

## PFC Meeting Minutes – Unofficial

January 11, 2012

The meeting was called to order at 9:15am

Flag salute

November's meeting minutes were approved.

**Mrs. Pat Brooks, Head Counselor**, said that they are enrolling about 10-15 new students next week, so they're working on that. They are working with seniors on their mid-years; so, please make sure that the parent email address in Naviance is correct. Parents may have to have their student go in and change it, but many of the parent emails are incorrect, though the kids' emails are fine. Mid-year reports are just like fall reports that seniors can do through Naviance like they did in the fall. Only schools that they've applied to using the common application will need mid-year reports. Enter early acceptance information to help with Senior survey – just less to do later.

Yesterday was the deadline for proposed schedule changes for 2<sup>nd</sup> semester, but surprisingly only three request forms have been turned in. If something's going on & students need to change something, please have them pick up a green form. They time stamp them as they come in so they are processed in that order.

Finals are coming up next week, then they'll be working on registration and course selection for next year. They'll be going to the middle schools in February. If you're a senior parent, it's time to look at CalGrants or FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). For more information, the PFC is sponsoring a financial aid night on Thursday, January 19th at 6:30pm. Seniors should have links for CalGrants (<http://www.calgrants.org/>) & FAFSA (<http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>).

With regard to the Busby/Frank pilot team taught class: AHS submitted the classes to UC for Honors approval, and have not heard about English portion yet, but they've heard that UC won't approve American Government as an Honors class because they won't approve more than one class of its kind in a school district for Honors credit. Though AHS doesn't have an American Government Honors class, Calabasas High School does. Meanwhile, they've taken American Government and made it AP for now. Parents of students in this class, please make sure that they notify the college campuses that they've applied to that they've dropped American Government & replaced it with AP American Government.

The SAT subject tests will be held on March 7<sup>th</sup>, and there will be a meeting for 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> grade parents regarding the SAT. The subject area tests used to be required by the UCs, but are still strongly recommended. The hour-long subject specific tests need to be taken in different subject areas. Kids can take up to three in a day. It depends on the campuses kids are looking at as to whether they'll take them or not, so to be safe, take them. The SAT is more theoretical, while the ACT is more practical and based on

classwork. Athletes & girls seem to do better on the ACT, but the suggestion is to take both. Colleges will take whichever score's higher. Nearly all colleges take the ACT. 11<sup>th</sup> graders who did well on the PSAT, around the 220 mark, may be looking at consideration for National Merit. If so, please have them take the SAT reasoning test or they won't qualify for further consideration beyond National Merit semi-finalist.

9:35am

**Mr. Larry Misel, Principal**, began by explaining what had happened the previous day on campus. AHS received a call on Tuesday that a cow was loose, but what ran past him when he stepped outside was a bull (no horns) followed by animal control officers & police. They all ran to the tennis court. The owner was there with his rope, and since no students were around, he wanted to let it run itself out. It wasn't near any classrooms. All of a sudden, the NBC helicopter was flying overhead. It was fun for the kids to see. The bull slowed down and Ricky, one of the groundskeepers, got an initial lasso on it and it was led away safely.

The school board approved no furlough days this year, so the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester calendar is up on the website. Finals are starting next week. Starting tomorrow, they will be offering a finals review. Teachers voluntarily stay after school to work with kids doing final reviews. There's a \$5 charge, but it includes a spaghetti & meatball dinner.

He added that the school musical was spectacular. It was student-directed and student performed, and if there was any doubt about why AHS can benefit from a performing arts center, that should have answered it. In fact, on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of every month at 3:30pm, they will be giving tours of the Performing Arts Center. They really want to encourage parents & community members to tour it. It's something we can really be proud of; it's an amazing facility. They've really done a first-class job and it should be open at the end of August.

He gave a reminder that the CAHSEE (California High School Exit Exam) will be held on February 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> and is required of all 10<sup>th</sup> graders. If they don't pass it, they can retake it, but please encourage them to do their best on that.

AHS is working on a Stay-at-home campaign to counter athletic recruiting efforts. They're working with the football coach to help keep kids at their home school. One of the big problems is that now that coaches can coach kids all year long, students are becoming one-sport athletes. That's also something he'll be discussing with coaches. With regard to AHS's winning water-polo team, he noted that when the school was built in the mid-60's, the pool was great, but now it's too small. Parents are trying to raise funds to increase the pool size. But pool-size doesn't make winners; AHS water polo is a winning team regardless. What keeps water polo strong is that because they've been winning, hopefully that's a greater draw than a bigger pool.

Meanwhile, school tours are underway. Weekly tours will begin soon. Right now there's actually a waiting list to get into AHS. Meanwhile, we're looking at the way we're delivering education and what our next steps need to be.

9:50am

**Dr. Dan Stepenosky, Deputy Superintendent**, introduced himself: he's been with district for 6 years, he was a physics major, and a naval officer in San Diego. His mother was a teacher, and he wanted to get into education, so he got his teaching credential, and got a job teaching physics and astronomy at Beverly Hills high school, where he then became the principal for 3 years. He currently lives in Calabasas and has a 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grader at Mariposa Elementary. He feels that having kids makes him a better educator.

With regard to the budget, the state is nipping at the edges of it. LVUSD is down \$10 million dollars and weathered another \$500,000 cut effective January 1<sup>st</sup>, in addition to the elimination of the transportation fund. That's what happened mid-year. But the reserve levels are in good shape, so they're able to absorb that kind of cut. Millions would be a different story.

As far as pink slips go, if any are issued this year, it will be minimal compared to the past. They're hoping not to have any. The state has determined via polling that people would possibly vote for a tax to benefit education, so there will be three to four initiatives on the ballot, which they're hoping will pass. LVUSD will do more than survive, as it has the last four years, because of its hard-working staff.

They're also excited about new Next Generation Assessments, which will ultimately replace STAR testing; it's real-time data, not like taking the STAR test in May and getting the results in August. It's a national trend. They're also training on Datawise, which will help move LVUSD forward into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

They're looking for increased support for the IB program as well. They're trying to be innovative, and need support. Other districts are raising millions of dollars a year. T.H.E. Event, PFCs – people need to support them as much as possible.

Currently, the Governor wants to address communities that are at a disadvantage, by adjusting about 20% of the \$5,000 revenue to give those communities more. But for communities that don't have as many disadvantaged kids, there will be a loss. Though, these are just proposals right now.

LVUSD has identified eight potential furlough days for next year, but there will be no changes to the current year's calendar. He's the chair of the calendar committee; and in regard to those surveys about starting the school year early enough to have finals before winter break, as so many districts across the country have already done, elementary school parents are the opposing force. They would still need to address how hot it is in August. They currently develop calendar options based on parent

surveys. Then, the final two go to staff, then the final decision is made by the school board. For parents interested in seeing the calendar change come to pass so that LVUSD's high school students aren't at a disadvantage when it comes to finals and AP tests, the best thing to do is create a small committee, and partner with Calabasas high school parents to meet with elementary school parents. Right now, they don't have a critical mass on the surveys.

John Menges, ASB representative, added that a group of students will be going out to elementary schools to spread the word as to why starting the school year a little earlier is so important. Angela Cutbill, PFC Co-President, also added that the PFC will be coordinating a group of parents to do the same.

Dan continued by saying that the Calendar committee is impartial, though many districts around the country are moving to this schedule to give the kids an advantage. By having joint PFC meetings from the high schools, getting a one-sheet, and making sure to have face-to-face meetings, are the first steps to communicating the message. 2013-2014 calendar not solidified yet, and another survey will go out in the fall. It's imperative that people understand how critical it is for them to complete those surveys if change is to happen. High school parents need to vote and have a huge word-of-mouth campaign if you have kids at the elementary & middle school level. There are simple ways to keep the conversation on the front burner.

10:40am

**Angela Cutbill, PFC Co-President**, thanked Alpha Printing for sponsoring today's meeting. With regard to the President's meeting, a main topic was traffic issues at Yerba Buena. Groups are getting together to figure out how to address it. Officers at Lost Hills said STTOP.net is there if people notice anyone doing any dangerous driving at the schools, not lack of courtesy, but actual dangerous driving. In addition, the IB Parent Association is doing an earthquake preparedness night on February 29<sup>th</sup>, and will be selling emergency kits for \$40. They can also be pre-ordered, see eNews for more information. 20% of each kit goes to IB.

10:45am

Angela added that the Directory has gone to print, but getting the information to the schools from the online registration has been the hold up. Everyone's directories are late, but they are in process and will be going out soon.

Next month's meeting is February 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am.

Door prize was given. Meeting adjourned at 10:50am.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ami Kupetsky  
Recording Secretary