

## **Menlo Park District Council Meeting Minutes -January 8, 2016**

The meeting was called to order by District Council Co-President, Erin Reyes at 8:50am.

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

### **Vote on Changes to Bylaws - Erin Reyes**

Michelle Box moves to approve the changes to section VI OFFICERS. Kate Kennedy seconds the motion. All in favor. Motion was passed.

Michelle Box moves to approve the changes to section VII ADMINISTRATIVE CHAIRS AND VII ELECTIONS AND REMOVAL. Gina Skinner seconds the motion. All in favor. Motion was passed.

Michelle Box moves to approve the changes to sections IX ADDITIONAL STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES. Stacy Deksheniaks seconds the motion. All in favor. Motion was passed.

**Treasurer's Report** - *Gina Skinner* - Ending balance \$14,279.57. Filed District Council Registry of Charitable Trusts Form RRF-1, Form 199N and Form 990N. Received insurance certificate, and January would be the time to file 1099s but we didn't have any so there's no need.

### **Strategic Directions**

#### ***Maurice Ghsyels***

Happy New Year everyone, welcome back! Next week we will have a soft launch of district and school website under software called SchoolWires. Several weeks later after the kinks are worked out we will have an announcement.

1. Content management is more timely and lively.
2. It will reframe to your smartphone.
3. Very pleased with the actual app.

Strategic Directions Operationalizing all the directions, focusing and aligning and planning, examining implementing for the next couple of years.

***Erik Burmeister***

We are currently developing a one pager graphic document of the Strategic Directions which will be posted on the website.

Each strategic direction begins with a “We Believe” statement and includes 5 -15 statements.

- Teaching and Learning
- Talent
- Wellness
- Vertical Experience
- Technology

In the future the school Principals will be evaluated based on the Strategic Directions. Teachers are going to be using them for their classroom goals, Board will evaluate Maurice and Erik using the Strategic Directions.

*Erin Reyes:* How will parents be asked to evaluate these Strategic Directions?

*Erik Burmeister:* We are going to be adopting a district wide survey (surveys have been done by site councils in past) Partnering with Panorama and every year will be surveying staff, students and parents. Questions will be centered around our Strategic Directions.

*Maurice Ghsyels:* The directions will be about Goals, Objectives and Measures. They will be smart and public goals that will provide data which will put us in the right direction for continued processes and improvement.

*Stacy Deksheniaks:* How are you prioritizing these?

*Erik Burmeister:* The Leadership Team and Feedback Team is working on this. Many of them have already started and will be expanded. Some things are beginning now, and some things are getting started later. For example regarding the Strategic Direction Wellness - positive behaviors and restorative justice. Hillview has already, over the last couple years begun to move away from being punitive and moving toward restorative justice.

## **School Board Parcel Tax Report- Jeff Child**

Focus group meetings came out positive. Had a group of five senior citizens and ten 40-50 year olds. People just want to hear more about keeping schools great and not about the money. The question we are now asking is should it be a single measure or two relative measures?

There will be another public meeting on January 19th which needs to be wrapped up by February 2nd.

Almanac had a nice lengthy article on the Parcel Tax. Was not in the online version but was in the paper version Wednesday, Jan 6th.

Thank you to Jody Buckley who has agreed to be the Campaign Co-Chair with Scott Hinshaw.

## **School Updates**

**Encinal** - Sharon Burns, Principal

### **Highlights**

- We have been working on restorative justice all year with the staff, and we have been circling up. We heard from a middle school Math teacher from Marin who is the restorative practice person in her district who talked about brain research and social isolation and how it feels the same as being physically threatened. Encinal has been working for the last couple of years with kids in our Flyte program, and we've even given them Encinal sweatshirts. So now Hillview will be giving them some sweatshirts.
- Our Staff Development Day was spent at PAMP Wellness Center - circling up. Teachers thought it was the best Professional development they've had in years.
- March 12 we are going to have some coaching.
- Today is the Encinal Spelling Bee.
- Encinal's Debate Tournament is coming up the last weekend in January.
- We will have some new student teachers joining us after MLK.

**Laurel** -Linda Creighton, Principal

**Highlights**

- Laurel is also on board with restorative practices. We are going to be training the full staff next year once we are at full K-5 staff we are will be ready to dive in.
- We are expanding with a new campus. On Monday the staff walked over from the lower campus to the upper campus. Ahmed gave us all a tour.
- We also began meeting with our visioning team which has drafted some guiding principles. Laurel school is the best place to spend your childhood. One that is going to stick is Collaboration. We will have a signature practice and our teachers have peer to peer observations throughout the school year.
- We have been researching grading practices and the 4th grade teacher team has committed to not give grades to their students. From now on, through 4th grade they will be focused on feedback. A student won't identify themselves as a B student, C student, etc.

**Hillview** - Willy Haug, Principal

**Highlights**

Good morning and happy new year.

- Our Staff Development Day was spent preparing the Mini Course Curriculum and budget. We have also been working on the SchoolWires website.

**Asset**

- Fun - music in quad today and ASB activities during lunch. Academy competitions reset every trimester.
- We are organizing a Caines Arcade - "no tech lunch and brunch day." Intramurals will be going on as well as the Cardboard arcade.

**Recognition**

- we hosted a special breakfast to honor all the College Bound students that received a 3.0 GPA or higher for the trimester. 43 out of 96 of these identified students earned the 3.00 GPA. Honor Roll certificates were sent out today and students of month were honored.

## **Character**

- Coping with stress within the PE class. Working on empathy and communication.
- We have a special assembly next Tuesday - "At the Table with Dr. King" It will be 45 minutes long and all students will attend.

## **Support**

- Restorative justice - this year we have diverted 9 suspensions with restorative circles. We've had 0 suspensions. All the 9 individuals had not been involved in behavior that had resulted in a suspension before.
- Reading for below level students. Recently we had a student who moved up from the System 44 program to the Read 180. We have students who are getting close to the mainstream class and we celebrate their move and help them with the transition.

## **Service**

- Silver Heart Service Team collaborated with ASB to run a toy drive. Random Acts of Flowers flowers are repurposed.
- Looking forward to Relay for Life - May 13th

## **Attendance**

- shoring up independent study
- 2014-15 - we had 244 students that had 3 or more trancies
- so far this year we have only 57 tardies
- last year total number of absences were 1258

## **Oak Knoll - Janelle McCombs, PTO Vice President**

In December, Oak Knoll had a farewell send off for Barb Snow who retired after 42 years with the MPCSD, 35 years as Oak Knoll's office manager. We put together a memory book. It was amazing -there were generations of families who were there to give her a send off.

## **MPAEF - Calla Griffith, MPAEF Co-President**

- We've raised \$3.3m and we've got another million to raise before June.
- Community outreach - people who have graduated from the district that have expressed interest to support as well as our local businesses.

- We have the Auction on April 30th. The theme is “California Dreamin” and will be held at Holbrook Palmer Park. We have a set amount of attendees at 300 people. Auction will be a buffet dinner and dancing. We are starting solicitations now without a solicitations lead. We really need someone to lead this - need someone really good with excel and managing the solicitations across the schools.
- The 5K Run is on May 22nd at Oak Knoll.
- Changing our website. The people who host the website have gone MIA so we are now in the process of transferring our site.
- We are starting our nominations for MPAEF - Alka is going to continuing to be the President and she is looking for a co-President.

The meeting was then adjourned at 10:20am.