

Menlo Park District Council Meeting Minutes

Friday, December 2, 2016

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

Approval of November 2016 Meeting Minutes — Janell Sanford motioned to approve the November minutes. Jody Buckley seconded motion. All in favor. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report — Gina Skinner

Total funds available as of Dec. 2, 2016: \$7,341.34.

November activities included invoicing and collecting 2016-17 Joint Campaign and District Council dues. November expenses included payments for the District Council Speaker Series. Email reminders were sent to PTOs for State/Federal income tax deadlines. Lastly, all tax filings for the District Council have been completed for the year.

Hot Lunch Report — Desiree Vogt, District Lunch Program Coordinator

Desiree reported on the status and progress of LunchMaster, the new hot lunch program servicing our district. Overall, there has been an increase in hot lunch interest at several campuses, and food complaints are down compared to the previous lunch provider, ChoiceLunch. Laurel and Encinal sales are up as a percentage of uses. Hillview students line up to receive last minute lunches.

- Last year, 100 adult volunteers served 3200 weekly lunches across 4 campuses.
- With LunchMaster this year, we've seen a reduction in volunteers to 71 volunteers across 5 campuses.
- Hot lunch volunteers work anywhere from 1.5 hrs, to 45 min at our two "in and out" campuses Hillview and Laurel.
- School base hot lunch purchase percentages are up overall.
- New this year: each child has the same access to choice, schools have the ability to make the district lunch program unique for their school.
- Questions and discussion

Superintendent Update – Maurice Ghysels, MPCSD Superintendent

Maurice gave a brief update on the status of the Parcel Tax proposal.

On Wed., November, 30, the school board held a special board meeting to continue discussion and hear community input about the levels of potential parcel taxes and reduction priorities. Following discussion and input from the community, district staff and consultants, a parcel tax was proposed to be drafted with the starting point of a \$350 per parcel tax, expiring after six years.

On Monday night, December 5, there will be one more Special Board Meeting during which District staff will present the various reduction levels discussed, set against specific parcel tax amounts. At this meeting, a final draft resolution will be made. If a resolution is passed on Monday, there will be

no more public discussion of a parcel tax by the School Board or District staff. Maurice encouraged everyone at the District Council to become ambassadors and be well informed on the proposed parcel tax measure.

School Board Update — Stacey Jones, School Board Vice President

Stacey Jones introduced Stacey Wueste, who spoke on behalf of the committee that is currently being formed to support and campaign for Menlo Park Schools and the new upcoming parcel tax measure. Stacey Wueste reported that there are 95 volunteers signed up so far, with a leadership team of 25 volunteers. She asked everyone to please become educated and comfortable with the parcel tax background and information. Starting next week, there will be a one-page FAQ available. This committee will be fundraising the entire cost of a campaign, as district funds cannot be used. Please encourage everyone to volunteer to help with this campaign. Signups are available online, in addition to the fundraising link.

Stacey Jones added her thanks to everyone who has helped thus far.

She noted that the Special School Board Meeting on Monday, December 5, will include the board's Annual Organizational Meeting agenda items. Lastly, Stacey Jones invited everyone to attend the regular school board meeting being held on December 13th at Hillview, during which the board will be thanking Jeff Child and Maria Hilton for their years of service as School Board Trustees.

Maurice Ghysels added his thanks to Stacey Wueste for organizing the parcel tax campaign committee and for attending the District Council meeting this morning.

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

Jennifer and Alka reported that, to date, the Foundation has raised \$3.28M, which is 95% of the parent campaign. They are excited about where the campaign is at this point. Participation is tracking higher than last year.

Giving Tuesday took place on November 29, and donations are still rolling in. The goal for Giving Tuesday was \$15,000, and approximately \$14,000 has been raised to date. Donations are still welcome for Giving Tuesday.

The Taste of the Mountains Wine Walk will take place this Saturday afternoon on Santa Cruz Ave. in downtown Menlo Park. Wineries from the Santa Cruz Mountains will be pouring their wines at various locations on Santa Cruz Avenue. All proceeds from the event will benefit the MPAEF.

The MPAEF Auction will take place on March 25, 2017, and the Schoolhouse Rocks Fun Run is scheduled for May 21, 2017. They are excited about the new race route, which will hopefully attract more participants. It will take place through the same Menlo Park neighborhood, but will end closer to Hillview Middle School.

School Updates

Hillview — Mary Martin, Associate Principal

- Held Honor Roll breakfast for students.

- New grading modeling: trying to break out of grades A-F. Along with the new grading system, we're participating in Summit's "Base Camp" piloted by Mark Zuckerberg, a personalized learning platform in which our teachers get to test software and give feedback.
- Hour of Code coming up next week December 5-12. More information will be in our newsletter. Hillview will have host rooms for each academy.
- Character Ed will take place in two weeks.
- Fall concert this past week, Winter concert coming up.
- Today is Shadow Day with incoming 5th graders shadowing Hillview students.

Oak Knoll — Leah Kessler, Oak Knoll Vice Principal

- Very busy time at Oak Knoll after Thanksgiving break. Teachers piloting new report cards for upper grades coming out next week.
- Several teachers are attending a conference in Portland on sound grading practices...excited to hear what they come back with.
- Looking at student engagement in the classroom, with a particular lens on college bound students. Trying to apply our practices to 100% of our kids.
- KNOL is Oak Knoll's morning news broadcast. Nicole Scott, Oak Knoll's school counselor, has been hosting "Tool Time Tuesdays" on KNOL. Engaging our students about character development in a proactive manner.

Laurel — No update.

Encinal — No update.

PTO Updates

Hillview - Jody Buckley, PTO Co-President

No additional updates.

Laurel — Kathy Orciuoli, Laurel PTO Co-Vice President

- Successful Blue Ribbon ceremony 2 weeks ago celebrating the grand opening of Laurel's new upper campus. Kids were very excited about it.

Encinal — Claire Burks, Encinal PTO Co-Vice President

- Held Caring and Sharing Drive, a canned food drive for the 2nd Harvest Food Bank.
- Also have our Gift Tree up so families can donate money to other Encinal families.
- Mini courses for 3rd grade speech and debate coming next week.
- Encinal Engineering: Lawrence Hall of Sciences coming to work with our K-2 students on science projects.

Oak Knoll — Janelle McCombs, Oak Knoll PTO President

- The Oak Knoll PTO executive board has decided that it's in the best interest of the board to propose the following bylaws change: "The PTO board and full membership may elect to support or endorse any school related ballot matter(s) that supports the schools in the

district, but does not violate the existing policy to not endorse any specific candidates.” This will be voted on at our June General Membership meeting.

School Directory Update - Ken Wang, District Directory Coordinator

We are hoping to have District Directories out and ready by end of December.

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

Next District Council meeting — Friday, January 13, 8:45am; Laurel Upper Campus Music Room

No January Snack