

Menlo Park District Council Meeting Minutes

Friday, March 4th, 2016

The meeting was called to order by District Council Co-President, Aarti Chandna at 8:55am.

Motion to pass February minutes – Deanna Schroder makes a motion to pass minutes. Claire Burks seconds the motion. All in favor. Motion was passed.

Treasurer's Report - *Aarti Chandna speaking for Gina Skinner*

No financial activity for Feb. Gina is re-registering the California Franchise and tax board. New Budget discussions will start soon.

School Board report on Measures A & C, *Terry Thygesen, School Board*

The School Board would like to make sure that the District Council understand the history of the district and the roles of the Parent Teacher Organizations held in the past for these types of Measures.

Once the board votes to put the measure on the ballot, at that point the district is under a different set a roles for advocating for the Parcel Tax. The district resources, property, copy machines, or email can not be used to advocate for the campaign. If you do that, you have to let people who are opposed to use those same resources.

PTO's have a political role to play in taking a position on pending legislation that is of interest to their members in the education sphere.

The way they do this, is the leadership of the PTO drafts a Resolution to be discussed at a board meeting and then they would take a vote and then endorse (or not) the Parcel Tax measure. Ideally, you would want to have this as a general meeting and should be part of your regular business but should have significant time devoted to this measure. Once this is done, members of your PTO community can stand up and then advocate for the measure. Parents/community members are free to ask questions etc. When the PTO's do this, Maurice and the Principals should not be advocating but the members of the PTO can state their support or nonsupport as well as board members can also share their opinions.

I'd like to recommend that the PTO's put this on their agenda as soon as possible if they decide they want to address the parcel tax for their school constituency. Encinal parent, and co-Campaign Coordinator, Scott Hinshaw can be a speaker at any of the schools.

Can teachers living in the community support the resolution? The teachers union can have a union meeting and discuss this. Teachers can endorse personally and can send appropriate support messages from personal email accounts but not from their school accounts. But teachers shouldn't be doing things to be seen as overbearing or wearing "Yes on Parcel Tax" buttons etc.

For hiring purposes, you need to consider the best way forward considering the Parcel Tax Measure may or may not pass and when to commit to hiring new employees under these assumptions.

They are more likely to wrongly over project our revenue rather than under project. With measure A & C - the difference is 42 teaching positions. Average class size of 22 with Parcel Tax Measure A and C or 31 students per class without the passing of the Parcel Tax measures A & C.

Calla Griffith pointed out that our District parents represent only 15% of the constituents. The rest of the the Menlo Park constituents are not part of the MPCSD. We need to target all of the people in our community.

We need the vast majority of the parents to vote in order to get 2/3rds of a majority vote. That's why the PTO's need to get involved to educate the members.

Superintendent Update- Maurice Ghysels

Want to share our Strategic Directions Through Line Road Show - 2016-22

We want to stay focused and realigned but we also want to think creatively

- Teacher led thinking

Goals

Emotional - it's not what you say it's how they feel when you walk away

- Want people to feel confident and that we are on it.
- Create a comfortable environment for to receive bad news.

- Culture eats Strategy for lunch.
- It's the way we feel and how we interact that gets things done.

We are going to be using Gantt Charts to discuss the strategic directions.

MPAEF Update, *Calla Griffith, Vice President*

We are heads down preparing for the auction. Thank you to everyone in the room for donating. We are community of parents chose to give different things this year. Not a plethora of parties but one big Olympics. We are 85 items short than we were last year.

Catalog is going completely digital. We want to be more cost effective. Everyone else in the world is digital. But we have a few bare bones catalogues for families do not have access to technology. Not publishing the donor role in the catalogue.

Party has changed from California Dreamin at Holbrook Palmer Park to the Wild, Wild West to MacArthur Park April 30th. It's a sit down dinner for 250-300.

In process of nominating, and we have a co-president coming in. We have another week for nominations.

We have taken over the RUN and with that comes some changes. School House Rocks 5K will be held on May 22nd at Oak Knoll. We had a team go over to Hillview that talk to some students at Hillview to get feedback and so we changed the name and feel to represent.

Fundraising is doing okay. Are pledges have come in this year. Focusing energy on business, corporate, RUN and auction.

School Updates

Oak Knoll - it's Friends and Family Day at Oak Knoll so Kristen Gracia and the PTO are absent.

Hillview - Willy Haug, Principal

Highlights

- Apple Distinguished School - Apple came to visit last Friday and visited a bunch of classrooms and met with members of Tech team. Once you are an Apple Distinguished school what's the next step. How to make tech more about collaboration etc.
- Coming up in May, Hillview and the other 5 other 5 Apple Distinguished Schools are having a group meeting to collaborate and learn from each other.
- Dance show is this weekend. Dance is a new PE elective that started a couple of years ago.
- Music Man is in two weeks.
- March 11 - we are holding our Cardboard Carnival this will also be a No Tech Day during lunch.
- Mini Courses coming up. Meet and greet on March 14th to visit with the mini course teachers.
- Preparing electives for next year
- 5th graders are coming on March 22th
- 5th grade information night is April 13th -6:30-8pm

Laurel - Linda Creighton, Principal

Highlights

- **Spanish Immersion Lottery** - 24 spots in 3 classrooms - 48 spots in Laurel and 24 in Encinal = 72 students. The Lottery will be held this Tuesday, March 9th. Have 80+ currently in the lottery. Parents are notified by mail that day. Have 10 days to respond.
- We are coming up to end of 2nd trimester. Student assessment happening. Guest teachers are in so teachers can have some one on one with students to make these assessments. March 21st reports going home.

- Pop, Pop, Read- a-Lot challenge is happening now! Incentives for kids to read. It is a fundraiser though.

Encinal, Sharon Burns, Principal

Highlights

- The Music Man Jr. (Encinal and Laurel combined) tickets went on sale for staff today. Hardly any left.
- Kids will be doing a snippet to the students at Encinal and Laurel.
- Jonathan Coldoff - Technology Officer was at Encinal introducing Nearpod to some of our 5th grade students.
- Chores for Change campaign is coming to end. Money that we are raising goes to support a school in Redwood City.
- Really great Sadie Hawkins came with their Dad or other special significant adults.
- Mother/son camping fest coming up in May.

Closing Remarks

Recognition awards coming up. Kristin Seuell is in charge of that.

Aarti Chandna, *District Council Co-President* adjourned the meeting at 10:15am. Next District Council Meeting is Friday, April 15th, 8:45am. TERC

April Snack - Oak Knoll