

**Bayside Council of PTAs - General Meeting
Monday, September 18, 2006**

Alvarado Adult School, Richmond Annex, Room 1

Minutes – FINAL DRAFT

I. Meeting convened. Agenda approved; meeting started at 7:10 pm, 17 in attendance:

Robert Studdiford (Castro), President
Pamela Gilbert-Snyder (Kensington), Secretary
Peggy Wilcox (El Cerrito High School), Treasurer
Alisha Elischer (Ellerhorst), Parliamentarian
Charley Cowens (Portola), VP Communications
Robin Wilson, VP Programs
Bruce Harter (District Superintendent)
Sarah Grant (Castro)
Nelda Welten (Castro)
Eran Yochdar (Castro)
Valerie Bryant (El Cerrito High School)
Ancel Lao (El Sobrante Elementary)
Jowena Tabayoyoyong (Hanna Ranch)
Robert Fox (Madera)
Erin Moody (Madera)
Cathy Swift (Olinda)
Lisa Battas (Sheldon)

II. President's Report – Robert Studdiford

Robert spoke briefly about the importance of PTA units being familiar with their by-laws, which are very useful. Then he welcomed the new superintendent, Dr. Bruce Harter, saying that he has been very approachable, helpful, and responsive.

Dr. Harter spoke about the importance of a cross-district PTA council such as Bayside. A number of people asked questions focusing on the need for better contact with the individual PTAs units. Dr. Harter said it was the PTA's responsibility to get contact information out. The principles should know whether a unit exists, because units may not form without his/her permission. Units must have a president, secretary and treasurer in order to exist.

III. Officers' Reports

Approval of Minutes – Pamela Gilbert-Snyder. The Minutes from the April 24, 2006, Bayside PTA General meeting were reviewed. Robin Wilson motioned to approve the minutes as amended per Charles Cowens's suggestion; the motion was seconded and carried. The Minutes from the May 22, 2006, meeting were read. Charley Cowens motioned to approve the minutes with minor amendments; the motion was seconded and carried.

Membership – Robert Studdiford for Janet Abelson. Dates for reporting membership information have been moved up by the state PTA. November 1 is now the mandatory deadline for turning in the dues portion (\$3.90 per member, 15 minimum). January 1 is the deadline for unit insurance payments.

Communications - Charley Cowens. The roster of all known PTA unit and Bayside officers in WCCUSD and JSUSD is now available online at baysidepta.org/info. Login:

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ADA, password: reflections. There are new features on the website: a blog by Robert Studdiford; e-mail archive; school board candidate statements. Candidate forums will be sponsored through October with the League of Women voters. Candidates much turn in Bayside's questionnaire by Sunday, Sept. 24. Officers at the unit level are responsible for re-broadcasting the information.

Programs - Robin Wilson. An e-mail containing information about the Reflections program from the state PTA website has been sent to "all officers." With this great program, we hope to keep the arts alive in the school district. Please encourage your school to participate. Each piece of art must be clearly labeled with the theme ("My Favorite Place"), student name, class and school. Robert needs to know how many schools will be participating so he can house the Bayside entries to choose the ones that will go on to 32nd district. Deadline for entries to Bayside is November 10. Deadline for entries to 32nd district is December 8th. Bayside is looking for impartial artists to judge the artwork.

Treasurer's Report - Peggy Wilcox. The following warrants were presented for approval:

Peggy Wilcox – Copies of manual, office supplies	\$24.36
Postmaster – Bulk Mailing Permit	\$160.00
32 nd District PTA – Membership envelopes	\$484.36

Charles Cowens motioned to approve the warrants, Cathy Swift seconded; motion carried.

Any unit can use the bulk mailing permit. The return address of record is 1428 Lawrence St., El Cerrito, 94530, permit number 124.

Parliamentarian - Alisha Elischer. Alisha is working on the by-law revision. Dues will be raised from \$3.90 to \$4.40. This will go into effect next year. Because Bayside is revising, units will also need to. Forms for rewriting were sent during the summer. Units should review by-laws every two years. Alisha encourages units to see what is out of date and to always follow the by-laws. When holding meetings all unit board members should have a copy of the by-laws. The school office should keep a copy anyone may look at.

IV. Public Comment

- A school board candidate placed campaign literature on the table next to the minutes at a unit PTA meeting. Concern was expressed that this compromises our non-profit status. Robert said he would address the issue by calling the candidate(s) in question tomorrow.
- A question was raised about "co-presidents." Are they allowed? Accountability issue. Kathy Rabun will be consulted for the answer.
- Robert Fox expressed concern about the uniform policy. Where is the budget line to assist the 11,300 students in the district who qualify for the free lunch program? Robin Wilson mentioned a donation campaign that has raised \$10,000. Concern was expressed that this is only \$1.00 per pupil, and that these funds should in any case go to education.
- Concern was expressed that seven out of ten district students are not performing at grade level. As a leadership body, how can Bayside / PTAs have an impact? Comment was made that a study group must discern the source of the problem: curriculum? teachers? Ask these questions at candidate forums, and don't forget Harter's impact.

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm. The next general meeting will be held on November 27 at 7:00 pm at Alvarado Adult School.