

Menlo Park District Council Meeting Minutes
Friday, May 5, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 8:53 am by Kate Kennedy, District Council President.

Approval of April 2017 Meeting Minutes — Chris Sewell motioned to approve the March minutes. Amy Kuhns seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report — Kate Kennedy for Gina Skinner, District Council Treasurer

Total funds available as of May 5, 2017: \$1,384.14

April activities included beginning to prepare the budget for next school year. There will be more info at the next District Council meeting regarding this. Dues will be assessed for all MPCSD schools and the Foundation, in an amount tbd.

Auditor's Report — Stacy Dekshenieks, Auditor

Stacy reported that she recently completed the audit on 5/4/17. All ledgers are balanced. The next audit will take place in August.

Vote on 2017/18 Slate — Kate Kennedy, District Council President

Kate presented the proposed Slate for next year's District Council. Proposed Officers and Administrative Chairs stepped out of the room while discussion and voting took place. Janell Sanford motioned to approve the Slate and Christa West seconded. All voted in favor and the slate was approved.

The District Council Slate for the 2017-18 term was approved as follows:

Officers:

1. President: Janell McCombs
2. Secretary/Parliamentarian: Caroline Bowers
3. Treasurer: Gina Skinner
4. Auditor: Jill Vizas

Administrative Chairs:

1. Joint Campaign Co-Coordinator: Jody Buckley and Calla Griffith
2. District Directory Coordinator: Ken Wang
3. Recognition (Service Awards) Coordinator: Wendy Horton
4. Programming (Parent Ed) Coordinator: Singari Seshadri
5. District Lunch Program Coordinator: Desiree Vogt
6. Community New Coordinator: Emily Moberg Robinson

Vote on Bylaw Amendments — Kate Kennedy, District Council President

Kate presented updates to the Bylaws, necessitated by changes to the structure of the office of President, lengthening of the service term of the Joint Campaign Coordinators and associated changes to

recruiting timing, the transition from a printed to an online directory, and other incidental items.

Jody Buckley motioned to pass the bylaw changes and Janell McCombs seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passed.

Superintendent Update — Dr. Maurice Ghysels, MPCSD Superintendent

Maurice will speak at next month's District Council meeting. He will discuss the role and purpose of District Council.

School Board Update — Stacey Jones, MPCSD School Board President

Stacey extended an invitation to everyone to attend the upcoming School Board meetings in June. At the June meetings, the school board will vote on whether to approve \$1.2M in budget cuts.

At the April School Board meeting, the Board discussed the possibility of Early Learning Education (ELE), in MPCSD. Board members are enthusiastic about the idea, and the goal is that the program would be fee based, and would have zero fiscal impact on the school district. ELE would be based at the Laurel Lower campus.

Stacey also mentioned that the Board is working on the transition with Dr. Ghysels' departure and Erik Burmeister's tenure beginning in July.

School Updates

Hillview — Jody Buckley, Hillview PTO Co-President (Willy Haug, Principal, not in attendance)

- Rising 6-7-8 graders are exploring elective options.
- The Hillview Talent Show is coming up on May 12-13, and always proves to be full of very talented kids and performances.
- The Vesuvius PLA academy at Hillview will not be continuing next year. Certain components of the PLA academy will continue, but it will not be a stand alone PLA academy.
- The 6th-7th Grade Dance will be held on May 19.
- Relay for Life will take place immediately following the 6th-7th Grade dance, from 9:00pm - 12:00am. This fundraising event will benefit the American Cancer Society.
- Hillview was recently honored by the County of San Mateo for their Restorative Justice program.
- Hillview's Open House will take place on May 25th
- Volunteer Luncheon is scheduled for June 1
- Hillview PTO is still working on their slate for next year.

Oak Knoll — Kristen Gracia, Principal

- Oak Knoll held their first "STEAM on the Knoll." All stations were staff-run which was very special. The event was a huge success, and included centers for kids with activities ranging from Pop Rockets to building Rube Goldberg machines.
- Ms. Bennion, Oak Knoll's school librarian, recently held a Summer Reading Pizza Party To reward kids who met their summer reading goal last year, and to prepare kids for summer reading this year.

- Right before spring break, Kristen and several teachers attended a Math Conference in Texas. Teachers from each grade level attended and it was a valuable experience for everyone.
- Placement at Oak Knoll is happening now, with current school parents filling out classroom input forms, and future Oak Knoll parents taking school tours. Third grade parents must choose the program of their choice, either Traditional or Multi-age route for their child.
- SBAC Testing is ongoing currently.

Oak Knoll — Janelle McCombs, PTO President

- Janelle gave kudos to Kristen Gracia for writing a letter to Oak Knoll parents. Kristen wrote a letter asking parents to trust the school administration with placing their children in next year's classes, and respectfully declined to accept teacher requests.
- Teacher Appreciation Week just ended and was a wonderful celebration of Oak Knoll's staff.
- Three Oak Knoll teachers are retiring at the end of the school year, so they will be having events to celebrate their retirements.
- Kinder Q and A Playdate will be held this weekend, hosted by incoming PTO president, Christa West.

Laurel — Linda Creighton, Principal

- Recently hired their first Spanish Immersion program teacher. Linda said it is very difficult to find teachers for this position.
- Recently held their STEAM fair, which was a huge success.

Laurel — Kathy Orciuoli, PTO Co-Vice President

- Laurel has a full slate for their PTO next year
- Getting ready for Art Show on June 1, when both upper and lower campuses come together for a picnic and art fair.
- Excited to announce that Laurel's upper campus outdoor field is completed!

Encinal — Sharon Burns, Principal

- Science Night was held last week, and included a Night Time constellation, the MA Robotics Team, and the Lawrence Hall of Science
- Encinal recently received a grant for a portable kitchen, which will incorporate food prep into their curriculum. Encinal kids will help to grow food in the school garden then later use for cooking lessons.
- Gearing up for Parent Volunteer Luncheon, at which they will be giving out their Service Awards.
- State testing is happening right now.

Encinal — May Matsui, PTO Co-President

- Encinal's Mother-Son Social Night will be held tomorrow night
- Busy finishing up end of year activities
- Getting ready to introducing the new PTO transition team, which has been slated for next year

Joint Campaign Update — Jody Buckley, Co-Coordinator

The Joint Campaign meeting will be held this afternoon to discuss how to manage the campaign launch documents.

MPAEF Update — Jennifer Dahmus/Alka Gupta, Co-Coordinators

Stacy Wueste, the incoming Co-President of the MPAEF, was introduced.

- Jennifer Dahmus reported that the MPAEF is very focused on the upcoming Schoolhouse Rocks 5K Run.
- Excited to announce that they just got the approval by the City to have the finish line at Hillview School
- Following the 5K run, the after party is getting much larger, and students are very excited to help with planning.
- The Santa Cruz Wine Growers Association is returning on June 3 for the Wine Walk in downtown Menlo Park. Various wineries will be set up in different Menlo Park shops for tasting and shopping. Last year the event raised \$10K for the school district. Tickets are available on the MPAEF website.
- Just yesterday, the MPAEF voted in 2017-18 Board. Stacy Woeste and Amy Cooligan will be the co-presidents next year, along with a phenomenal group of new board members.

Adjournment - Kate Kennedy adjourned the meeting at 10:05am .