

Menlo Park District Council Meeting Minutes

Friday, May 6th, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 8:51am by Aarti Chandna, District Council Co-President.

Motion to pass April minutes – Aarti makes a motion to pass minutes. Claire Burks seconds the motion. All in favor. Motion was passed.

Treasurer's Report - *Gina Skinner*

Ending Balance as of May 6th, 2016 - \$13,837.83

PTOS need to file the S1-100 which is due June 30th

Finalizing the budget for next year

Re - Register for a new account for the CA Franchise Board

No programming costs last year and as a result we have quite a bit in the budget to carry over. Therefore the District Council would like to give back a small amount to each of the school PTOs and the Foundation for the Volunteer Lunches and Recognition awards. Gina Skinner wrote a check for \$500 to each school PTO including the Foundation. *Aarti asked if anyone had an objections. No objections.*

Approval of 2016-2017 DC Council

Deanna Schroder presents the Slate for the 2016-17 District Council

Officers (Term of office is one year, August 1-July 31)

1. *President - Kate Kennedy*
2. *Secretary/Parliamentarian - Janell Sanford*
3. *Treasurer/Administrator - Gina Skinner*
4. *Auditor - Stacy Dekshenieks*

Administrative Chairs (Term of office is one year, August 1-July 31)

1. *Recognition Chair - Jill Kispert*
2. *Directory Chair - Ken Wang*
3. *Community News Coordinator - Emily Robinson*
4. *District Lunch Program Coordinator - Desiree Vogt*
5. *Campaign Coordinator - vacant*

New District Council was approved by Arti Chandra motioning and Claire Burks, seconding the motion.

School Board, *Stacey Jones*

- The Parcel Taxes did not pass. We do not see that as a loss. Huge kudos to Jody Buckley and Scott Hinshaw for all their hard work.
- Measure A received 59.2% of the vote. Measure C - 53.8% of the vote. This is unofficial results so more will come in but there is a small chance
- 4760 votes were cast - about 30% of our voters.
- We are holding a Special Board meeting on may 10th at Encinal in small multi.

Important levers we need to pull to make our budget:

1. Revenue - go out for another parcel tax - which I personally feel that Nov is too soon to get this on the ballot by then.
2. Increased community giving - ask foundation to raise more money per pupil. The board will be directing the superintendent and Principals to look at the the parent giving. Examine scenario planning and how we can make our budget more understandable to the community. A lot of misinformation was passed through the online Almanac forums.
3. Compensation - will be another level. There is already a hiring freeze through the district. If we want to make up the \$6m then we need to cut teacher pay. There will be close scrutiny on expenditure.
4. Restructuring and increased class sizes - class sizes could go up to 31 students per classroom.

The time line will be determined on Tuesday at the board meeting. We've already delayed on messaging because we are uncertain about the process and what we are going to ask of the community.

Alka Gupta- It's not realistic to keep asking for more parent contributions.

Maurice - first of all Jody, everyone, thank you so much for all the work you have done. I've been going out and being there. Proximity counts. We are feeling a little down.

But there is no way we aren't going to persevere and keep going for our kids. There has been some mean talk and I wonder, who is talking about the kids. We've got to flip this energy into leadership, positive energy and I feel confident that the board and the leaders will ask the top questions and make this right.

Alka Gupta - one in the notion the we can't go out sooner. If we don't go out by November then the pink slips would go out in March. We need a clear enough understanding of why it didn't pass and then we need parent groups to rally the volunteer troops and get things organized by August to get the measure on the November ballot. We would need data analytics before Tuesday evening.

Stacey - We only have 26 days left of school to get the voter data and analysis that and then go back out to the community. I honestly don't know if we realistically have the time to get this done in time. Summer is a big restraint. There are two scheduled school board meetings in June. Our loss had more to do with complacency than anything else. Parents and teachers were not motivated. People didn't care enough.

Alka Gupta - The notion that the parcel tax deficit can be made up by parent contributions is a scary narrative. You have to wonder if that extra ask is worth the incremental. Incremental increases will stress the community before we ask again for the next parcel tax.

Superintendent and MPCSD Update - *Maurice Ghysels*

Bottom line -please come to the school board meeting this upcoming Tuesday night, May 10th. A couple of announcements, last night, Sharon and I and some Encinal teachers received the gold ribbon award. Leadership team is amazing. They are reimagining grades. Connected with mindset work and project based learning. With online mastery of learning like BaseCamp. Ultimately you will see report cards change to more evidence based rather than the classic grades. This is an evolution of what educators and teachers have wanted to do for over 100 years. How does a child feel about their mastery and how do we motivate them to take charge of their learning.

MPAEF Update, Alka Gupta Co -President

- Thank you Willy and Maurice for their ballad at the auction and thank you to all of you who were there. Auction made \$280k - Goal was about \$300k. We are happy to have gotten close to the goal.
- Next event is the School House Rocks 5k Run - goal is \$100k. Get the word out and buy tickets.
- We are at the final bits - support the Run, working on alumni and local business \$50k but we are asking for everyone's support.
- We will present our next board slate at the next MPAEF board meeting and the handover will happen in June.

School Updates

Encinal, Sharon Burns, Principal

- Last night we had the Gold Ribbon Awards ceremony
- Getting ready for Open house will have a gold balloon archway planned for the night.
- We held our Kindergarten Orientation
- We have mother/son camping jamboree coming up this weekend.
- Staff appreciation week this week. Brunch on Tuesday and Flower day.
- Science Fair last Friday night - 100 kids participate. Hillview Robotics Club were there.
- Spirit day for the Run is next Tuesday.

Hillview - *Willy Haug, Principal*

- Entering home stretch at Hillview. ASB elections and speeches with the students voting for their ASB board. Two rounds of voting and after next Monday we will have our 8th grade leaders.
- Talent show is tonight and tomorrow night. A faculty member (Maurice) will be performing.
- Next year we are introducing a Personalized Learning Academy - Vesuvius PLA academy - we are having an information night for this next Wednesday, May 11th 5:30-6:30 in the PAC. Lots of rumors going around. We want a platform that meets the need for everybody.
 - Myself, Mary Martin and five 6th grade teachers will be going to a training this summer at Summit. All the curriculum is within the platform. Still direct instruction and project based learning. The students can go in and take a preassessment and then the students who struggle with material and teachers get information on who is struggling.
 - Testing will be the same with same benchmarks will be the same. The methods of delivery will be different. Mastery based learning. 19 districts around the country are doing this PLP - Personalized Learning Plan.
- Friday 13th - 6th/7th grade dance and we have the Relay for Life afterward from 9-12 we have some Encinal 5th Graders coming over to walk as well.
- Open house is May 19th.
- 6th Grade Olympics, Decades Dance etc coming up.

Hillview PTO Update- *Kate Kennedy, PTO Co-President*

- We held our PTO general meeting yesterday. A few people, other than board members did attend. Getting ready for flower day, open house and volunteer luncheon all coming up.

Laurel - *Linda Creighton, Principal*

- Yesterday we held the 3rd grade Wax Museum, Pajama Day and Globetrotter's event in 1st grade - kids travel to different classrooms and learn about different cultures and continents.
- Preparing for SBAC's so we are trying not to stress out students at this grade.
- Grading - 4th grade has shied away from grading. How do we translate the feedback into the letter grades on the report card. We are happy the district is moving forward with the feedback. How to let the kids know that they are in a continuing learning and knowing their next steps with meaningful comments
- We are winding down the year and Spring Fling is coming up
- Mary Beckstrom, music teacher is retiring this year and Dawn Edergin, SLP is retiring this year as well.

Oak Knoll PTO Update - *Stephanie Chen, PTO President*

- Teacher appreciation was a few weeks ago. We made a change this year to that this year with our Flower day.
- Tonight is our Spring Picnic.
- Our Volunteer Luncheon and Recognition is coming up on May 20th when we will vote on our slate for next year.

Closing Remarks

Aarti Chandna, *District Council Co-President* adjourned the meeting at 9:55am.

Next District Council Meeting is Friday, June 3rd, 8:45am. TERC

June Snack- Laurel