



Serra High School Foundation

SHS Foundation Agenda
May 3, 2017
6:30 p.m., Media Center

- I. Call To Order: Meeting called to order at 6:37 pm by Chris Hazeltine
- II. Introductions:
 - a. Members in attendance: Chris Hazeltine, Mitch Gruber, Susan Carlson, Kristina Hepburn, Jessica Serrata, Mike Dunn, Katie Lemm, Reid Staten, Maria Grande, Yvette Blease-Moore, Vanessa Valessi, Guy Grande, and Jonn Pisapia.
 - b. Others in attendance: Erica Renfree.
- III. Old Business:
 - a. Minutes: No report
 - b. Treasurer's report: No report
 - c. Site Representative/Athletic Director:
 - i. Principal's Report:
 1. Principal Erica Renfree was present in place of Jeff Thomas and Jonn Pisapia. With 29 days left in the school year, work on the master schedule continues. Principal Renfree is also working on the instructional plan for the next five years and after preliminary discussion the school staff is behind the plan. She announced that Athletic Director Pisapia was recalled after initially being listed for layoff. Principal Renfree revealed that 9 of 16 ADs in the school district were laid off (nearly 50% of all ADs). Chris Hazeltine asked if this information was public and Principal Renfree indicated that it was. This cycle of layoffs was particularly difficult as Principal Renfree explained. For example, unless a PE teacher had more than 27 years of tenure, they were likely laid off. Serra had a PE teacher (see below) who simply decided to retire.
 2. Senior Awards Night: Currently scheduled for June 7, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. (further details on the SHS website).
 3. Principal's Coffee: The "Principal's Coffee" event was well attended and Principal Renfree will continue with it. The next meeting is scheduled for June 7, 2017 (There will be no Foundation Meeting on that date).
 4. Class Elimination: Principal Renfree fielded questions and Kristina Hepburn asked what classes will be cut. Due to little interest from students, Principal Renfree revealed that French will not return. She also cleared the air regarding AP Biology getting axed. She expressed frustration that some parents are getting incorrect information ("massive inaccuracies are out there") with some parents inexplicably getting information from other school's websites, without simply going directly to SHS' own website, which has the most accurate and immediate information available. Simply put, the primary reason for AP Bio's consideration for elimination is lack of interest - only 17 students have signed up to take the class this upcoming year. But having said

that, just because a class is “gone” it does not necessarily mean forever. Popularity is a huge consideration, which is why “Spanish for Spanish Speakers” is out. However, a class such as AP Computer Science, which is offered at other schools, could be filled with 4 sections. Principal Renfree reminded everyone that when the Government Committee acts to add a class, another class must be eliminated, which unfortunately will likely be a science class. Katie Lemm asked why AP Bio would not remain as part of a Biomedical Pathway. Principal Renfree agreed that this should be a consideration and why more time is needed to consider AP Bio’s ultimate fate. Susan Carlson asked what other factors are considered when assessing the viability of a class like AP Bio - e.g., AP passing rate. Principal Renfree stated that nobody really knows for certain, but did add that Science Teacher Sarah Moynes is trying to save AP Bio.

5. Pathways: With an incoming Freshman, Jessica Serrata asked about for an update on the current number of Pathways. Principal Renfree commented that all the current Pathways will remain and she and school district are examining interest in adding additional Pathways. She pointed out that there is a higher 4-year university acceptance rate for students in Pathways, than those outside the Pathway.
 6. “Post and Bid”: Principal Renfree explained the “Post and Bid” process, where a teacher anywhere in the school district can apply (“bid”) for a posted position at another school. Much like a “draft,” all positions in the school district are technically up for grabs. If an “excess” teacher voluntarily leaves a school, they are then placed into a pool of teachers who can bid for positions more to their liking or expertise. Such a teacher, Principal Renfree explained, would have a priority over another excess teacher who did not voluntarily enter the available pool. Chris asked about teacher turnover. Principal Renfree said while SHS laid off 9 teachers, she will be “posting” for four positions. Four SHS teachers decided to retire instead of going into the pool, including PE teacher Chuck Giles, a long-time Serra staff member.
 - ii. Athletic Director Report: Jonn Pisapia arrived after the start of the meeting and announced that information regarding athletic medical exams will be available on the SHS AD website by June 5th. He is talking to doctors now. AD Pisapia also offered that free athletic exams will be given at Hoover HS on June 10th. Updating SHS teams, AD Pisapia pointed out that both Badminton and Tennis were in the midst of CIF playoffs.
- d. President’s report:
- i. President Chris Hazeltine reminded everyone that if anyone is interested in a board position to let him know.
 - ii. Gift for Jeff Thomas: Chris heard that Serra PTO was going to give Jeff Thomas a gift to show its appreciation for his services over the years. Wanting to also recognize Jeff’s invaluable service to the Foundation, Chris recommended a cash gift between \$50.00 to \$100.00. He posed the question whether or not to go in with PTO on a combined gift or separately. Yvette Moore (PTO Rep) suggested combining the gift. Chris recommended a cash gift between \$50.00 to \$100.00. Principal Renfree suggested that the gift be formally presented to Jeff at the June 7th SHS Staff Meeting. After discussion, \$100.00 was settled on. Yvette Moore MOVED that the Foundation present Jeff Thomas with a gift of appreciation valued at \$100.00. Susan Carlson SECONDED the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote. After the vote, Chris asked what would be appropriate and it was suggested that “anything Star Wars.” Principal Renfree

agreed that it would be appropriate, since Jeff loves Star Wars figurines. Maria Grande suggested a Visa Gift Card for \$100.00 so Jeff could get any Star Wars-related “thing” he wants.

- iii. Foundation Gifts for Seniors with the Four Highest GPAs: A Foundation tradition is awarding \$500.00 scholarships to each of the four Seniors with the highest graduating GPAs. Last year, the Foundation doled out five such scholarships because of a numerical tie. Although not known off hand, Principal Renfree believes that there will be four distinct winners this year. Jessica Serrata MOVED that four (4) \$500.00 scholarships be given to the four Seniors with the highest GPAs. Vanessa Valessi SECONDED the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.
 - iv. Thank You Letters: Chris read “thank you” letters from Katherine Petersen and Harper Estes who represented Serra at the Valley Forge Youth Leadership Conference in Washington, DC. Both were very appreciative of the grant given by the Foundation and shared their rewarding experiences from the conference.
 - e. Grant Committee: While Chair Susan Carlson did not have anything to report, she requested time after the meeting to speak with Principal Renfree about who on her staff could fill the void created by Jeff Thomas’ departure as he has been instrumental in gauging the needs and concerns of the SHS student body.
 - f. Bocce Tournament: Chair Mitch Gruber reported that an agreement has been reached with De Portola Middle School to combine the efforts of both schools and host a joint tournament. Kristina Hepburn, DP Foundation President, confirmed the agreement. The event is still planned for August 26, 2017. Chris announced that he will “lock in” the date with the Recreation Center Friday after the meeting. Mitch is targeting a 64 tournament team field.
 - g. Campus Improvement Committee: No report
 - h. Snack Bar: No report
 - i. Membership: No report
 - j. Website: No report
 - k. Communications: No report
 - l. Tierrasanta Recreation Council: No report
 - m. Alumni Liaison: Chair Yvette Blease-Moore opined that the SHS 40th Anniversary Alumni Foundation event was poorly attended, despite 33 attendees filling out questionnaires and paying the \$50.00 membership fee. When told of the number of people paying the \$50.00 fee, several Foundation members actually praised the first time event for the outcome. Yvette revealed that SHS alum Jeff Thomas volunteered to be the first president should the SHS Alumni Club solidify.
- IV. New Business: Principal Renfree announced that she will spending four hours with the School Superintendent Cindy Marten at another school site. She explained that his meeting is the final step in transitioning from “interim” to “permanent” SHS principal. The fact that she is currently and interim principal surprised everyone in attendance. She is confident that the “interim” tag will be removed as she has been diligently preparing. Principal Renfree believes that an announcement will come shortly after the meeting as she also revealed that 3-4 additional principal positions will be opening. Everyone wished Principal Renfree luck during her meeting
- V. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm by Chris Hazeltine.

Minutes taken by: Guy Grande

Minutes submitted by: Liz Hernandez

September 6, 2017