

# **Menlo Park District Council Meeting Minutes**

## **November 4, 2016**

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

**Approval of October 2016 Meeting Minutes** – Kate Kennedy motioned to approve the October minutes. Maurice seconded motion. All in favor. Motion passed.

**Auditor's report** — Stacy Deksheniaks

The last audit ending balance was \$14,290.57. Since then there have been disbursements of \$2965.00, leaving a current balance of \$11,325.57. Balanced and audit completed.

**Treasurer's report** — Gina Skinner

Total funds available as of Nov. 4, 2016: \$8,361.20.

October activities included reimbursing expenses for Joint Campaign and MPCSD Speaker Series. Gina reminded the school PTOs and Foundation of the 12/15/16 deadline for State/Federal Income taxes and filing of the Registry of Charitable Trusts Form RRF-1.

November activities expected to include invoicing and collecting 2016-17 Joint Campaign and District Council dues and continuing to reimburse 2016-17 Joint Campaign expenses.

There was discussion about maintaining the current level of insurance held by the district council and it was agreed to carry the same level as in prior years. Gina will pay the District Council insurance premiums that are due in November.

**District Directory report** — Ken Wang

District Directory is on track, and expecting to be published by early December. Ken asked for input about whether to provide a PDF printable version and/or bound/physical version for all families. Discussion moved towards PDF version, and providing bound copies for families without internet access.

**Joint Campaign report** – Jody Buckley & Calla Griffith

Joint Campaign coming to an end today. Participation levels are down compared to previous years, and this trend will need to be examined.

We are analyzing the data for future use, including timing, the economy, and the impact of the defeat of Measures A & C on this year's donations. Also considering the data from those those families with kids at two district schools to determine who donates at both schools vs. just one. Planning to send a survey to non-donors to assess the reasons for lack of participation, and ask for feedback on what the Joint Campaign can do to get their support.

**Foundation report** — Jennifer Dahmus & Alka Gupta

Today is the last day of the Joint Campaign. Contributions are at 2.6M as of today. Last year at this time, we were at 3.2M. The delta has increased significantly. Participation is at 62%.

Thank you to everyone helping at phone banks. This team is working tirelessly to reach out to donors. They are battling the concept of not making the number, which adds to the deficit, combined with the loss of parcel tax dollars.

**MPCSD Structural Deficit/Potential Reductions Update** — Maurice Ghysels & Stacey Jones

Maurice invited everyone to come view Laurel's new upper campus. Shout out to Laurel for receiving the prestigious National Blue Ribbon Award in Washington DC.

At the School Board meeting on Wed. Nov. 9, Assistant Superintendent Burmeister will present the District's recommendations for reductions and funding options. Structural Deficit FAQs: please read and become familiar, great place to refer any questions.

**MPCSD Funding Options Update** — Erik Burmeister & Stacey Jones

Erik invited everyone to the upcoming School Board meeting on November 9 during which he will present the summary of community input they've received on behalf of the Superintendent's Advisory Committee on Communication. Maurice will also present a proposal for deficit reductions and different parcel tax options. So far, there has been overwhelming support for heading toward a new parcel tax. The challenge lies in finding support from people who do not have kids in our school district.

There are three areas of the Parcel Tax that require input:

- Timing: which election to choose - March, May, June, or November 2017. There are benefits and consequences to each option.
- Structure: how the Parcel Tax is structured in terms of evergreen/sunset/based on the CPI.
- Dollar amount

Parcel tax options that will be presented to the School Board:

- 1) No Parcel Tax
- 2) Renewal at current rate of \$207
- 3) Increase to \$300 (Equal to the current rate of \$207 per parcel plus \$93)
- 4) Increase to \$400 per parcel
- 5) Increase to \$515 per parcel

The biggest criticisms of Measures A and C were that they had no expiration.

Please invite neighbors and friends who are not parents in the district to fill out the MPCSD Community Survey which was mailed to all registered voters in Menlo Park.

Stacey: We appreciate everyone's feedback with these difficult decisions. Bottom line is that we're working on the best outcome for the kids in our district.

## **School Updates**

### **Laurel** - Linda Creighton, Principal

We have a lot going on at Laurel with the new campus opening on Oct. 17th. It was a mad rush to get in. Construction crews and teachers all worked overtime to get the school ready to open. The new building is spectacular, and everything is going great. Collaborative spaces are being used as designed and expected. Everything is going smoothly and everyone is settled in.

### **Encinal** - Sharon Burns, Principal

The school counselor led a coffee talk on Nov. 2 for parents about the "Go-To 5" list of how students can calm their bodies and minds at school and at home. Spoke about healthy and unhealthy go-to strategies for parents as well. It was well received by school parents.

### **Oak Knoll** - No update.

### **Hillview** - Willy Haug, Principal

1. We had the Diary of Anne Frank performance last week presented by Hillview Drama.
2. Menlo Atherton Jazz Band came to visit, and the Hillview band will go to the MA football game to play this weekend.
3. Fun mock election activity co-run by ASB and our library. Students will be voting between Katniss Everdeen of the Hero Party and the Grinch, of the Villain party. Students have been making posters and campaigning, will be voting on Election Day. This has been a fun tool in teaching civility and civic responsibility.
4. On Oct. 20th, Belle Haven parent conferences were held at the East Palo Alto Senior Center. Approximately 26 families attended, with over 76 guests to discuss programming.
5. Faculty workshop was held on Wellness and Restorative practices: how to work with kids when disciplining. It was very helpful and well received.

## **PTO Updates**

### **Laurel** - Joe La Cava, PTO President

Laurel just had their Book Fair, and it was a success.

### **Encinal** - May Matsui, PTO Co-President

We also had our Book Fair, and it was very successful.

**Oak Knoll** - Tamara Russell for Janelle McCombs, PTO President

Oak Knoll also had our Book Fair. It is always one of the nicest community events at Oak Knoll. Also had a coffee talk during the Book Fair week for parents about student reading.

**Oak Knoll** - Christa West, PTO Vice President

We have been working hard to wrap up the Joint Campaign which ended today. Lots of excitement this morning on campus. All Oak Knoll teachers came out to the front of school to rally parents on the last day. Kristen also sent out a video message asking for community input and inviting parents to support Erik's meeting back on October 24th and 25th. The video was very successful with over 50% click-thru rate.

**Hillview** - Jody Buckley, PTO Co-President and Ashley Wagstaff, PTO Co-Vice President

No updates to add.

**Adjournment** - Kate Kennedy adjourned the meeting at 10:15am.