

**Santa Monica High School PTSA  
General Meeting  
Tuesday, October 20, 2009  
Minutes**

1. Welcome – Elizabeth Gelfand Stearns
2. PTSA General Business –

- Treasurer’s Report – Debbie Mulvaney gave the Treasurer’s report.
- Upcoming Events – Deb Love, Richard McKinnon

Deb Love announced the following events:

1. Saturday is the choir event, **Supper Serenade**, in the Cafeteria at 6:30. Go to [samohichoir.org](http://samohichoir.org) to bid on auction items. E-mail Deb for proxy bidding.
2. **“The Crucible”** will be performed for two weekends 6 shows. Get your tickets for November 5 – 14 shows at [samohitheatre.org](http://samohitheatre.org).
3. **Baseball Poker Night** will be held on November 10, thanks to our gung ho new baseball coach. Attendees must be 21+ and this event is not for kids. McSteamy will be there, as will Jose Canseco and other celebrities. There will be a Silent auction and a \$150 poker buy-in to play with celebrities. For further info, go to [santamonicadiamondclub.org](http://santamonicadiamondclub.org).
4. **Ed Live** – “When Cirque Comes to Town” is first in a Speaker Series, and will be presented on November 16.

Richard McKinnon exhorted everyone to participate in Bike It! Day. Richard explained that Bike It! Day is happening tomorrow. There are many bike racks outside and we are expecting 1/3 of the kids to be out of their cars for tomorrow in a bus or on a bike. The Superintendent, the assistant superintendent, Dr. P, Elizabeth and others will be riding around at lunch. Many, many thanks to Richard for an incredible effort making this happen. Thanks to Mojoy for taking care of the food. Thanks to Stephen for the tour de Samo. There will be a Noon ride at the Pico gate

- **Annual Giving**

Abby Adams reported that envelopes will be going out next week for annual giving. Phone-a-thon dates will be forthcoming. Abby urged everyone to participate and expressed how important this is to our school.

3. Principal’s Report – Dr. Hugo Pedroza

- Dr. P discussed the fact that tomorrow’s “Bike It” event is happening. The concept is that since parking will soon be greatly reduced, this moves us toward the mentality we will have to adopt which is that some of us will have to ride the bus, ride bikes, etc. The Superintendent, Elizabeth, Dr P and other District celebrities will be riding and everyone was encouraged to join.
- Equity policy is now finalized so we are trying to abide by expectations. We will be accountable as will other schools.

- Samohi continues to provide help for struggling students during school day. We are continuing “POP” (personalized opportunity program) for students who are failing English and math in 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> grade. Special assignment advisors are working closely with data being generated from that. Study skills and very specific help with English and math and whatever is giving particular students trouble (e.g. quadratic equation) are addressed. Certificated people conduct the program; they are paid hourly and are not teachers because we can’t afford to pay teachers to do this.

- Over the next couple of months, especially in November, College admissions are paramount. A lot of effort will be made to include the ELAC group and to provide counseling, to make sure information is distributed as widely as possible.

- Dr. P explained that we will have two days of block which splits all classes, due to a day long and previously highly successfully program for freshmen and seniors, put on by Kaiser about STD’s. We have block scheduling so this presentation for freshman and seniors can be made during the last two periods in the day. Third and fifth period didn’t happen for those groups because they go to the assembly.

- Dr. P reported that the teachers and administration are at mediation.

- Dr. P reported that total enrollment is between 3050 – 3065; the average per class is supposed to be 32; 35 is grievable. Because we are required to report official numbers to the State, we submit numbers the first 5 – 6 days of class. The last number we submitted re total enrollment was in that range – the number is presented that includes those with IEP’s and another is presented that excludes those with IEP’s.

Ben Allen moderated the main event at the PTSA meeting as follow:

### **Navigating The College Admissions Process**

#### **Guest Speakers:**

- **Cuca Acosta - UCSB - Assistant Director for High School Services in the Admissions Office**
- **Gigi McGuire - CSUN - Assistant Director for Community and Academic Partnerships with the Office of Student Outreach and Recruitment**
  - **Lisa K. Rhone - USC - Associate Director of Admission**
  - **Brenda McDonald - SMC - Outreach Counselor**

#### **Panel Moderator:**

- **Ben Allen – SMMUSD School Board Member, UC Board of Regents, Samohi Alumni**

### **IMPORTANT DATES:**

- Bike It! Day – Wednesday, October 21

- Coffee with the Principal – Tuesday, October 27, 8:30 am, Roberts Art Gallery
- ELAC Meeting – Monday, November 16, 7:00 pm, Cafeteria
- AAPSSSG Meeting – Monday, November 23, 7:00 pm, Cafeteria
- November PTSA Meeting – Tuesday, November 10, 7:00 pm, Math Department Night
- Veteran’s Day – NO SCHOOL – Wednesday, November 11
- Thanksgiving Holiday – NO SCHOOL – Wednesday and Thursday, November 26 & 27

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Lieberman

Recording Secretary