traffic?** *No*
 - **How will a new superintendent affect the school?** *Good question, not sure. We have a really strong district staff and parent involvement, and systems in place, therefore I feel strongly that the process will result in a good pool of candidates and good outcome*
 - **Any thoughts on making kids work load more manageable without compromising important academics?** *Yes, there is an initiative to make IB available to all students and it is an ongoing discussion with IB equity team to discuss what there is in place to support kids. Schoolwork deadline coordination as a teacher group through shared calendars. Challenge is helping kids understand the implications of their planning decisions. Teachers are trying to be more understanding of the amount of stress kids are under. Teachers providing tools, for example, Mindfulness Training.*
 - Offered a unique SHSEF support opportunity – If we reach \$200,000 by 12/31/16, we will secure a challenge grant of \$25,000.
 - Noted Foundation support highlights – PTSA mini grants, field trips, curriculum grants, visual and performing arts
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Association Meeting called to order at 7:45 pm

Special teacher guests – Ms. Sheehan & Erin Cespedis

- Discussed the reaction of students and teachers on campus to the recent presidential election
- Committed to ongoing discussions at future meetings

Special guest - Sarah Norman of Friends for youth

- Noted Friends for Youth has been serving the peninsula for over 30 years and has served over 2,000 at risk youth
- Explained Friends for Youth now serving SHS Freshman in need of mentoring (serving 60 students)

- Noted every student attends a once per week mentoring meeting, usually during PE. Small group Life Skills sessions are facilitated by mentor volunteers
- Reported students mentored turn in more home work and report feeling more positive

Agenda & Minutes (Lisa Hane)

Accepted minutes as presented

Treasurer's Report (Gayle Hoch)

- Reported the 2015 Federal and State taxes filed in November

*Motion to ratify checks as presented by Lauren Pachkowski
Motion carries*

Class Reports

- 2017 – Lisa Hane reported on behalf Donna Fiore, Jill Berry
 - 15% of tree cost donated to SHS with purchase of Honey Bear Tree
 - Direct appeal letter going out to senior parents soon
 - Things coming together well
- 2020 – Freshman parent activities
 - Noted efforts still underway to get an activity scheduled in January
- 2019 – Reported on Evergreen sales (Sian/Susie/Lauren)
 - Noted deliveries complete
 - Reported \$2000 profit
 - Reported six reindeers left for sale at \$15 each
- 2018 – Winter basketball concessions coming up
 - Sian hosting a planning party 12/12 for grad committee involvement

Committee Reports

- Reflections – Rachel Levine
 - Reported on winners
- Membership Report – Sian Davies
 - Noted 317 members to date
- Hospitality needs for Holiday Teacher Luncheon
 - Expressed a need for support
- Adopt-a-family needs
 - Requested we spread the word, get involved, and donate

Other Business (Lisa Hane)

- Mentioned the search for the new superintendent - seeking feedback from parents
- Mentioned the activities that will commence in the new year:
 - January dialogs with ELAC TBD
 - A nominating committee will be formed in January – currently reaching out and getting everything ready

- Junior scholarships will be revamped
- Second go around for mini grants
- By-laws will be reviewed by Sian, Lisa and Lauren

Next Meeting

Next Meeting: Feb 7, 2017

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:02 pm

Scribe

Respectfully submitted by Sherri Horan