

PTSA General Meeting – December 7, 2011

The meeting was called to order by Jamie Lewin, President, at 6:15 PM
The November minutes were approved with no opposition.

There was a presentation by Holly Trief, the Lakeshore NERT coordinator.

Principal, Andrew Ishibashi, reported that principals of five other schools in the San Francisco Unified School District visited Lowell last month. It was established that Lowell is well ahead of other school in terms of curriculum speed. Andrew also expressed concerns for WASC. He pointed out that Lowell's areas of need, among others, include: student pressure, achievement gap, academic integrity, critical and creative thinking, and communication. In other news, the Romeo and Juliet play sold out on its Saturday show. He also stated that the winter concert was very successful and the Lowell choir will be performing at Carnegie Hall this year. Lastly, the Lowell sports teams were very strong this year, with many teams playing for the Championship title.

Student rep., Michelle Chan, talked about fall rally and co-curricular day, both of which were very successful. The winter formal, "Under the Mistletoe" is planned for December 16th. Students are also excited for arena. Lastly, there is much stress around school for students at this time because finals are just around the corner.

Faculty, Marinella Castro, added that financial aid night is on December 13. Parents and students are invited to attend that event to learn more about financial aid opportunities.

Treasurer, Sally Blumenfeld, went over the treasurer's report. It was approved with no opposition. It was highlighted that, even after the increased, Book2Book is still on target with its budget. We will also be spending anywhere from \$20,000 to \$60,000 on technology for the classrooms. In grants, \$6,000 has been paid. We are currently low in donations and membership, however, the spring newsletter is to be sent out soon.

The PTSA has approved budget for tables in the courtyard. There was no opposition. As for the new LED screen for the marquee in the front of the school, the idea has been tabled for later discussion. The decision will be made after more information can be given to us.

It was noted that \$5,000 was transferred from the hospitality fund to the principal, who then transferred it to the "In a Pinch" fund. The "In a Pinch" fund will be assisting those in the Lowell Community who need money to sustain their necessities in this recession.

The meeting was adjourned at 8 PM.