

**Paradise Canyon Elementary School  
Open PTA Meeting  
October 13, 2009**

**1. Call To Order**

President Lisa Dick called the Open Meeting of the Paradise Canyon Elementary School PTA to order at 9:15 am in the cafeteria. A quorum was present.

Lori Sabourin led the Pledge of Allegiance. President Lisa Dick welcomed those in attendance and thanked all of the volunteers who have worked tirelessly during the month of October.

**2. Business**

Secretary Paige Hulseley **moved** to approve the minutes of the September 2<sup>nd</sup> Open Meeting, and Jenny Raulli seconded the motion. **The motion passed.**

Treasurer Susan Marki gave the Treasurer's Report. Susan referred to the two types of reports circulating around the room, the Check Detail Report and the Cash Detail Report.

Susan asked everyone to look at the Cash Detail Report. She announced that we need to approve the budget for this year. According to Susan, the budget that we will be voting on is different from the proposed budget in a couple of ways, all of which are marked in yellow on the Cash Detail Report. Susan explained that she has updated all of the donation numbers from the One Check Order Form to reflect our most current situation. Donations from the One Check Order Form came in reasonably strong. Last year's general donations (not including Escrip or program fees) came in at \$30,513. This year's total was \$28,348. Under the current circumstances, this is great.

Susan explained that she updated classroom figures needed given current class sizes and the \$300 bonus for new teachers or classrooms. In addition, she updated the figure for choral programs. According to Susan, last year we did not budget enough money for the choral teacher's salary. In August we recognized our mistake so we had to pay the roughly \$2,000 from this year's budget, then added on \$2,000 for this year's budget and continued to include \$1,000 for supplies. Finally, Susan adjusted our Restricted/Allocated funds to include the proper carryovers from last year and to update our One Check Figures. We adjusted our emergency reserves so that we will spend the amount we had in our bank account as of June 30<sup>th</sup>.

As a result of our One Check donations, our great Back-to-School Picnic, our Escrip donations, and the donations from Hill Street Cafe', so far in

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this fiscal year we have increased our net income by \$34,921.72 and have a total cash balance of \$148,944.58.

From September 1<sup>st</sup> through October 5<sup>th</sup> Susan wrote 55 checks and voided one check for a total expenditure of \$23,666.42.

Susan **moved** to approve the Slated Budget for this year. Laura Campobasso seconded the motion. **The motion passed.**

Susan **moved** to approve the Cash Detail Report issued for September 1<sup>st</sup> through August 5, 2009. Janice Shue seconded the motion. **The motion passed.**

Susan **moved** to approve the Check Detail Report issued for September 1<sup>st</sup> though August 5, 2009. Lisa Fungo seconded the motion. **The motion passed.**

Susan announced that the latest copies of these reports would be posted in the office. She encouraged anyone with questions or concerns about particular spending or our budget process to please contact her.

### **3. Principal's Report**

Donna Robinson announced that the multipurpose building would soon be completed and that a brief ribbon cutting ceremony would be scheduled on October 21<sup>st</sup> to include Board Members and people from the District Office. She said that if we wanted to have an additional ceremony, we could plan one for ourselves.

Caren Colburn mentioned that she hoped the people involved in donating the \$5,000 from last year would be able to find out how the money was spent for the new building.

### **4. Program**

Lisa Dick introduced Susan Boyd, a member of the Governing Board, who is currently running for re-election. Susan came to speak about issues facing the La Canada Unified School District.

Susan Boyd first addressed an issue in which the approval on the application for the Valley Forge trips did not take place. According to Susan, for years there has been a line on the Valley Forge application, which says, "What will you do for students who cannot afford to go on the trip?" The answer is always, "Funds will be provided."

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According to Susan, in the past, we've always had enough money, but with the economy we've been afraid that the PTA will not make plans and might not be able to afford it. So the field trip was not approved because of this question.

An anonymous survey was sent to the schools, which asked how much money is needed and do you have the funds? LCE came up with \$12,000 needed and had only a \$5,500 total field trip budget. The cost of the field trip per person is \$1,200 - \$1,500 per person, so LCE approved a raise in the PTA budget allotment from \$5,500 to \$6,000 for total field trips and agreed to come up with the rest through fundraising for the scholarships. They came up with some original ideas like auctioning off a parent trip.

Lisa Dick mentioned that once someone fills out paperwork for a scholarship, they are encouraged to ask for a specific request, which might be lower than the actual cost per person. Susan agreed that most Presidents do ask applicants to do this.

Caren Colburn announced that we budgeted \$10,000 for total field trips and \$7,500 went for Valley Forge. PCY normally budgets extra for scholarships and grants.

Susan Boyd stated that the concern with Valley Forge is that we have to find a place for all of these kids. If one kid can't go, nobody can go.

Susan talked about the ongoing construction at LCHS, announcing that they are currently working on Building B which houses the band and orchestra, the kitchen, classrooms, auditorium and art rooms. She also talked about construction on Building A, which includes administrative offices. Susan announced that the campus would be in good shape by the time many elementary kids get there. She also announced that the North Gym would have air conditioning by the end of October. There is also a plan to completely redo the bathrooms and quad area.

Caren Colburn asked is there is a plan to redo the access road in the back. Susan responded that there are plans to widen that road. LCHS does not own it, but we are allowed to use it as a drive thru.

Susan mentioned that our biggest challenge is going forward with the budget. There will be a \$4 million shortfall for the next three years. The Board has increased its reserves to \$15 million, which is five times the legal amount. The minimum we need to operate is \$3 million per year, but we felt that was not enough so we cut expenses to arrive at \$3 million and added the parcel tax which puts us at around \$4 million for the next year.

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We also have a one time emergency fund from the government, which amounts to \$2 million.

According to Susan, now that we have final numbers on budget and enrollment, we need to find out the cost of all non-mandated programs. We are looking at alternative funding sources for these programs and making a matrix, which looks at the cost versus the number of kids affected. Based on this matrix, some programs will be cut. For example, 78% of kids in grades 9-12 participate in after-school sports. The cost per student for some of these sports may seem higher than with some programs, but actually, many parents pay for uniforms and equipment, which brings the cost down. Also, many students would be impacted by cuts in the sports program.

So the main question is, how long can we run on \$15 million before cutting staff and programs? Susan talked about ideas for supplementing the budget, which include using the new facilities (such as the wonderful new kitchen) for adult education classes, which could raise additional income. Susan went on to talk about summer school, stating that the state of California only funds remedial classes for summer school. So for the summer school classes, 20 out of 30 kids in the class are at the remedial level. So each class has room for only 10 new students as opposed to 20 who are retaking the class. Most people are paying large amounts of money to send kids to Hillside, which does not meet LCHS academic standards. LCHS needs to stop parents from sending their kids to Hillside and bring this money back into the district.

Caren Colburn asked why we couldn't run our own public school summer program instead of having the Assistance League run it. Susan answered that it is illegal for the district to run summer school and charge funds. Besides, the Assistance League donates money back to the district.

Lisa Dick mentioned that 85% of our budget goes to pay for teacher salaries. She asked if we have to hire union employees? Susan said yes – it's that way across the United States. Susan added that we are in the mid range for salaries in the state of California. According to Susan, the biggest problem is motivating the teachers to keep up their teaching levels and work on consequences for not doing a good job. Susan explained that Jim Stratton is a teacher, and he has a great relationship with the staff. He has been able to get teachers to agree to a very objective evaluation tool.

Lori Moody asked if the district has a plan for possible mudslides. Susan said that our current emergency plan covers all of these things.

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Lisa Dick thanked Susan for coming to talk to us about current issues in the District.

**4. Chairperson's Reports**

*Red Ribbon Week:* Ginny Tolkin gave an update on Red Ribbon Week, which is taking place this week. The girl scouts put up ribbons around the campus. Several days this week licorice will be given out at lunch to the kids who are wearing red. The door contest will take place this Thursday, and the pizza party and popsicles will be given to the contest winners next Thursday.

*Programs:* Jenny Rauli announced that Choir has started and is full, and chess is full. The Science Club is doing great – classes are full, and there is a waiting list. Spanish 1 and 2 on Mondays and Wednesday had room for 42 and we have 41 enrolled. Also the first reading night was full.

*Membership:* Cissy Belcher announced that PTA memberships are still trickling in. We will have an exact count for the next meeting.

*Holiday Luncheon:* The date of the Holiday luncheon has changed to December 16 because the date of the 6<sup>th</sup> Grade play changed to December 9.

*PCY Beautiful:* According to Caren Colburn we have a \$5,000 donation from last year's 6<sup>th</sup> Grade, which will make a significant contribution to the new multipurpose building. Including that amount, there is about \$15,000 available to spend. Caren, Donna, and Dr. Leininger will walk around and determine what is needed.

*Poker Social:* Caren praised Chrissie and Brian Arnold for the awesome job they are doing on the Poker Social, which will take place on Friday, October 16. She encouraged everyone to come including those people intimidated by playing poker.

*Directory:* David Haxton announced that directories were delivered on October 1. This year they cost \$600 less to print because of the black and pink colors. David went on to give some interesting statistics about the directory, including the fact that we have 622 students, two fewer classes, fuller classes, 126 new students, more boys than girls, 147 new families, and a higher percentage of 6<sup>th</sup> graders who are the last child.

*Gift Wrap:* According to Lisa Fungo, we are done processing orders. We don't have the numbers yet, however, because of online orders. The next

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step will be the announcement of winners at the Spirit Rally and the Limo Lunch on November 16. Don't forget that you can order throughout the year if you want to and you will still get credit.

*Reflections:* Just started on October 1.

*Harvest Festival:* According to Caren Colburn, the Harvest Festival was great thanks to Kris Mueller and Sonya Jagenberg. The festival did better than last year. They charged one ticket to get into the cafeteria this year, which was very successful.

*Founder's Day:* Paige Hulsey reminded everyone that the Founder's Day nomination process is underway. Nomination forms came out in the Thursday folders on October 8, and additional forms can be found in the office. Nominations will be taken until November 6. Paige encouraged everyone to participate.

*LCEF News:* Paris Cohen announced that LCEF would be meeting with other foundations in order to exchange ideas on fundraising. She announced that the LCEF Golf Tournament will take place on October 28 and encouraged participation. She also mentioned that discounted Disneyland tickets could be purchased through the LCEF website. According to Paris, the Club 365 campaign is being moved up to November, and LCEF needs volunteers to help with the phones. She also encouraged everyone to participate in the Jog-a-thon, and talked about the upcoming Gala.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 am.

**5. Announcements**

- 10/12 through 10/16 Red Ribbon Week
- 10/13 Picture Make-up
- 10/16 Parent Teacher Poker Social
- 10/21 Round Table Pizza Night Grades 2 & 3
- 10/28 No school
- 10/30 Spirit Rally at 10:15 am

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 am.

Submitted by:

Paige Hulsey  
Recording Secretary