

## **Santa Cruz High School PTA Minutes September 11, 2017**

### **6:30 pm Welcome, Introductions – Shawn Coulson, President**

Attendees: Krista Holt, Sheila Peck, Brent Kline, Tom Crahen, Erin Murphy, Carolina Martinez, Enrique Sahagun, Larisa Owechko, Rocky Snyder, Rishi Lal, Angelica Tolentino, Jane McKenzie, Margaret Hall, Rachael Marshall, Denise Hayes, Alison Buchter, Veronique Winiarski, Lesley Harris, Meghan Thomas, Shawn Coulson, Stephanie Pache

### **Special Reports:**

#### **Brent Kline, Principal**

First day of school: Thanks to the PTA and Erin Murphy for the teacher/staff breakfast on the first day of school. An actor, Brooke Haycock, from the Educational Trust Foundation in Washington, D.C., presented a thought-provoking docudrama about 2 different schools. There was also a mini-rally in the quad which was preferable to the gym.

Student population: We have about 1074 kids, about 30 more than expected so 2 more classes in Freshman English and Math were added.

Student representative to School Board: Every other year SCHS is allowed to send a representative to the School Board (Harbor High sends a student in alternate years). This year Brent had students submit applications for the position. 12 senior students applied, 6 were interviewed, and Daniela Werlin-Martinez was selected. Brent wanted to take advantage of the interest shown by the other 11 students, so he created a Principal's Advisory Committee to include all 12 applicants. They will be meeting with him monthly during lunch.

Back to School Night: It went well. This year focused on just the first semester. Feedback suggested that 10 minute sessions might have been too short; next year they might be 15 minutes. Noticing that parents know each other and want to socialize, he is also considering inserting a "parent break" in the schedule, during which clubs might sell refreshments in the quad, to make the night more enjoyable.

Student survey: This will be done with Rishi and the ASB, to see what we might provide for students that they don't already have.

School bond update: Last year we worked with an architect team which for some reason was released. Brent has started over with another team. There has been some controversy about the size of the swimming pools at the different high schools. He hopes to revitalize the gym, to extend the bleachers and make them more permanent, and to build a restroom and changing facility by the pool. Most of the money will go towards things we don't see – infrastructure in the main building – pipes, wired, etc.

#### **Larisa Owechko, Leadership, and Rishi Lal, Assistant Principal:**

Freshman officer: The first freshman officer was just selected; he'll run the freshman class meeting.

Homecoming: Leadership will be doing the Homecoming halftime parade. Last year was the first time in some years that this was done, and they will do it again this year. There will be voluntary meetings for each class where students will work together to build floats. They will need flatbed trucks for each of the class floats, and sites – parent homes – to put them in and where students can build the floats. Each class has been assigned a color, and there will be a competition among the classes for the floats. The homecoming committee is working very well. They have chosen "Horror Story" as a theme since the event will be on Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>. (Santa Cruz Horror Story = SCHS). There will also be an informal Homecoming Dance right after the game with the same theme. They are planning to sell combo tickets to get people to come directly from the game to the dance.

Campus beautification: There is a campus beautification committee started by Jade, Student Body President. They will put up chalkboards where students can write messages. There will also be themes for the existing bulletin boards in the Main Building. Brent suggested that Jane McKenzie, who does campus beautification for the PTA, come in to their meeting as a guest speaker.

Link Crew: It was a positive experience. The Link Crew students trained for two days, and gave the freshman orientation. There will be a reunion of the small Link Crew groups of advisors and freshmen coming up to keep the supportive connection.

Back to School Night: ASB helped at Back to School Night and did a good job.

Blood drive: There will be a blood drive committee meeting 9/12 with the Red Cross. The blood drive is scheduled for October 10. Participants must be at least 16 and over 100 pounds.

Prom: Students are researching venues; Seascape is currently the top choice. The plan is to hold prom on the boat in San Francisco Bay every two years so all students get a chance to go; last year's prom was on the boat.

ASB and Leadership Class: Larisa explained that all elected ASB students are in the Leadership Class, but other students may also be in the Leadership class. The freshman officer is not in the Leadership class.

Fundraising: Carolina asked if there was any fundraising for Hurricane Harvey. Rishi replied that the Latino Student Union were raising money for DACA, AVID has done fundraising for Harvey and DACA. ASB has to do fundraising for themselves.

#### **ELAC:**

There is currently no representative from ELAC. ELAC will hold its first meeting September 12, and at that time they will choose a representative to attend PTA meetings.

#### **Stephanie Pache, President, Santa Cruz Educational Foundation:**

SCEF in general: SCEF does advocacy, fundraising, support at the district level for all schools in Santa Cruz City Schools. They are working on computer science and how to integrate it throughout the K-12 curriculum, and just received \$300,000 grant from National Science Foundation for this purpose. She'd like to come to the next meeting and speak more about what SCEF is doing. In addition to computer science, they're looking at libraries, including books and digital tools. They receive business donors, large grants. There is a District formula

that is used to distribute funds. There will be a large fundraising event in October; PTA can help with that. Rocky wondered if a legacy foundation existed across all the schools; Stephanie said that they do not do this – it's more the responsibility of the individual schools.

## **Board and Committee Reports**

### **Sheila Peck, Secretary:**

May 2017 minutes: The May 2017 minutes were reviewed and approved. Veronique asked Brent who was helping him with the architectural plans for the bond project; her husband is an engineer and works with schools and could help. Brent said he would welcome the connection. The plans for all the schools are on the District website (sccs.net).

### **Shawn Coulson, President:**

Treasurer's Report: Shari was absent and Shawn gave the report. There is approximately \$23,000 in available cash. Almost \$10,000 was received from the Annual Giving campaign so far, which is similar to the past few years. Last year's Grad Night resulted in about a \$3,000 loss for the PTA. The Meet and Greet cost \$650. We also paid for the Teacher/Staff Breakfast.

Fundraising: Shawn said she is hoping to do another request for donations during the year. Tom asked about having someone in charge of fundraising, and putting on fun, more expensive fundraising events. Meghan noted that parents don't participate or donate as much in high school, and was also concerned about turning away parents who could not participate due to lack of funds. Rocky brought up the idea again of a "legacy" program, set up to capture alumni donations on an ongoing basis. Shawn suggested creating a Fundraising Committee. Tom Crahen, Rocky Snyder, Alison Buchter, Rachael Marshall, and Brent volunteered to be on the committee.

Grad Night 2018: There is a Grad Night Committee meeting September 12; Lisa O'Neill is in charge.

Meet and Greet: 56 tickets were sold and it was a great event. We spent more per person than last year. Erin noted that the event was expensive and may not be worth continuing; others thought it was still a good event. It was agreed that the Food Lounge is still a good venue. Sheila asked if anyone came to the PTA meeting after having attended the Meet and Greet – 2-3 people said yes.

### **Jane McKenzie, Campus Beautification Committee:**

Project background: The campus beautification committee was started 3 years ago. Parents convened every 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month in the morning to tidy up the campus, and mulch, prune, and plant. Groups have ranged from 3-20, including administration, and sometimes Saturday School students. Trish Hildinger is the knowledgeable one. Jane and Trish are looking to train new people to replace themselves since their kids are both seniors and they won't be here next year. It's worked out well and made a difference in the school. There was general concern in the group about the eyesore of a wall in front of the math building; Larisa said her students were looking into the idea of mural. Erin noted that she had asked Ms. Crocetti about mosaic but it was cost-prohibitive. Erin said she would send an email to Trevor Miller, the

District Facilities person. Jane said that this year she is planning to schedule events quarterly instead of monthly, with more people and for a longer time. Brent said that September 24 was already on the calendar from last year; he and Jane will discuss whether to start then or not.

**Erin Murphy, Hospitality:**

Teacher/Staff Breakfasts: Next breakfasts will be scheduled before Thanksgiving Break and before Spring Break. A small breakfast was done on the first day of school. Lisa O’Neill has a plan for the May Teacher/Staff luncheon out on the front lawn.

**Ongoing Projects/Action Items:**

**Lab Equipment – Tom Crahen:**

Akin Babatola communicated to the PTA that City Labs has volunteered to donate some scientific equipment, and need to know how to do that. Brent said for Akin to contact him.

**College Planning Workshops – Tom Crahen:**

Tom asked planners from last year if they wanted to participate again in workshops again this year. Only Steve Shapiro said yes, and he wanted to do a college financing workshop in September or October, on a Wednesday or Thursday evening. There was discussion about 1) whether to hold a financing workshop this fall, when we might still try to do a broader college planning workshop in the spring if planners could be found, 2) offering the planners a stipend to make it more attractive, 3) whether to pay Steve since he currently gives presentations to the schools for free, 4) the time needed to put together Steve’s college financing workshop this fall. It was decided to go ahead and offer the workshop this fall, with about a month leadtime. Lesley Harris made a motion to offer a stipend of up to \$250 to Steve for the fall workshop. The motion passed with 10 yes, 3 no, and 3 abstaining.

**Budget Committee – Shawn Coulson:**

Shawn advocated creating a budget committee to establish a budget with guidelines and priorities. Last year we got caught several times with last minute requests for funds and we weren’t prepared. Krista Holt, Lesley Harris, Tom Crahen, Shawn Coulson, and Rishi Lal volunteered to be on the committee. Brent asked that they have a discussion with him before they started.

**SAT Prep Course – Shawn Coulson:**

Shawn has already done the planning for the course, since it will start in a few weeks on October 9. We will work again with Brett Johanson, and his company FuturePath Prep. The cost of the course will be either \$125 or \$135. It will be held again at Loudon Nelson Center, with Brett Johanson and Andrea Hutson teaching. 1-2 proctors will be needed for the practice test on October 21, from 9:00 to 1:00.

**Dance Program – Alison Buchter:**

Alison is trying to start a dance program at SCHS. She has researched programs at other schools, and thinks we should start with a small class a few times a week. Getting a dance instructor won't be a problem. Harbor asks students to pay or fundraise \$150 for their dance program. She will send out a survey to identify student interest. Carolina was concerned that we make sure to organize the program so that all students can have access.

**Drive for Schools – Shawn Coulson:**

The Drive for Schools fundraiser will start soon; the coordinators will pick up tickets this Wednesday from Toyota. All proceeds of the raffle tickets go to the participating clubs and teams. Jade Loftus and Linda Snook will be running Drive for Schools this year. A notification email will go out soon.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

\_\_\_\_ The minutes stand approved as is.

\_\_\_\_ The minutes are approved with the following corrections:

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Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_, SCHS PTA Secretary