

**Sunnyvale Middle School PTSA**  
**Approved Minutes of the April 3, 2007 Meeting**

**Adult Attendees:** Marti Coppage, Diane Cressler, Rachel Gaydosh, Tonya Gregory, Trish Guerrieri, Anita Herrmann, Susan Lamarche, Sabine McDuff, Stacey Niblett, Cameron Oates, Cynthia Sixt, Alexa Watrous

**Student Attendees:** Amir Ghowsi

**Call to Order:** Susan Lamarche 7:05

**Leadership:** Amir Ghowsi, Student Body Vice President

- Recent activities include:
  - 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade dance was well attended
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Renaissance assembly
- Upcoming activities include
  - Spirit week to emphasize attaining a STAR score of 802
  - Open House will be held April 10
  - Spartan Citizen lunch
  - 5<sup>th</sup> graders will visit the school 4/26
  - 6<sup>th</sup> grade social 5/6

**Guest Speaker:** Cynthia Sixt, District Food Service

- By 2010, it's estimated that 50% of the American population will be obese unless trends change
- CA State child nutrition laws, as part of the national school lunch program, provide guidelines for nutritious foods that may be served on campus, as well as stipulating nutrition education and physical education classes
- School fundraisers that do not occur on campus are encouraged to follow guidelines but are not required to do so by law. There are great tips for fundraisers that do not sell non-nutritious foods.
- Handouts are available:
  - Understanding Food Labels
  - Tips for Controlling your Cholesterol
  - Smart Snacking Suggestions
  - Your guide to eating and physical activities for a healthier tomorrow!
  - Why eat a variety of colorful fruits and vegetables every day?
  - January Winter menu with food tips as an example

**Guest Speaker:** Rachel Gaydosh and Alexa Watrous, AVID Program

- AVID – Advancement Via Individual Determination, an elective program at SMS
- AVID is a national program aimed at serving the least served population of middle students
- AVID has a rigorous curriculum to prepare students to enroll in a 4 year college
- Student profile at SMS: 2.0-3.5 GPA, desire and determination to succeed, college potential with support
- Students must meet one or more of these criteria
  - 1<sup>st</sup> in family to attend college
  - Historically underserved demographic
  - Low income

- Special circumstances
- Current 8<sup>th</sup> grade pilot has 19 students
- Next year add a 7<sup>th</sup> grade pilot
- Typical week has AVID curriculum on Monday and Wednesday, tutorial on Tuesday and Thursday and binder evaluation, field trips and team building on Friday
- Successful students use SLANT: Sit near the front, Lean forward, Ask questions, Nod head, Talk to teacher

**Principal's Report:** Mrs. Dampier

- The recent assembly on bullying presented by Michael Prichard was very moving and helpful. A taskforce, including parents, students and teachers will attempt to stamp out bullying.
- The recent Staff Development Day focused on “This We Believe”, detailing 14 characteristics of a good school. The discussion will guide SMS’s vision for the future and school plans. Here are some highlights:
  - Educators who value this age group
  - Courageous collaborative leadership
  - Shared vision that guides decision
  - Inviting, supportive, safe environment
  - High expectations for all
  - Students and teachers engaged in active learning
  - An adult advocate for every student
  - School initiated family and community partnerships
  - Multiple learning and teaching approaches that respond to diversity
  - Organizational structures that support meaningful relationships and learning
  - Need to energize PTSA at SMS
  - Curriculum that is relevant, challenging, integrative and exploratory
  - School wide health, wellness and safety
  - Assessment and evaluation to promote quality learning
  - Multifaceted guidance and support services
  - Need more counselors

**Teacher's Report:** Marti Coppage

- Grades are complete.
- The entire 6<sup>th</sup> grade had a field trip to California Theatre to see Shaolin monks performing kung fu.
- Teachers are busy preparing for open house.
- April 10<sup>th</sup> is 5<sup>th</sup> grade orientation.

**Review and Approval of Minutes:** Anita Herrmann

- Add Marti Coppage to attendee list, change ‘a progress reports’ to ‘a progress report’, change ‘working to support’ to ‘holding’ and add ‘to support at risk students’ after homework club.

**Treasurer's Report:** Tonya Gregory

- The original budget funded six Departments: Math, Science, Social Studies, Language Arts, PE and Electives, but not Special Education. Should we fund Special Education with \$750?

- Diana Cascone has a \$50,000 grant from AMD to refurbish the computer labs at SMS. An additional \$14,600 will allow project completion.
- Tonya reported that there were sufficient funds for the above projects, but we should probably stop spending above budget if these are approved.
- **Motion by Marti Coppage to fund up to \$14,600 to support the SMS technology plan. Seconded by Tonya Gregory. Motion carried.**
- **Motion by Anita Herrmann to fund Special Education up to \$750. Seconded by Principal Dampier. Motion carried.**
- **Motion by Anita Herrmann to accept checks as listed. Seconded by Stacy Niblett. Motion carried with Marti Coppage abstaining.**

**New Business:**

- Teacher Appreciation Brunch will be held May 7-11.

**Old Business:**

- **Nominating Committee:** Many positions are filled but some important ones remain.
- **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation:** meeting held last night

**Meeting adjourned:** 8:55 pm

- Next PTSA meetings: Tuesday, May 1 and June 5, 2007 in the **Staff Room**

[http://www.sesd.org/Schools/Sunnyvale\\_Middle/ptsa/ptsahome.html](http://www.sesd.org/Schools/Sunnyvale_Middle/ptsa/ptsahome.html)

Minutes by Anita Herrmann, PTSA Secretary 06-07