



**Redwood HS Parent Teacher Student Association
General Meeting Minutes, September 14, 2006**

PRESIDING BOARD: President: Linda Alm; Vice-President/Parent Ed: Jeannie Perry; Vice-President of Communications: Ginger McCormick; Treasurer: Marlene Foster, Parliamentarian: Suman Vyas; Auditor: Cindy Brown; Secretary: Jody Coker; all present.

Elaine Benge, PTSA president from 2005-2006, officially passed the gavel to Linda Alm, the new president.

CALL TO ORDER: Linda Alm, president, called the meeting to order at 8:30 am and introduced Suman Vyas as continuing Parliamentarian.

INTRODUCTIONS: Suman introduced the complete Executive Board for the 2006-2007 year as listed above.

MAY MINUTES APPROVED: The minutes of the May 11, 2006 general meeting were approved as submitted.

OFFICERS' REPORTS:

▪ **President's report – Linda Alm**

Linda thanked all the volunteers who have helped so far this year including the back to school coffee volunteers; Denise Capra-Young and Kristi O'Doriso as volunteer coordinators and especially for setting up the new volunteer database, (Denise will continue to maintain the database, Kristi is moving over to the Foundation.); Tish Borden, Scottie Spurzem and Rose Harder and volunteers for the orientation lunch and the distribution of the spirit bags. Linda also thanked Peter Martin and Marianne Rafter for continuing to volunteer as editors of The Post. Linda stated the Board has set a goal to reduce the size of The Post and expedite delivery and assured membership that it will not be sent first class every issue but that the first class postage was necessary for the first issue. The Post will also be available on the PTSA website. Linda thanked Kappy Reed for her beautiful seasonal refreshments and Pat Ravasio for our wonderful new signs in the parking entrances.

▪ **Vice-President I (Parent Ed) report – Jeannie Perry**

Jeannie announced that a schedule of the *Parent 2 Parent (p2p)* meetings was available by flyer at today's meeting or can be accessed on the Redwood website. Their first meeting is next week Sept. 20 in Kreps Hall. Jeannie also announced the PTSA parent ed. evening events she has scheduled:

Nov. 2, 2006 Kathy Reinhart McShane will present *A Practical Guide to Parenting Teenagers*

Feb. 6, 2007 An evening on *The Effect of Divorce on Teens*

April 19, 2007 Madeline Levine, the author of *The Price of Privilege*, will speak. (Linda mentioned we are reaching out to our feeder schools to include them in this evening.)

Jeannie mentioned she is looking for ideas and suggestions for other speakers or programs.

- **Vice-President II (Communications) report – Ginger McCormick**

Ginger gave us a visual report with a demo of the wonderful PTSA website she is maintaining and enhancing. She has over 600 email subscriptions entered. She thanked Barbara Solomon for providing advice on the structure. Ginger wants to make it an interactive tool for the community with goals to expand by adding resources and links, committee notices, pictures and more.

- **2005-2006 Auditor's report – Courtney Marshall**

Courtney Marshall submitted copies of her Audit report for the period of January 1, 2006 to June 30, 2006 (attached to the Secretary's copies of the minutes).

- **Treasurer's report – Marlene Foster**

Linda prefaced the report with an announcement reminding everyone that we have increased revenue from increased dues. Linda also mentioned the note about the pending funds from the Foundation.

Marlene presented the new budget (attached to the secretary's copy of the minutes) with a projected income of \$36,000. The asterisks indicate an adjustment from last year's budget.

BUDGET APPROVED: Elaine Bengle moved that we approve the budget as submitted. The motion was seconded and passed with no objections.

- **Parliamentarian's report – Suman Vyas**

Suman told us about the bylaw committee's work to update the PTSA bylaws. Once we get the updated bylaws approved by the PTSA state level, we can vote to adopt them. Suman hopes to have them back by our next meeting. Changes will be reviewed then. She thinks the \$10 dues increase is the most significant change.

Suman also asked everyone to start thinking about the nominating committee for this year. She cannot be the chair again and she recommends the committee have one or two members from each feeder school to have greater access to more volunteers. Contact Linda Alm or Suman to volunteer.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT – Nancy Neu

Nancy Neu, in full rally mode, welcomed parents with a report of a smooth school year opening.

She reported our enrollment is at 1,503 students including:

12 eighth grade honors students, 392 freshmen, 378 sophomores, 373 juniors, and 348 seniors.

She also broke it down as 772 boys and 731 girls. Nancy said this is the biggest high school in the district, test scores are high and kids are going off to top notch colleges from Redwood.

Nancy told us that Redwood is up for accreditation this year and mentioned how important that process is. The State will be conducting a review to validate the self evaluation Redwood submits. Our last accreditation was awarded for 6 years with no review, a level only awarded to 15% of the schools in California. (6 years with a 3 year review is more typical.)

There are 6 new teachers, 2 new counselors and 1 new career center staff member.

Nancy said communication, a continuing goal of the administration, is both more difficult and more important for parents at the high school level. She noted the following efforts to reach out to parents:

Back to School night was successful and very well attended, possibly by more parents than ever.

The website has many links including one to the PTSA site. Publications online include minutes to Site Council and other school organizations. The Twig, the daily announcement sheet read aloud every morning in 2nd period is on the website and is archived. Dates for honors classes and other deadlines are there. Nancy mentioned there are many ways to get involved. She said we have four years to get the kids to be more responsible and, speaking to the parents, the administration will “help you to help them”. She suggested giving the kids more responsibilities in everyday situations; getting them to be advocates for themselves. Encouraging them to speak with adults whenever a safe opportunity arises: send them in for directions, let them speak for themselves. Nancy encourages parents to “get on campus, get to know the kids yourself” by volunteering in the library, counseling or college and career centers, principal’s office for special events, etc. Nancy is available and asked that parents please contact her by phone, email or in person.

Audience questions:

Back to school: Can planning in the future be sensitive to the schedules of the feeder schools? Nancy said the Redwood schedule is set early and should be checked in the spring by the school boards for conflicts.

Sophomores: Who should parents talk to about scheduling the necessary college entrance exams? Talk to the child’s counselor for college planning to the class Assistant Principal for discipline issues (Asst. Principals stay with the class all four years.)

Dances: Why aren’t there more? Attendance and supervision/staffing are the main reasons. Also there are Junior Prom and Senior Dance in addition to the three school dances.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **ASB rep** Shirley Morrison will be reporting on student activities at the PTSA meetings. She told us about this morning’s rally.
- **Membership** Jackie Littman reported 365 families have joined the PTSA so far this year. She said this is a little ahead of last year.
- **Directory** Elaine Bengle reported that “Nell is off the train tracks”—the threat of disaster that haunts the initial work on the directory has been averted and the directory is taking shape. Ads are being sold; a great team is working on the directory. Please help in your community to bring in ads; prices start at \$150 for a business card size. The cover will be black this year. Help needed to stuff and proofread. Come to a stuffing party—the modern day quilting bee. A volunteer sheet was passed at the meeting, or contact Elaine or Sue Pearlstein to volunteer.
- **Foundation** Sara McGhie introduced the Foundation: “only 2 years old” but successfully raising money. It began as a way to consolidate requests for money from different areas of the school so parents were not being asked from all sides for donations (sports, academics, arts, drama, etc.). Two years ago they raised 30% more than had been donated before and last year raised 15% over that. They have added a scholarship program and campus beautification to their recipients. In response to parent requests, the Foundation has added an option for donors to designate 50% of their donations of \$1250 or more for a specific area. One request with a reply envelope will be mailed out the last week in Sept. Julie Kastrup will be hosting a stuffing party soon. A sign up sheet was passed, or call Julie to volunteer.

Audience questions:

How is money allocated? Twice a year, in Oct. and in March a support panel hears requests for grants.

Can you name a specific sport? Not yet, all the money for sports goes to the Benchwarmers and they distribute money to all sports. Sara also said tax deductible donations to non-profits cannot get too specific.

- **E Scrip** More people than ever are participating. Safeway must be renewed each year. Last year escrip raised \$36,000 for Redwood. Call Julie Gannon 924-1413, if you have trouble renewing. (from the audience, Ann Gordon reminded us that School Pop is another way to donate.)
- **Campus Improvement** Jean Von Berg, Helen Lambert, and Jerry Nezovich are working on landscaping at the school. Their first meeting will be this Sat. 9/16 from 9-12. Please come and bring tools and gloves. Besides maintenance , pruning, etc., short term goals include 1) replant and deal with entryway that was torn up to install a meter 2) make the East parking lot entrance more attractive, and 3) install a garden shed (coming 9/15) near the Shop class. They are working with VP Ben Kolb, Nancy Neu and Joe Knight of the Maintenance dept.
- **Monthly Staff Appreciation Drawing** Ann Gordon and Susan Livingston from Kentfield and Tiburon are working together to raise gifts for the staff appreciation drawing. Described as a "big group hug" for the staff; last year they generated 110 gifts from 53 families. They need more for the October drawing. They are looking for gift certificates, tickets, gift baskets, etc. A sign-up sheet was passed or call Peggy Bogason in the Principal's office to donate anytime. 945-3620 or peggy@redwood.org
- **Rock n Roll** Laura Edwards and Eladia Leddy are planning MARCH 10 for this years' party. The theme is *Club Redwood* a RnR-through-the-ages dance party, not a specific decade. This is a party for parents with light fundraising: no silent auction , a raffle and maybe a fund-a-need. Volunteer sheet was passed or call Eladia 927-1922 to help. They are looking for fun game or activity ideas to bring parents together.
- **Grad Night** Gail DaMert needs junior parents to help. This is a training year for junior parents so they can put on the party for their kids next year. They need a Recording Secretary and/or Junior Class Liaison. These jobs can be combined. A stuffing party will be happening soon.

NEW BUSINESS: No new business.

Before adjourning Linda mentioned the confidential tip line at Redwood that is available to anyone who wants to anonymously tell the administration of concerns about the school. That number is 945-3693.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 9:45 a.m.

Jody Coker, PTSA Secretary