

Menlo Park District Council Meeting Minutes

February 5th, 2016

The meeting was called to order by District Council Co-President, Erin Reyes at 8:56am.

Motion to pass January minutes – Deanna Schroder makes a motion to pass minutes. Erin Reyes seconds motion. All in favor. Motion was passed.

Treasurer's Report - *Gina Skinner*

Current balance is \$14,279.57.

Auditor's Report- *Stacy Deksheniaks*

We ended last audit July 31, 2015 with \$9,309.86. Over the last 6 months we took in \$5,279 receipts for a total \$14,588.86. There was a disbursement of \$298.29 which gave a balance of \$14,290.57. Currently, that is the balance in the account as of Feb 5th, 2016.

School Updates

Highlights

Laurel -*Ellen Kraska, Assistant Principal*

- Kindergarten families coming in for registration. Participated in Great Kindness Challenge last week. Student went through a checklist of challenges of ways to spread kindness.
- For Upper Laurel - the date to open the new campus has been Moving in October 17th into new campus. We been thinking creatively about how to accommodate the classrooms at Lower Laurel before they move over.
- School Site Survey went out on Wednesday. Already have 100 responses. Questions regarding 4th grade and K1 World Language Program.
- From 1-3 on Thursday, February 11th we have our annual Sweetheart Bake Sale to benefit the PTO. Kindergartners will be singing at Bake Sale.

Superintendent Update- Maurice Ghysels

- We have 60 people currently working on the Upper Laurel Campus. Laying the concrete on the second floor. Construction is very busy - the date we looked at was September 29th.
- Need to really look at traffic and how to stagger drop off and pick up to relieve congestion.
- April 1st is a Staff Development Day and we will be holding a Golden Beam Ceremony with the kids and parents. Cafe Zoe will come out to supply coffee etc and the kids are going to come out and write all over the iBeams at the Upper Laurel Campus.

Oak Knoll - Nicole Scott, Counselor

Highlights

Kristen is currently at an iPad Conference.

- Oak Knoll also participated in the Kindness Challenge. Cards were out on the playground that they could fill out. Made Free Hugs signs and walked around the campus. Watched a couple of videos.
- Community Service Fair - 10 Community service agents will be doing mini community Service Projects. My New Red Shoes is coming etc. Kids will learn about organizations and do a little project with them.
- Winterfest is tomorrow, Feb 6th. This is put on by Outreach Committee to strengthen the bonds of transfer students and families. Small group and fun event - 5-7pm.
- Hillview and Pinewood kids coming to help run the games.
- Held our first play last weekend given by the 3rd graders - The Lion King. Such a success.
- Science Fair online signups just started. And the fair is March 9 & 10 for 2nd-5th Grade.

- Today at 1:00pm we are having our Chinese New Year Celebration. Started as a Jeanie Ritchie Grant.
- KNOL (school radio station) just went through an upgrade and the kids are having a blast with the new equipment. The broadcast is in HD.
- Feb 24th is National Read- a- Loud Day. Open to any 3rd, 4th or 5th grader. Going into K-2 classes to read a book to the students.
- We believe strongly in Growth Mindset. A team of staff are going to the Learning and the Brain Conference and Oak Knoll will be one of the presenters.

Stephanie Chen, PTO President - I just want to add that Family Math Night last night at Oak Knoll. - was mellow, fun math activities set up on tables and the kids and parents can choose different activities. Very fun.

Hillview - *Willy Haug, Principal*

Highlights

- We presented our student of month awards today.
- ASB Spirit Week - Color for Causes over the next five days. The idea is raising awareness around social issues.
 - Today, Friday is wear Green Day - for Gender Equality Day. An 8th grader is working on her silver award for Girl Scouts and this day was proposed by her.
 - Monday wear Orange for - Copper's Dream
 - Tuesday wear Red -to support St. Jude's Research Hospital
 - Wednesday is wear Pink for Make a Wish Foundation
 - Thursday is wear Blue for the Thirst Project.
- Next week on Feb 9th at board meeting - Apple will come to present our award - Apple Distinguished school.
- Maker space electives will also be a highlight at the board meeting.
- Last week we had a close call with a bicycle and a car on Valparaiso.
 - The city will be putting in a lighted crosswalk. In the meantime we have put a crossing guard there at that corner until that time.

- Danielle O'Brien and Mary Ferguson at the MP Police Department are working on a Middle School appropriate Bike Rodeo event. The student wasn't at fault but we want to give the kids more opportunities to learn bike safety.
- Thank the foundation for approving the 3 Jeanie Ritchie Foundation Grants -
 1. The 3 Little Pigs - 6th grade Math project
 2. Wind Turbine project -6th grade Science teachers
 3. Watershed project
- Science Fair was held A number of students will be going forward to the Country science fair. Thank you to Mr. Espinoza for all his hard work.
- Started Master Scheduling- We have 322 incoming 6th grade students coming next year. Which is exactly the size of our current 6th grade.
- Hillview administering CAL Healthy Survey school wide. Available to the 5th-8th graders.
- Site Council goal is to increase a meaning adult relationship with students at school. Gives us great feedback on where are students are and how we can better serve them.
- Know that you are a target of advertising. Students are exposed to the media every day and we need to steer them to sites such as Common Sense Media.

Encinal, *Sharon Burns, Principal*

Highlights

- Science Fair coming up.
- ENTV - we have a new state of the art ENTV. Have been without it for 18 months.
- This month we had our Spelling Bee.
- This past weekend we had 100 participants at our Speech and Debate Tournament.

- Kids are working on Chores for Change to benefit a Redwood city school to pay for their field trip. We are already halfway to our goal Ends on March 11th.
- Cultural Arts Day was last week - celebrated the country of Brazil. Professor from Stanford came in to discuss the rainforests. We had steel drummers playing in the car pool area during drop off and, Samba Dancers came in and the kids played foosball.
- Tomorrow night we have the Sadie Hawkins dance. We have 17 Hillview students coming to help out.
- Second graders are performing a poetry event today.
- We are getting a turkey and some chickens to live here at Encinal. Mr. Ruth's class is looking forward to helping to care for these animals.
- Teachers are starting to prepare for Smarter Balanced Assessment.

MPAEF Update, *Alka Gupta, Vice President*

- We still have \$700,000 left to raise - \$130k from businesses, \$160k from alumni community, \$300k from auction.
- Very happy with Jeanie Ritchie grants - 18 given. 20-22 applications. Trying to get those who apply to be more on target.
- Auction is April 30th - items that can be auctioned off is Feb 11th. (*Wendy Horton, PTO President, Laurel School asked if the Feb 11th deadline for the Auction submissions could be moved out as she felt that there wasn't enough time to inform parents before the break.*)
- Are U IN Run is May 27th.
- Looking at Team and plan for next year.

School Board Update-*Stacey Jones*

- Special board meeting on Monday
- Renewal of the formal Measure C at it's current rate \$231 per parcel

- 2nd - Parcel Tax that 2938 students right now current enrollment and we anticipate growing by 213 students. \$220 per parcel to a cap of 213 students.
- No campaigning on Campus.
- Jody Buckley is our co-chair for the Campaign.
- All mail-in ballot - May 3rd, 2016.

Superintendent Update- *Maurice Ghysels*

Over the next 8-9 months we will be translating the Strategic Directions. That will be the focus of everything we do. We will be setting up a Road Show and visiting each of the school's, site councils, faculty, PTOs.

Closing Remarks - *Erin Reyes, District Council Co-President*

Thank you for bringing the food today Alka. There will be a short leadership meeting afterwards.

Erin Reyes adjourned the meeting at 9:55am. Next District Council Meeting is Friday, March 4th, 8:45am. TERC

March Snack - District Council
April Snack - Oak Knoll