

Menlo Park District Council Meeting Minutes

Friday, April 15th, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 8:51am.

Motion to pass March minutes – Deanna Schroder makes a motion to pass minutes. Jody Buckley seconds the motion. All in favor. Motion was passed.

Treasurer's Report - *Gina Skinner*

Ending Balance as of April 15th, 2016 - \$14,008.83

Couple of expenses this past month- District Council Awards were ordered

Reminders about \$100's to the PTOs

Looking at Budget for next school year 2016-17

School Board report on Measures A & C - *Jeff Child, School Board*

We have hired a company to conduct the school survey. Data will be better and more comparative, district and nationwide.

Parcel Tax - if that passes in May we will be in good financial shape for at least 5 years. We went out a year early because we are not like any other company. We can't just lay off people - you have to give them a pink slip by March 15th and then a final notice by May 15th if you don't you have to hire them again for the next year. We have not gone through the layoff process this year because we gave our self a year cushion to do this.

We think the right model is the model we have and that model takes money. Property taxes we can't control, Parcel tax is what is is so we can only change the Foundation Contributions. It would go up to \$3000 per child. Which is not a realistic answer.

So - we could cut programs -which is not a good idea. Art, Music, Foreign Language. 86% of our budget is employees - cut salaries. Also a bad solution. Will not be able to attract top teachers. The most important thing in the classroom is the teacher in the room.

Cut staff after that -which is going to increase classroom sizes. Numbers would be in the low 30s.

If the current Parcel Tax doesn't pass -then the board may decide to do another Parcel Tax next year.

Trying to get the district financed on a 5 or 6 year plan. There will be layoffs if this parcel tax doesn't pass. We are talking about 6 million dollars here.

Election has to be put on the ballot 90 days ahead of time. So we would have to get it out in August. We don't think we would be able to get community input in the summer to have something on the ballot in Nov. Special election in 2017.

MPAEF Update, *Alka Gupta and Calla Griffith, Vice President*

- Two more major event comings up - the Auction and the Run.
- Auction brings in \$300k and is held on April 30th - Catalogue is online only - There are 50 catalogues at each school for those who can't access the internet and need a hard copy. Raffle Tickets are next week - and the 21st by 5pm the online auction starts. You must register first but it will remember you if you signed in last year.
- Wild Wild West theme - tickets are \$100 apiece this year. And some of the Auction parties have been lowered to \$100 whereas in the past they were \$125 or \$130 last year.
- School House Rocks Run - May 22nd - early bird registration goes until May 1st. Working on getting corporate sponsors for the Run. \$500.00 for a family sponsor.

School Updates

Encinal, *Claire Burks, PTO Co-Vice President*

- We recently won the Gold Medal School - discussed How to celebrate that with the students - we are planning to celebrate that at open house.
- Science fair is coming up on April 29th
- Mother/Son Jamboree is coming up on May 7th.

Hillview - *Willy Haug, Principal*

- Mini Courses completed the week prior to spring break. School Only Different was the tagline. Students went to Yosemite, Washington D.C. Many switches were flipped for students who had a different kind of learning experiences.
- Math Teachers are at a National Convention for Local Mathematics in SF today. Picking up techniques that will support them in the classroom.
- 5th Grade new parent meeting this past Wednesday night. Over 20 teachers were there to talk about the courses and electives.
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- Online elective registration was rolled out last night - through Powerschool. Incoming 6th graders have started that process and incoming 7th and 8th graders will be starting that soon.
- Teacher Interviews - 5 rounds of interviews to begin with and next week we will invite some of them back to have a panel interview.
- 11 students from Bordeaux, France visiting the school for two weeks. Very exciting and fun - host families are taking them on little trips.
- Talent Show - tryouts this week. Will get our final slate of acts and the ASB 8th graders do a fabulous job.
- 27/28th of April we have two nights of Music Showcase -for the orchestra, band and choir.
- 8th graders are working on their decades dance. Our original date had a conflict with MA graduation so we moved the date.
- 6th graders preparing for Greek Olympics and learning the track and field events that is held in May.
- A few leadership positions coming up for incoming 8th graders - ASB and WEB leaders. Brian Darmanin and Robyn Watts have asked all the teachers to tap

certain students to get a more representation on students. They have to fill out applications, go through interviews before being selected.

- Danielle O'Brien is working with the Mary Ferguson, Menlo Park Police for a Bike Rodeo - so we are going to do this only for our 6th graders.

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

This week at our PTO meeting we had a surprise baby shower for Willy. Next Wednesday is the final staff luncheon.

Laurel - *Ellen Kraska, Asst Principal*

- We are Celebrating Pajama day at Laurel today.
- A Teacher College staff developer has been visiting Laurel School over the last month - we've been having reading workshops and working with struggling writers. Each teacher had 3 to 4 hours of professional development.
- Family Math night was held last week - activities, games and math stations for students and families.
- After this the Caring and Sharing families received Pizza and students got an iPad - initiated by Theresa Fox. Students shared with parents how they used iPads.
- Launched homework center - for reading writing and math. 20 students coming after school on Mon, Tues and Wed - staffed by a group of teachers and paraeducators.
- Golden Beams ceremony on April 1st - students came and signed names and message on the gold (yellow) Beams.
- Move in date to the new Upper Laurel Campus is set for October 17th.
- Held a Bike Rodeo for our 4th graders in the morning- gave out helmets and safety presentation. Atherton PD used a cantaloupe to demonstrate what would happen in a crash with and without a helmet.

Oak Knoll - *Kristen Gracia, Principal*

- Theme this year for our school is Connected - we have done a really good job at make sure we are focused on that theme. Our themes are developed because we look at what our kids need and what is really important.
 - We look at Healthy Kids Survey - we want kids to feel like they have a voice at Oak Knoll and feel connected.
 - 100% of the parents who filled it out for Kindergarten - said they feel connected with their teacher.
 - Connected to our community - Officer Ferguson is also connected to our school Club Fergy at lunch so the students can talk to them and they know they are here to help.
 - Encourage parents to work with kids and allow the kids pick an independant project they can do.
 - We have started a campaign to say Hi - and the kids gave encouraging words and sayings - on posters around the school.

- 5th grade music concert was last night - band, orchestra and ORF.

- We held our Science Fair this year - 250 kids volunteered to be in the fair. Kids wear the lab jackets, they collaborate, they explain their project etc. No one wins, they get feedback from the parents.

- We have a few teachers at Math Conference in SF this week as well.

- We had the teachers come together and discuss how they access students reading.

- Placement input form is going out today. We give our parent a chance to give their input. We feel parents are a part of that process. Kristen reads all of them.

- Parent Survey went out -the biggest Parent Ed need is Parenting in the Digital Age. We will be doing a big session from 7-8:30pm in May.

Closing Remarks

Erin Reyes, *District Council Co-President* adjourned the meeting at 9:59am. Next District Council Meeting is Friday, May 6th, 8:45am. TERC

May Snack -Encinal
June Snack- Laurel