Menlo Park District Council Meeting Minutes
Friday, November 3, 2017

In attendance:
Janelle McCombs, Erik Burmeister, Stacey Jones, Christa West, Amy Coolican, Stacey Wueste, Chris Sewell, Jenny Buddin, Gina Skinner, Singari Seshadri, Kate Kennedy, Ashley Wagstaff, Kathy Orciuoli, Sharon Burns, Ken Scheible, Amy Kunz, Calla Griffith, Willy Haug, Linda Creighton, Caroline Bowers, Cathy Oriceili, Karen MPAEF, Parke Treadway, Alison Poirier, Sandy Pugliami. Suzanne Wilson, Leah Kessler

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

Approval of September 2017 Meeting Minutes
Stacey Wueste motioned to approve the September 2017 minutes. Amy Coolican seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report — Gina Skinner, District Council Treasurer

November report. No activity in October

Continuing to receive $1,000 from each school for District Council programming and $250 for District Council and $250 for Joint Campaign dues.

It's a busy time in terms of taxes. Please remind School PTO treasurers of the Dec 15th deadline. Gina recommends filing early.

Speaker Series Update — Singari Seshadri & Kate Kennedy

Upcoming:

Wednesday, November 8th @ 7pm @ Hillview PAC.

Jacob Towery, MD, Adolescent and Adult Psychiatrist, is a former Encinal parent. He will speak on Anxiety and Depression in Teenagers. Mr Towery is providing this event pro bono. Please spread the word and help to fill the room.

Wednesday, January 17th @ 10am in Hillview PAC: Sheryl Sandberg, COO of Facebook; Founder, LeanIn.Org and OptionB.Org; Author

Ms. Sandberg will speak on the subject of her new book, Option B: Facing Adversity, Building Resilience, and Finding Joy. We are using Eventbrite ticket management and will have a two ticket per family maximum. Eventbrite will go live to District Council members today and to district families soon after.

Communications Update — Parke Treadway, MPCSD Communications Director

Focusing on strategic storytelling so the greater community feels connected to MPCSD. Progress is being made by conveying what the district does for community in the following ways:

- Newsletters

    - District
    - Community Matters Quarterly sent 3 times per year to approximately 8,000 people. Direct mail and email. Tells community about the schools and covers what a neighbor and taxpayer need to know.
- Social Media
    - Follow at #gompcsd - to like, share, Tweet. (FB, Twitter, LinkedIn, FAQ)
    - Everyone should Friend the MPCSD Facebook page
    - FAQ can be found in the "About MPCSD" tab on the district page. FAQ covers funding questions.
- Headlines on Website
    - Local media coverage In Menlo, Almanac. If you see something, please send it to Parke.
- Building on local media relationships
- Library displays
- SUPs On - Farmers Market & Blog
    - Stop by Nov 19th when Erik will be at the Menlo Park Farmer's Market
    - Erik's blog posts

Email Parke at info@mpcsd.org to share ideas and let her know if you see good news!

Directory Update

The directory is fully functional and is an amazing resource.. However, only 10% of eligible families have signed up. Ken Wang is looking for suggestions on how to reach out to make the link more visible to families and will work with the PTO Presidents to have the link to the directory on each school's website.

Superintendent Update & Q&A — Erik Burmeister, MPCSD Superintendent

Focus of our principals' reports today will be on what we're doing to provide Social Emotional Learning (SEL) support to our students. This is In line with upcoming topics in our speaker series subject matter. Principles will discuss what's happening at their sites to support the SEL of students.

Things are going really well in district.

Thank you to parent volunteers.

School Board Update — Stacey Jones, MPCSD School Board President

It is community input season.

The Board had its first long term Financial Planning session this week. They are working on the district compensation philosophy.

The Board needs all news: what's working and what's not. Please let the Board know what they are doing right as well as wrong. People who have bad news are always vocal.

Please communicate with the Board. They want to hear any news and can be reached at board@mpcsd.org or info@mpcsd.org

Assistant Superintendent Report -- covered by Sandy Pugliamo, Coordinator of Data and Assessment

- Panorama Survey 2.0 is coming in January for Feedback February.
- Sandy presented an SEL Report of baseline data collected from the January 2017 Panorama survey. It provides a look at how MPCSD compares nationally, next year we will have comparison data for our district.
- There were 8 categories assessed (Emotion regulation, Grit, Growth mindset, School Safety, Self-efficacy, Sense of Belonging, Stress factors, Wellness)
- MPCSP Scored above national average in most categories, except the "Sense of belonging" and "Grit" categories. These are areas on which the district will focus.

Joint Campaign Debrief — Calla Griffith, Co-Coordinator

Laurel came in with very high participation marks. The other schools are paying attention to what worked there.

MPAEF Update — Stacey Wueste & Amy Coolican, MPAEF Co-Presidents

- Introduced Carrie Chen, New MPAEF Executive Director. Carrie is a non-profit professional! She can be reached at carrie@mpaef.org
- SuSu Ribaudo is the new MPAEF part-time administrator. She is a parent of kinder and 1st grader boys at Laurel
- MPAEF will also be hiring another part-time administrator
- Principal and teacher letters went out
- Campaign is currently at 83% Participation. $2.86 M raised as of this morning. Still hoping for $250,000 more.

Auction Update -- Alison Poirier, co-chair

- Alison Poirier & Mary Grundy, co-Chairs
- Hiller Aviation Museum was announced as the auction event location
- Date: March 10, 2018
- Committee is looking for Fund-a-Need theme ideas
- There will be 2 ticket & pricing options: 1) VIP with dinner (you can buy tables and invite people) and 2) General Ticket
- Target is 400 attendees.

School Updates

This month's guided question:

1) SEL efforts at the sites

Encinal — Sharon Burns, Principal

- Parent coffee education series
    - Started yesterday morning and last night with a session led by Karen Bloom, Sharon

Burns & Jennifer Killman: Helping your Child with Peer Conflict. 60 parents attended the morning and evening sessions
    - Mindfulness Center at lunchtime in art room. To help kids that are having trouble responding to the SEL curriculum being taught

Hillview — Willy Haug, Principal

- Systems & Structure in place
    - Two counselors in place
    - Marriage & family therapist this year to help students who need more intervention, talk therapy.
    - Thrive
    - Restorative Justice
- SEL Focus this year is on Mindfulness
    - Goal is to engage in 6 lessons: 1st lesson this Tuesday in conjunction with Parent Ed night on Stress and Anxiety in Teens. At the session they will show and parents can check out the Emory Rossi YouTube video
    - Goal to build community, understand mindfulness and practice mindfulness through breathing exercises
    - Karen Junker is working with staff

Laurel — Linda Creighton, Principal

- Sense of belonging is the focus
    - Restorative practices to build relationships and respond to challenging behavior
    - Oct. 10th they had Professional Development with Karen Junker and Parent Ed in the evening.
    - Teachers are at the best when firm but loving.
    - Non-violent communication, talk about needs and values

Oak Knoll — Leah Kessler, Assistant Principal

- SEL Wellness
    - Also working with Karen Junker in the classrooms and playground
    - Yard supervisors were trained as well in the language of non-violent communication
    - Working on community building in classrooms to help classmates understand each other better
    - Equitable engagement. Using restorative practices. Helping kids feel more included.

- Beyond Me Challenge
    - Every class is doing a project
    - Chores for change given to Red Cross

Adjournment -- Janelle McCombs adjourned the meeting at 10:05am.

Next District Council Meeting will be on Friday, January 12, 2018 at 8:45am in TERC A&B

January snack: Hillview
March snack: Oak Knoll