



**Redwood HS Parent Teacher Student Association
General Meeting Minutes, October 12, 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 except treasurer.

CALL TO ORDER: Linda Alm, PTSA president called the meeting to order at 8:35 am

MINUTES APPROVED: The minutes of the September 14, 2006 general meeting were approved as submitted.

OFFICERS' REPORTS:

▪ **President's report – Linda Alm**

Linda thanked Kappy Reed for her beautiful refreshments and the Freshman parent coordinators, Holly Strobel and Danelle Leong for their get together on October 25.
Announcements: Freshman Parent Get Together
College Night for Juniors, October 26, 7pm
PTSA Holiday party is being planned by Ann Morrison. More to come on this.

Flyers available at this meeting:

Emergency Preparedness brochures. Check out classes and information.
MCOE parent ed. presentation 10/19 *My Space Unraveled*
MCOE parent ed. series about Drugs and Alcohol , 11/4, 1/10 (at Redwood), 3/24, 5/5
Understanding the Teen Girl Brain, Dr. Louann Brizendine, Marin School, 10/26
Mother Daughter Workshop, Women's School of Healing Arts and Sciences 10/18, CM Town Center
Parent University XI three dates see MCOE for more info.
Parent 2 Parent, ongoing presentations for parents of LD kids

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

Jeannie announced the PTSA parent ed. evening events she has scheduled:
Nov. 2 Kathy Reinhart McShane will present *A Practical Guide to Parenting Teenagers*
Nov. 29 *Effects of Drugs and Alcohol on the Teenage Brain*
Jan. 11 *Gap Year Studies for Students Not Ready for College*,
Feb. 6 An evening on *The Effect of Divorce on Teens*
Apr. 19 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. Nancy Neu suggested in the past the Twin Cities Police have made informative presentations to parents about teens and teen activities from the law enforcement perspective.

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

Ginger told us education events are posted on the PTSA website. Email subscription is ongoing. Please go on and subscribe and please be sure and update the email subscription if your email address changes.

▪ **Treasurer’s report – Cindy Brown for Marlene Foster**

Cindy, speaking for Marlene, submitted this year’s budget to date. No unbudgeted, unexpected expenses. The Foundation has allocated \$3000 for the mailing of the Post.

BUDGET APPROVED: Elaine Bengle moved to accept the budget as presented. The motion was seconded and passed with no objections.

▪ **Parliamentarian’s report – Suman Vyas**

Suman read into record the bylaws concerning the authorization over the association’s financial accounts:

Article VI Duties of Officers, Section 4, f:

"The treasurer shall: Secure two signatures on all checks. Any two of the following are authorized to sign: president, treasurer, and first vice president. The authorized signers shall not be related by blood or marriage or reside in the same household."

The authorized signers for this year are Linda Alm, president; Marlene Foster, treasurer; and Jeannie Perry, first vice president.

Suman asked again for 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. Jeannie Perry has agreed to help. Please call Suman to volunteer.

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT – Nancy Neu

Nancy Neu reminded us we are already in the seventh week of school. She talked about this very stressful time for Seniors, most of whom are starting to apply to colleges. The first progress reports are in the mail. Remember this is a short grading period and first contact with teachers. Nancy mentioned how this first report is part of the transition to a large school. It can feel impersonal, but doesn’t have to be. If parents see any surprises they should contact first the teacher and then, if necessary, the counselor.

Homecoming was good, despite a disappointing end to the football game, the dance was a success. The school is doing all they can to deter kids from substance abuse. Nancy has emphasized to the kids that getting in trouble with parents is *very* different than with the administration. She encourages them to consider the school consequences seriously. Getting into the dance took longer than they hoped but next time will be more efficient. Kids are getting the message about substance abuse. Over 800 tickets sold.

Audience questions:

How do kids get the message about school consequences? In the spring all freshmen take a required Social Aspects class (the second ½ to World Cultures/Geography). Also gym class they are taught about the physical effects of substance abuse. Also there will be a speaker in November addressing 9th and 10th graders.

Are the second Progress Reports cumulative or separate grades? For most teachers it is cumulative but the teachers should have communicated this at back to school night for parents.

Can parents access Power School? No, Nancy doesn’t like Power School. She is asking the Board to replace it.

Who replaced counselor, Sandy Frances? Randel Kelly

When do sophomores see counselors? Sophomores have a potluck with their counselors in February. Students can see their counselors anytime with an appointment.

Nancy added: we have reduced our counselor caseload to no more than 300 students with a new hire.

When do the students start preparing for college applications? In 10th grade they do an analysis of talents and skills to begin considering colleges.

How does a parent negotiate between a teacher who doesn't want parent contact and a child who doesn't have the confidence to speak with the teacher? Contact the counselor about learning the skills to approach the teacher or encourage the student to attend office hours of a teacher the child is more comfortable with first.

If a parent doesn't hear back from a teacher she is trying to contact, what then? Parent's can expect a response in 48 hours, understanding that teachers are not available 24/7 and not on weekends. If you don't feel you are being heard, the next step would be the assistant principal.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **Membership** Jackie Littman reported membership is up to 425 this year. She said this is on track.
- **Directory** Elaine Bengle says the directory is going to press! She thanked: Sue Pearlstein and Diana Putterman for their sales, Kathy Mindham for data input, Vivian McClure for calling all the opt-out sheets, Marlene Foster for proofing, Jackie Littman for doing all the labels. Help is needed to stuff. Come to a stuffing party—A volunteer sheet was passed at the meeting, or email directory@redwoodpts.org.
- **Foundation** Sara McGhie the foundation mailing is out and should have arrived in mailboxes. Freshmen parents got a cover letter with the brochure. She has an article from the Wall Street Journal "*Opting Out of Private School-Trend to Public*". The Support Panel has received grant requests and will be reviewing them this month. Escrip brings in \$3000/month for Redwood. Contact Julie Gannon with escrip questions 924-1413.
- **Campus Improvement** Jean Von Berg workparty this Sunday, October 8. 9-12. Please come and bring tools and gloves. Kids can get double time by applying their parent's time to community service.
- **ASB rep** Shirley Morrison last week was homecoming, a lot of students participated, the hallway decorations stayed up a long time. Dance was good, though it took too long to get in.

The Superintendent spoke to the Leadership class and told them classes will be added next year including a cooking class and nursing and premed classes.

Parking is going well. The carpool row is successful.

Red Ribbon week is October 23-31. Drug and alcohol abuse will be discussed at lunch. Prizes will be given for a contest for good decision making posters and anyone who makes a pledge to abstain from drugs and alcohol will receive a wristband.

Blood Drive is Oct. 17. Minimum age is 16.

- **Monthly Staff Appreciation Drawing** Ann Gordon October drawing is today, they have 24 donations. The next drawings will be Nov. 2 and Dec. 7. 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
- **Grad Night** Gail DaMert concerns about the fire exits at Mt. Tam Racquet Club have been resolved and the Grad night will go on there as planned. Committees are fully staffed and everything is on track.
- **Substance Abuse Awareness Program** Barbara Solomon has been working on our substance abuse program for three years and wants us to stay on top of this important subject. Wilkie Wilkinson will be speaking to the lower grades and then to the parents in November. Parents from other schools and students from other grades are welcome to attend the evening presentation.

NEW BUSINESS: No new business.

SPEAKER: Mauricio Torres-Benavides from College of Marin. Look for a summary of his presentation on the website.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 10:01 a.m.

Jody Coker, PTSA Secretary