Menlo Park District Council Meeting Minutes
Friday, September 7, 2018
Approved November 2, 2018

In attendance:
Janelle McCombs, Erik Burmeister, Jammie Behrendt, Stephanie Sheridan, Ahmad Sheikholeslami, Sara Teeple, Linda Creighton, Ken Wang, Caryn Wasserstein, Kathy Orciuoli, Azadeh Rassamuden, Vidya Kaegan, Christa West, Carrie Chen, Ken Scheible, Astor Toyos, Sharon Burns, Karen Dobbyn, Liliana Perazich, Carolyn Kryger, Sarah Sobel, Laura Paul, David Ackerman, Jenny Buddin, Suzanne Watson, Patty Lopez, Kristen Gracia, Willy Haug, Caroline Bowers

The meeting was called to order at 8:50 am by Janelle McCombs, District Council President.

Welcome and Introductions -- Janelle McCombs, District Council President
All present introduced themselves, their role on the District Council and told the group about their children.

Approval of June 1, 2018 Meeting Minutes
Caroline Bowers motioned to approve the June 1, 2018 minutes. Carolyn Kryger seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report — Karen Dobbyn, District Council Treasurer
- Budget Recap and Dues Overview
    - Dues for Community Campaign and Joint Campaign received in July for 2018-2019 school year
    - Joint Campaign cash ending balance $298.00
    - Community Campaign cash ending balance $0
    - District Council cash ending balance $466.00
- Nothing new has happened since the June 1, 2018 report
- August 2018 no income received and no expenses paid
- Signatories changed at Comerica
- School PTOs need to perform Feb - July audit

Directory Update — Ken Wang, District Directory Coordinator
- The new data for the current school year is not available yet.
- The new student directory should be ready to publish in the next week or so.
- This will be the last year that the Directory Chair will be a District Council position. The role will be transitioned into the MPCSD technology group.
- Sponsorship possibilities exist and may be explored.

Speaker Series Update — Christa West & Vidya Kagan, Parent Ed Programming Coordinators

MPCSD Parent Education Speaker Series kicks off later this month and has a great lineup for the year.

Monday, September 17, 2018 -- Restorative Parenting with Karen Junker. Ms. Junker is a restorative practices coach in our district schools. She trains teachers and will explain how to use restorative in the home as well.

The PTOs and district office share hosting duties for speaker events. Each group is assigned one date to host and should bring food, manage the welcome, set-up and clean up.
Encinal is responsible for hosting the event on September 17th.

Wednesday, October 3, 2018 -- Promoting Math Mindsets with Jo Boaler. Ms. Boaler is a Professor of Mathematics Education at Stanford and the faculty director of www.youcubed.org. Her book, "Mathematical Mindsets" will be available.

Linda Creighton mentioned that classes at Laurel have weeks of inspirational math that are based on Ms. Boaler's work.

Additional events this year:

- Wednesday, November 7, 2018 -- Angst Documentary Screening and Panel, Anxiety in our Children
- Monday, January 14, 2019 -- From Columbine to Parkland: Is This the New Normal? A fireside chat with
- Frank DeAngelis, retired principal of Columbine High School, and Erik Burmeister, MPCSD Superintendent
- Wednesday, February 13, 2019 -- How Social Media Affects Children's Mental Health, and What We Can Do to Protect Them with Dr. Naama Barnea-Goraly. Dr. Barnea-Goraly is a child and adolescent psychiatrist and a former Stanford brain researcher.
- Wednesday, March 27, 2019 -- The Importance of Teaching Compassion to our Kids with Jeff Weiner, LinkedIn CEO, and Kristen Gracia, Oak Knoll School Principal, moderated by Erik Burmeister, MPCSD Superintendent
- Wednesday, April 10, 2019 -- Let's Talk About Sex...And Puberty presented by Vanessa Kellam, Parent Engagement Coordinator at Health Connected.

Superintendent Update & Q&A — Erik Burmeister, MPCSD Superintendent
Erik Burmeister asked his cabinet to discuss and highlight one goal for the year (see below).

As his Superintendent report, Mr. Burmeister provided an opportunity for members of District Council to ask questions.

- Caryn Wasserstein asked for clarity regarding how testing weighs into student transition from 5th grade to 6th grade.
- Sharon Burns provided feedback that the MPAEF video was great and asked if it could be incorporated into a Google slide? Mr. Burmeister advised that this can't be done through a Vimeo account, which is the more secure option. If you use Google slides, the video can only be done in YouTube format, which is less secure.
- Jenny Buddin asked about the plan for the Community Campaign. Mr. Burmeister advised that this will begin on October 7th, after the close of this year's Joint Campaign. Please let the Community Campaign chairs know if you would like to help out.

Jammie Behrendt, MPCSD Assistant Superintendent

- Handles education services and is focused on the District Strategic Directions as previously outlined.
- Ensures that systems are in place to support students and provide resources to teachers. This provides multi-tiered systems of support.
- This work has been laid out in previous years and is now being articulated to students, parents,

teachers and specialists.

Stephanie Sheridan, New Director of Student Services

- Supports Special Education (IEPs, 504s, etc)
- Focuses on mental health and wellness
- Oversees nursing services for students' needs
- Focuses on increasing the full-inclusion model for students with special needs. She provides general education teachers with the resources they need to make it as seamless as possible.
- Has increased training and support for paraprofessionals to provide whole-child based services.

Ahmad Sheikholeslami, MPCSD Chief Business Officer

Operations:

- Transportation: we bus 400+ students district-wide (residents & Tinsley)
- Crossing guards (2-3 at each school, spend $100K+)
- Grant was received from San Mateo County for Safe Routes to school. Mr.Sheikholeslami is working to build Safe Routes curriculum through the PE department that is ongoing. Our students need the skills to be independent around the community.

Business:

- Wne have ew human resources, payroll employees
- The District is coming into annual negotiations with staff

School Board Update — David Ackerman, MPCSD School Board President

There will be no school board election this November. There are three openings and three candidates submitted their candidacy so they will all be sworn in.

- Incumbant, Stacey Jones
- Scott Saywell
- Sherwin Chen

Two Board members will be rolling off. Terry Thygesen, who has been on the Board for 16 years, and Joan Lambert, who has been on the Board for eight years. We thank them for their service. Mr. Ackerman noted that Ms.Thygesen has been instrumental in pushing the School Board to improve our district facilities.

Big things for Board this year:

- Focus on what it means to be fully funded. The District budget and future budgets are a constant conversation at Board meetings. Our goal is to be fully funded, so we want to define what exactly that looks like.
- Teacher compensation. How do we continue to attract and retain the best teachers? What is our role in the future of the teaching profession? What can we do to encourage the best and brightest people to go into the education profession.
- Everyone is welcome at the School Board meetings. They are also recorded.
- The next School Board meeting is on Tuesday, Sept 11, 2018

MPAEF Update - Astor Toyos, MPAEF Co-President

- Campaign is going well. We are about ⅓ into the campaign duration and at ⅓ of the revenue

goal.
- Participation is at about 22%, as of today.
- 2000 families are being contacted.
- Our focus is on increasing participation and philanthropic donors to fill the gap.
- Last year, 126 families donated 40% of what we received.
- Carrie identifies those people and follows up.
- MPAEF is analyzing the data to assess the impact of new family socials and the Back to School Night video.
- Last year, MPAEF raised a total of $4.25 million and granted $3.7 million. The reserves enables a gift to the endowment.
- Goal this year is to grant $3.7 million.
- Annual Parent Campaign goal is $3.45 million.

Carrie Chen, MPAEF Director, has been impressed by the coming together of the PTOs and MPAEF. With the Campaign changes coming, MPAEF kept the per family ask the same and the fundraising goal the same as last year.
After the campaign closes on October 5th, other MPAEF efforts will be:

- 2 Dine Outs: October 15-19 and December 5-7, 2018
- Winter Wine Walk: December 1, 2018
- Auction: March 16, 2019. We are looking for new venue since we outgrew Hiller Aviation Museum.
- Schoolhouse Rocks Run: May 19, 2019.

Mr. Burmeister noted that the 2018 MPAEF Auction fund-a-need raised over $90,000. Encinal, Hillview and Oak Knoll are receiving $15,000 and Laurel is receiving $20,000 for two campuses, to build out STEM/Maker Space facilities.

Janelle noted that thank you letters are appreciated by donors.

Joint Campaign Update — Caryn Wasserstein & Kathy Orciuoli, Co-Coordinators

- Kathy & Caryn took over as Joint Campaign coordinators in February 2018.
- They worked to pare the plan back and completed 90% of tasks before end of school year, freeing up volunteers to enjoy their summer without worry..
- Decided to launch one Community campaign in 2019/2020 school year.
- Sharing information across sites has visibly increased.
- Tracking the money coming in at every school. This will give us picture of what the ask and allocations should be for next year.

School Principal Updates

Guided Question: The School Principals will share two things that they are proud of with regard to student achievement last year and two goals for this year.

Laurel -- Linda Creighton, Principal

- We continue to focus on our improvement values. We saw growth in our parents' favorable response rate, with a 15% increase.
- All groups showed growth in ELA.

- Nearly all groups showed growth in math. However, English learners and families from lower socio-economic subgroup did not show growth in math. This is an area of focus for this year.
- Another goal is to to continue with our Project Based Learning (PBL) implementation at every grade level. Every class will go through three PBL units this year.

Oak Knoll -- Kristen Gracia, Principal

- We are proud of our achievement data.:
- ELA & Math, OK in subgroups showed growth.
    - Low socio-economic groups increased 29% in ELA and 14% in math.
    - College Bound group (underrepresented at college level) showed 15% increase in ELA scores (up to 68%) and 8% in math (up to 66%)
- The school year is off to a great start. Unique at OK this year, we have prioritized relationships. We are working to add a layer of connection for parents to connect. Last night we had a mix and mingle at the Dutch Goose after BTSN, which had a great showing.
- Our new tag lone is: "Together we are Oak Knoll."

Encinal — Sharon Burns, Principal

- Two years ago, we looked at the fact that English language learners are not achieving at the same level as other groups. We conducted focused professional development with our teachers to address these students' needs and saw the biggest bump in scores last year in this group.
- Math achievement gap still exists in lower socio-economic groups. Jammie Behrendt is arranging for Jo Boaler's techniques to be brought in to address that.

Hillview — Willy Haug, Principal

- Highlights from last year:
    - We identified student subgroups as: Low socio-economic, College bound, Hispanic / Pacific Islander, Students with disabilities and English language learners
    - We set our goal to have 5% growth in achievement in each of the subgroups in both ELA and Math. Last year, we hit our target in 6/10 of these areas. Worth highlighting: we showed 14% growth in ELA for the low socio-economic group of students.
- Goal to increase the achievement and move from level 3 to 4 on the Standard Assessments. We had 3.4% increase in ELA scores.
- Students with disabilities showed a decline in scores so that is goal for this year along with English Learners in both Math and ELA.
- ASB spirit rally will be today!

Next District Council Meeting: Friday, November 2, 2018, 8:45 a.m., TERC A&B

Thank you to District Council for providing snacks for this meeting.
November snack -- Encinal
January snack -- Hillview

Janelle McCombs adjourned the meeting at 9:55 a.m.