

Menlo Park District Council Meeting Minutes

Friday, March 3, 2017

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

Approval of February 2016 Meeting Minutes — Jody Buckley motioned to approve the February minutes. May Matsui seconded motion. All in favor. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report — Gina Skinner, District Council Treasurer

Total funds available as of March 3, 2017: \$2,757.86.

February activities included filing of Form 1096 with the IRS to transmit Forms 1099-MISC.

Superintendent Update – Dr. Maurice Ghysels, MPCSD Superintendent

The Superintendent gave a brief update about systematic activities that occur behind the scenes, including site plans and performance plans. They are constantly working on ways to improve. A software package called “Illuminate” is being employed to constantly help improve learning. The school district also uses Panorama surveys, which provide feedback and data for positive growth moments, and for teachers to reflect on what to use as opportunities for growth.

School Board Update — Stacey Jones, School Board President

The next School Board Meeting will be held on 3/14 at Hillview PAC. The agenda for the March meeting will also include a resolution to support undocumented students in our district.

The School Board will soon start to fill open seats on the various Committees of the Board including Technology Committee, Staff Recruitment and Retention Committee, and the Finance and Audit Committee.

MPAEF Update — Jennifer Dahmus and Alka Gupta, MPAEF Co-Presidents

Alka reported that the MPAEF has raised 3.3M to date and is 97% to goal. In addition, there is approximately \$100K that has come in from the community and \$100K from local businesses. Alka said that the Foundation is tracking slightly ahead of where they were last year with contributions.

There are two major fundraising events coming in the Spring. Schoolhouse Rocks 5K will be held on May 21, and the MPAEF Spring Auction will held on March 25. Alka extended her appreciation to the Chairs of these events.

The Spring Auction theme is Super Heroes. Alka mentioned that there are some auction items and events that need coordinators and donors. Please reach out to Amy Redell, the Community Solicitation Chair, for more information. Some of the auction items include parties for parents, teacher-hosted parties, and approximately 50 to 60 local business donations. There are some exciting auction items such as America's Cup tickets, Warriors seats, 49ers tickets, and tickets for a Surf Air private jet.

The Mini-auction for Summer Camps that was held in January made approximately \$6K this year with about 35 bids.

Lastly, the nominating process for the MPAEF board has kicked off. Any and all suggestions are welcome!

District Directory Update — Ken Wang

Ken reported about the process of creating and releasing the District Directory this year. He presented feedback and ideas for next year's production of the District Directory.

- Progress to date: The online directory came out in December with 2765 student entries, 1890 families with secure online access through MPCSD.org.
- The Printable PDF version was released at the end of January

Positive feedback about the directory this year were:

- Online version, at last
- Saves paper
- Mobile access
- Easier search
- Several corrections to the District database were found and updated
- Additions and changes were easy to make

Negative feedback:

- Very late release
- Final data file not received until December
- Human errors on data mapping for display
- Difficult to access, difficult to browse easily
- Nothing to flip through/not tangible
- No MPAEF/MPCSD sponsorship area like in the previous hardcopy versions

Ken also included what he called "Ugly" feedback:

- Account rollout missteps
- No context, access issues
- Many families did not get accounts
- Schoolwires interface is very limiting, and search options were constrained

Future opportunities and options, other feedback:

1. Revert- go back to printed directories
2. Improve - on current online access
3. Custom Solution: Access control thru district site or standalone

Joint Campaign Update — Jody Buckley & Calla Griffith

Jody stated the Joint Campaign is setting goals to come up with a calendar soon, and will be making a decision about how to communicate the community report. They are working on being proactive this year to stay ahead and not have so much work to do over the summer.

Schoolhouse Rocks 5K Update — Run Team

No update.

Safe Routes to School Update — Jennifer Wolosin

Jennifer Wolosin presented a slide show on Parents for Safe Routes. Parents for Safe Routes is a group of dedicated parents and neighbors committed to making Menlo Park schools (and schools attended by children who live in Menlo Park) as walkable and bikeable as possible. She discussed the trends with traffic and kids walking or biking to school. Currently, 14% of children walk to school. Some of the barriers for kids walking or biking to school include parent fear about stranger danger, and worry about physical safety due to traffic.

Her group launched in January 2017, and MPCSD has been very supportive. The group now has over 160 people on their mailing list.

- On Feb 7, 2017, the Menlo Park City Council prioritized Safe Routes as one of their sponsored programs
- Safe Routes has identified Parent Coordinators at all MPCSD and Las Lomas schools
- Safe Routes has an Advisory Committee made up of community leaders
- Parents for Safe Routes is looking at Safe Routes in a more strategic way than the National Safe Routes to School movement.
- Factors include the six E's of Safe Routes: Engineering, Enforcement, Education, Encouragement, Evaluation, and Equity
- In order for success, a 3-pronged partnership model needs to be created between the City/County, Schools and Parents/Community.

Parents for Safe Routes is asking MPCSD for Specific Asks including:

- Buy-in at all level
 - Commitment to community partnership model
 - Attendance at meetings
 - Engagement across all 6 e's and leadership on relevant ones (i.e. education, encouragement and evaluation)
- Safe Routes Parent Coordinators/Teams embedded in in PTO
- Clarification of roles for school administration/staff vs. Parents

Please join the mailing list: www.parent4saferoutes.org

Questions and discussion followed.

School Site Updates

Hillview — Willy Haug, Principal

- Hillview Dance Department had a preview yesterday for the Dance Show, being held tonight and tomorrow. More than 130 students are involved the production in this high energy dance show. Tickets are sold out.
- Hillview's Aladdin musical will be held over the weekend of March 16th.
- The Panorama survey results have been eye opening. Mr. Haug is reflecting deeply on the results and communicating them to all staff.

Oak Knoll — Kristen Gracia, Principal

- Kristen reported that she has been holding teacher-administrative meetings. These one-on-one meetings occur two to three times per year between Kristen and Oak Knoll teachers. During these meetings, they focus on the most at-risk student(s) in the class and she discusses practice and improvements with each teacher individually.
- Teacher as Mentor: New program at Oak Knoll in which staff were asked to work an extra hour on Tuesdays to look at their most at-risk students. Teachers are working with their specific student on Tuesdays. This is a college bound program for those 30 kids, and geared specifically toward the individual students involved.
- Oak Knoll held a rally in February on Valentines Day called Share the Love. The rally focused on compassion and celebrating diversity.
- A powerful community service project was recently held in partnership with the 49er Academy and Costano School. The two schools worked together and built kits including school supplies for Lucile Packard Childrens Hospital patients and families.
- “Embracing Our Differences” is the theme this month. This is an annual event that focuses on disabilities. For example, yesterday there were guide dogs on campus for the kids to observe.

Laurel — Ellen Kraske Assistant Principal, and Joe LaCava, PTO President

The Pop-Pop-Read-a-Lot Challenge and fundraiser was recently held. For three weeks, the kids read books, raised donations, and had popcorn parties with movies. The Challenge included an abbreviated book fair at Laurel’s upper campus and an author visit. With funds raised, the PTO purchased a Ga-Ga pit for the Laurel upper campus. Ellen thanked all the parent volunteers who made the event so successful.

Other recent events included:

- Bike Rodeo for 4th graders: Menlo Park Police created courses to help students practice safety skills. Thank you to Mary Ferguson and the MP Police Department for helping to organize this event.
- Homework center is being held on three days per week for 1 hour for 40 students from Laurel’s upper and lower campuses. This is for students who need help with reading skills and math challenges.
- Laurel’s Aladdin Musical will be held at Hillview on March 24-25.

Encinal —Sharon Burns, Principal, and May Matsui and Claire Burks, PTO Co-Presidents

- Safe Routes to School Assembly held today, including a red tire pump station
- Tonight parents will be setting up for the Under the Sea social
- A local TV station visited Encinal to report the advancement of Encinal’s spelling bee winner to the National Spelling Bee
- Encinal successfully held their fun Annual Debate Tournament in early February.
- Outdoor Ed will happen in a few weeks for 5th graders.

PTO Updates

Hillview - Jody Buckley, PTO Co-President

Only thing to add to Hillview's update is that the PTO committee has begun planning for 8th grade graduation.

Oak Knoll — Janelle McCombs, PTO President

- Oak Knoll's Friends and Family Day will be held on Friday, March 10
- Science Fair is coming up in early April

Adjournment - Kate Kennedy adjourned the meeting at 10:28am.

- Next District Council meeting — Friday, April 7, 8:45 a.m.; TERC A & B