

Los Alamitos High School

SCHOOL SITE COUNCIL

March 30, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 5:37 p.m. Members, alternates, and guests present: Dan Bennett, Phil Bowen, Vivian Choi, Mary Forbes, Fabiana Frasca, Sarah Fuller, Robyn Juhasz, Joanne Levy, Kevin Loftus, Lorraine Navarro, Deya Slade, Jill Sterling-Erman, Dr. Gregg Stone, Lisa Vulcano, and secretary Maureen Motsinger.

Lorraine Navarro opened the meeting at 5:35 p.m. welcoming members. Minutes of the December 8, 2008 meeting were approved as written.

Dr. Gregg Stone, Assistant Principal Curriculum & Instruction, reported the GATE Parent Advisory Committee, a group of representatives from all district schools, brought forth the possibility of offering AP Government / Economics. During the process for new course offerings feedback is received from the department which would be offering the new course, LAHS Curriculum Subcommittee, and School Site Council. The decision to offer new courses is made by the LAUSD Board of Education.

Assistant Superintendent Dr. Sherry Kropp asked Dr. Stone to research schools similar to LAHS in demographics to determine their AP Government / Economics offerings. Dr. Stone distributed and reviewed an Orange County High Schools Comparative School Band of AP Government / Economics offerings. Out of the seventeen schools listed, including LAHS, fifteen offered AP Government and thirteen offered AP Economics. Dr. Stone read an email from a teacher whose students questioned why these courses were not being offered at LAHS.

Dr. Stone explained there are two different levels offered: United States Government / Comparative Government and Politics; and Macroeconomics / Microeconomics. LAHS would offer United States Government and Macroeconomics. Students enrolled would be scheduled for the same period to allow teachers to intermingle both areas of study throughout the first semester in order to be prepared for the May AP test. The course syllabus of both would need to be submitted to the College Board with teacher designation in order to gain approval.

Dr. Stone answered questions and discussion ensued. It was noted the LAHS Curriculum Subcommittee voted three in favor and five opposed. Positive comments from School Site Council members included students being able to take a more rigorous course of study which better prepares them for advanced college courses and the chance to earn college credit. Parents asked when the courses might be in place if Board approved and Dr. Stone responded possibly by 2009-10 if there was enough enrollment. Kevin Loftus, Social Science teacher, addressed the committee with his department's concerns including his department did not support the new course approval and there were already enough AP courses in place. Mr. Loftus reported that students can receive college credit now with a program that LAHS participates in with California State University Fullerton. This credit may be transferred to college institutions in California. Mr. Loftus will check with CSUF to determine if it may also be transferred to colleges outside of California in response to a member concern of those units not being transferable outside California. A parent member commented her student would have greatly benefitted in college if AP

Government / Economic would have been offered as it was her field of study and it would be a great opportunity for similar students.

A motion was made for School Site Council to recommend the addition of AP Government / Economics to the course curriculum. It was noted there were not enough members to meet a quorum. Members present voted five opposed and four in favor to recommend the addition of AP Government / Economics to the course curriculum. These minutes will be forwarded to the Board of Education.

Phil Bowen, Assistant Principal Student Services, conducted a Powerpoint presentation "LAUSD Substance Abuse Task Force Mid Year Report – Highlights of our Implementation Plan." The four components of the program include an Alternative to Suspension Program, drug detection canine, voluntary drug testing and *Too Good for Drugs* curriculum. Out of a total of twenty-six substance offenses at LAHS fourteen were eligible for the Alternative to Suspension Program and ten participated. The drug detection canine has been used at LAHS four times searching classrooms, lockers and student vehicles with no findings. Fifteen hundred students enrolled in the Voluntary Drug Testing program and 138 have been randomly tested with one positive result. The Healthy Kids Survey of 2006 was compared to the Healthy Kids Survey of 2008 with percentages of illegal substances dropping in almost every category. Mr. Bowen reported there were definitely promising results and the programs in place will continue to be implemented.

Dr. Stone presented a district budget update. Recent developments with the budget include: LAUSD should receive Federal stimulus funds; some categorical funds may be swept into the general fund; and there are new K-3 / 9th grade English and Math class size reduction rules. It is hoped with these developments not all of the budget cuts approved at the March 10th LAUSD Board meeting will be implemented.

The meeting adjourned at 6:41 p.m. The next scheduled meeting for 2008-09 is June 1, 2009.