

**REDWOOD HIGH SCHOOL
PARENT-TEACHER-STUDENT ASSOCIATION MEETING
January 10, 2008**

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 8:37 a.m. by President Barbara Solomon. The minutes of the November 8 meeting were approved with corrections. All Board members present.

ADMINISTRATION REPORT/Superintendent Bob Ferguson spoke to the assembled membership about modernization, anticipated budget cuts and changes this year. Modernization was on schedule before the heavy rains and they are working hard to stay on schedule. Redwood's modernization includes a new pool in a new location, a second gym, resurfaced tennis courts with two additional tennis courts, and a Classroom 2020 (turning a classroom in each school into a long distance learning center). Redwood's new pool and second gym will come in close to the time and budget allotted. It will be noisy when the piers are installed so the district is trying to minimize that work when school is in session. Budget cuts Superintendent Ferguson asked us to watch the news in the next months for more discussion of the state budget cuts. He was disappointed by the Governor's recent announcement in light of previous agreements and meetings between the California School Board Association and Governor Schwarzenegger. The anticipated cuts will not hit our district as hard as some because we are designated a Basic Aid District, but we are expecting up to a \$400,000 budget cut.

Changes at Redwood 1) This is the first year of Mandarin classes and the district is looking to hire a second Mandarin teacher. 2) Redwood is applying to be an International Baccalaureate School. If we are accepted, the program will begin the '09-'10 school year. This is an internationally recognized, diploma program which upon completion gives the successful student sophomore standing at many colleges. Nancy Neu is working with staff for support and is looking at other programs including: a Health Careers Academy (for students interested in medicine, veterinary medicine and other health industry careers), a Bio-med program, and an information Technology program. Superintendent Ferguson noted that instituting change is difficult and told about the frustrating experience he had trying to start a culinary arts program last year. He said they are still working on developing that program.

Filling the Gaps Superintendent Ferguson also talked about the school's efforts to support the 9th and 10th graders who are failing or struggling at Redwood. Three areas that are of most concern are readiness, reading skills and math skills. Very few 8th grade students are held back because they aren't ready. When they are passed on unprepared, they struggle at high school. The administration has learned if students are struggling in 9th grade, they will have trouble throughout high school. The district has worked to identify students who need support.

OFFICER REPORTS:

Treasurer's Report: Tish Borden reviewed the Profit and Loss sheet and the current balance in our accounts. We are in good shape. District dues and the Directory were our big expenses so far.

President: Barbara Solomon spoke of our healthy bank balance and the Board's desire to spend down some of the funds we have. The lunch plaza campaign has raised half of the money projected to complete the project. The Board suggested we give \$36,000 to the lunch plaza project. Elaine Bengle made a motion for the PTSA to give the TUHSD \$36,000 to be used *only* for the Redwood Lunch Plaza Project. Seconded by Susan Livingston. Motion passed unopposed.

Barbara also mentioned upcoming events and ongoing projects: *Parent University* on February 10, *Every Fifteen Minutes* for the juniors and seniors later in the year, the recent grant to MCOE for a Binge Drinking Study, *A Youth Leadership Institute Town Hall* in March, and an *Environmental Awareness Program* being presented to freshmen and sophomores

during P.E. If you would like to work with Barbara on the drug and alcohol awareness programs please contact her.

Vice President/Parent Ed Jeannie Perry mentioned the Parent University put on by the MCOE will be held at Redwood in February. The theme will be *Negotiating Your Child Through the Risks of Adolescence*. The February 14, 2008 meeting will be a panel of ideas for Summer Camps, Wilderness Programs, and Internships. The March 6 meeting will be a law enforcement panel. Later in the year Jeannie is scheduling an evening presentation called *Prom Partying and the Law*.

ADMINISTRATION REPORT/Principal: Nancy Neu reported a successful beginning to the new semester. She thanked all the parents who help get the schedules out. Elaine Bengle said the kids were all very polite. Nancy said this is her eighth year and she enjoys returning because this is "the nicest student body".

Nancy said she will come back with more information about the freshmen and sophomore support program mentioned by the Superintendent.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Directory: Directories are available for \$15 or with membership in the PTSA.

Staff Appreciation: Doing very well. Thank you to everyone who has donated. Please give donations to Ann Gordon or Susan Livingston.

Action item: Parliamentarian Nora Kovak said the amendment to the bylaws the Board had proposed has to be approved by the state level PTA before it is brought to the membership. That proposal is in the works and will come back to membership as soon as possible.

No new business.

Thanks to Kappy Reed for today's beautiful treats.

Meeting adjourned 9:20

Next meeting February 14, Kreps Hall, 8:30 a.m.

Followed by a program of Summer Options: Camps and Internships