

Leigh Home and School Club
Meeting Minutes
September 16, 2019

1. Introductions & Welcome: 7:05pm

2. Approving the Minutes

- a. Motion to approve the minutes: Gretchen Gabriel made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 19, 2019 meeting. Motion seconded, motion approved.

3. Principal's Report, Teacher's Report, and Associated Student Body Report – Kara Butler

- a. Teacher's rep and ASB rep weren't present at the meeting, so Kara Butler reported for principal, teachers, and ASB.
- b. Homecoming week has started, and the theme of the week is music, so each day has a music theme and a special dress-up theme. The night rally is this Thursday, game is Friday, dance is Saturday and theme of the homecoming dance is Music Festival, with casual dress.
- c. Guidance counselors will be visiting junior classrooms the last week of September to begin working on things that the students will need for their post-high school life.
- d. Working on new AP Test ordering process, which has been moved to the beginning of the school year.
- e. We're working with a company called Equal Opportunity Schools to identify students who aren't taking AP classes but probably should be. We were able to move 72 students into AP classes who haven't taken them before – in many cases these were students who were getting straight A's but had never signed up for an AP or honors course. The staff is doing a lot of professional development right now around equal access – making sure all groups of students are getting equal access to education and resources – and also training around mental health, teaching them how to identify potential mental health challenges in students, how to support them and how to seek additional support as needed.
- f. ASB rep not here, they're very busy with homecoming right now. They're starting the Student Voice, which is what we're calling the student council now. ASB gave

the students a survey to help determine what topics the students want ASB to address.

4. School Board Report - Stacey Brown

- a. Stacy Brown, CUHSD board member, came to give an update because she's Leigh's "board buddy" for the year. Her report: We have 2 schools out of 5 that as of today still haven't done even one suspension. This is good. Superintendent Bravo has created a Student Advisory Council to advise him (this is in addition to the student reps to the school board). The Student Advisory Council is focusing on two areas: mental health awareness and vaping. Also at Branham we're doing a pilot this year in which we've replaced the CASSY counselor with a licensed social worker, and she's working with the County of Santa Clara to get access to mental health services that are available to our students through the county. If the Branham pilot goes well, we'll roll this program out to the rest of the high schools next year. Another big priority for the board is to pass a parcel tax next year.

5. District Finance Update – Paula McHugh Jack

- a. Paula talked about the Assistant Superintendent's budget remarks. The majority of the budget is spent on salaries and employee benefits. See her written report for notes about the pages of this 200+ page report that are of special interest. You can Google "CUHSD 2019-2020 Budget" and it will take you to a link to the report, which is publicly available. You can also find the budget and other important documents attached to the CUHSD board meeting agendas, which are all online.

6. Presidents Council – Aine O'Donovan

- a. The presidents of the HSC & PTA's in CUHSD meet with district superintendent Dr. Bravo once a month, and they call it the Presidents Council. The last meeting was focused on communication, especially in relation to the parcel tax. One thing we should communicate is that all our school district's funding comes from property taxes – none comes from the state – we have the kind of funding arrangement that means we don't get state money. We're a Basic Aid district, also known as a Community Supported District. We're funded by property taxes as opposed to student attendance. Therefore, more students moving in doesn't mean more funding – it just means more students using the same amount of money.

7. College & Career Center Report – Nathalie Goricanec

- a. We had 150-200 parents at Junior/Senior College Night. Got good feedback from participants. Visiting colleges: These sessions are well attended and we are

seeing more juniors attending. If a senior is applying to a school that's doing a visit at Leigh, it is critical for them to stop by and see the college rep if the rep is visiting Leigh – at least to stop by at the beginning and say “Hi nice to meet you, sorry I can't stay” – because the college rep writes down the student's name and makes a note of who stopped by. The college reps for our school are usually the first readers for applications from Leigh kids, so it really helps to reach out to those reps. It doesn't hurt to stop by as a junior if you're interested in a school, because if you stop by two years in a row it looks even better on your college application.

8. Heart Screening Update – Jennifer Sarmento

- a. Jennifer gave an update on the free heart screening coming up on October 19 at Leigh courtesy of the Kyle J. Taylor Foundation, in memory of Kyle.

9. Climate Fair Announcement – Jenny Green

- a. Jenny Green announced that a Climate Fair is coming up on September 22 at the JCC in Los Gatos. More than 20 government and community organizations will have information tables at this event, to let people know what's being done locally to stop climate change and how you can get involved.

10. Booster Reports

a. Spirit Boosters – Claire Whitehead

- i. First cheer competition will be in Santa Cruz on Oct. 12. See written report for more information.

b. Sports Boosters – Kristina Williams

- i. Sports Boosters are selling Gold Cards which get your family of 4 into all home ticketed games. Can be purchased on Sports Booster website or at football games; if you buy it online, they can mail it to you or you can pick it up at home games. We've had one Snack Shack so far this year; you can volunteer to work at Snack Shack, sign up on website. Also selling Leigh merchandise and it's starting to sell out, so buy early while things are still in stock.

c. PAPA – Sean Simonson

- i. At the last PAPA meeting they went over the goals for the year (see written report for a list of goals). Rummage Sale did well in terms of revenue raised. Last meeting, which was Sept 9, they focused mostly on the mattress fundraiser which will be October 20; the goal is \$25,000 for that fundraiser.

11. HSC Board & Committee Reports

a. President – Aine O’Donovan

- i. Amy Gardner made a great business card for HSC. It has our new tagline on it: “Connect. Volunteer. Donate.”
- ii. Parents can also connect to HSC and learn what’s going on via the Leigh HSC newsletter.
- iii. 62 parents have signed up to volunteer for HSC, using our online form.
- iv. Mr. Roe, Leigh’s Activities Director, would like parents to sign up to volunteer to help with clubs, especially for Robotics (meets 2 days a week after school) and Speech & Debate (meets after school on Fridays, but day could be changed if necessary). Parental help is needed in order to get these clubs off the ground. Contact Mr. Roe directly if interested. Would like to get parental help with other clubs too. See Aine’s written report for a link to the list of clubs.
- v. With regard to donations: We got a \$25K anonymous donation again this year, from the same person who donated \$25K last year; this person is planning to donate \$25K for each of the next 4 years, unless their circumstances change. We also got an anonymous \$24K donation, which is a corporate match plus a donation. We’d like your feedback on where to direct these funds. A Google form will be sent out for you to share your ideas/suggestions/preferences. Reminder: Our HSC priorities this year are library furniture (2nd phase), technology, mental health – social/emotional well being, classroom resources & staff grants, and positive school climate. The membership drive is up to just under \$22K now.

b. Treasurer – Amy Hogg.

- i. We have a total cash balance of about \$54K in the bank of which about \$8,827 is reserved for CCC Scholarships/Center Stage Gift Fund/Grad Night Reserves. See Amy’s written report for details about this, deposits booked since last meeting, and checks issued since last meeting. Amy plans to send tax information to CPA by end of September. If you want copies of any reports (balance sheet, etc) just let Amy know.

c. Auditor – Doug Evans

- i. The audit is complete for the prior year. The scope of the audit includes all checks, deposits, and bank statements from the audit period. Everything looked good. He found a couple of tiny discrepancies in transaction recording, but nothing major. See his written report for details.

d. Communications – Angie Lu.

- i. Angie has taken charge of HSC’s Facebook page. She will also stand in for Amy Gardner this month and do the monthly newsletter.

e. Parliamentarian – Gretchen Gabriel.

- i. We're in the final phases of the HSC bylaw updates, and will bring them to the HSC meeting next month for approval. The bylaws are being updated to make them applicable to Leigh's current situation, since they are very old.
- f. **Staff Appreciation – Carol Hofheimer**
 - i. First staff appreciation lunch a couple of weeks ago; it was very well attended; parents brought in homemade salads and we supplemented with cookies. In October we'll be doing another lunch, plus goody bags for Halloween. Also, Kara has agreed to have Relay for Life at Leigh this year! It will be April 24-25. Begins April 24 at 6pm and ends April 25 at 2pm.
- g. **Campus Beautification (Kelly Masini not here, Aine O'Donovan reported).**
 - i. October 26 is the next campus beautification day.

12. Staff Grants - Ann Auld

- a. HSC received a request for "2 or 3 scholarships for students to attend Camp Everytown." Cost is \$280 per student. Mr. Castillo has started a Camp Everytown club on campus to bring the information that kids learn at Camp Everytown, back to campus, and they are working to make a positive impact on the campus, so that these scholarships won't benefit just the few (approx. 20) students who go to Camp Everytown. Tamara pointed out that we had already committed to funding this program through the Positive School Climate budget line, so the kids should fundraise as much as possible and then later in the year, closer to the time the money is needed, Mr. Castillo should come back to HSC and make this request.
- b. iPad for Spanish 1 class (\$364 includes shipping and tax) so they can use Class Dojo. They want to try Class Dojo and they need an iPad in order to use it. The district's iPads are 7 years old so they aren't very good.
- c. Ceramics class would like to buy a slab roller, tabletop model. Cost is \$500 but teacher might be able to get a used one cheaper. We will ask her to check.
- d. Wireless presentation remote (\$90) and GoNoodle Plus Subscription (mindfulness/movement program) for the SAI-Autism classroom. \$29.88
- e. Registration fee for 1 of the Science Olympiad teams for \$550 to go to the Santa Clara Regional Competition. They already fundraised on their own to cover several competitions, and this is a grant request for the final competition.
- f. Tech Challenge: \$300 for registration fees for 30 students and \$100 for notebooks, hard hats, goggles, pizza & ice cream.
- g. iPad \$250 and class set of whiteboard sleeves \$30 and \$89 for Apple Pencil for \$369 total. For Math IM2. For her 120 students and will be shared with other IM 1 and IM 2 math teachers.
- h. Doug Evans moved to approve all the grants (except Camp Everytown which has been asked to come back later in the year). Gretchen Gabriel seconded, motion passed. We will ask the teachers where applicable to see if they can get

secondhand or refurbished items to save money – they don't need to use the entire amount of their grant.

13. Library Furniture Report - Kara Butler

- a. Kara reported on the library furniture. The new computers have already arrived and the administration has been publicizing to the students that these new computers are available for use. Kara met today with reps from Palace and they measured the spaces, they discussed tables and chairs, and they are going to bring in some samples so the students can try them and give feedback. We now have enough funding now to buy new furniture for both sides of the library at once.

14. Meeting Adjourned 8:38pm