

## **Menlo Park District Council Meeting Minutes - October 2, 2015**

The meeting was called to order by District Council Co-President, Erin Reyes at 8:45am.

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

### **Treasurer's Report**

Total funds available as of October 2, 2015 - \$14,534.57.

- Collected and deposited all Joint Campaign and District Council dues as Income during September.
- Please forward all reimbursement requests to Gina Skinner.

### **Auditor's Report - Stacy Deksheniaks**

The last audit ending balance was \$10,346.85. Since then there has been one disbursement of \$1,036.99 leaving us with \$9309.86. Balanced and audit finished. Next audit report expected at February meeting.

### **Wellness Update- Ginny Maiwald**

We now have Counselors at all sites. Psychs and Counselors had gender spectrum training. Adding employee assistance program with counseling services and legal support.

We should all take a minute to think about harvesting and composting.

### **School Updates**

#### **Oak Knoll - Kristen Gracia**

- This past month Oak Knoll 5th graders went on the Balclutha ship trip.
- There was a bike safety assembly which was a success so school is looking into doing more with that.
- Oak Knoll School was the school with most bikers in the entire county last year.

#### **Highlights**

- As part of the school's continuing Equity work, Oak Knoll had a professional development event with a speaker who is a Kindergarten

teacher in the East Bay. She spoke about what she does in classrooms to talk about same same and different. How to talk to kids about race and skin color. Students are reading about skin color in the library. Art class - kids mixing paint to celebrate skin color.

- Frank Sommerville, journalist and anchor of KTVU news came to Oak Knoll and talked to all the kids via the Oak Knoll TV channel.

### **Hillview** - *Willy Haug*

#### **Highlights**

- The preliminary version of the School Site Plan was submitted today.
- Hillview speaker Kim Carr - #ICanHelp delete negativity on social media. Students learn how to manage their social media profile. Two school assemblies were held. Exercises with students showing them first hand how negative social media can impact them for a lifetime.
- Two big blue posters put up this year around campus where students can give their input:
  - 1 - with positive messages to students from students.
  - 2 - I love my school - why Hillview is so great - program or teachers.
- This month we had - 39 students of the month. Selected for outstanding growth or having one of the 3 C's - Character, Collaboration or Commitment to Learning. They received a certificate, magnet and carabiner.
- Recently held a Club Fair at Lunch - over 30 clubs at school - more opportunities for teachers to work with students, coding club, police officers club, French culture club, etc.

**PTO Update:** *Kate Kennedy* - extra funds leftover from last year's PTO were giving to academic enrichment.

### **Laurel** *Wendy Horton, PTO President*

- Laurel is starting the project backed learning in social studies, implementing 6 weeks of a model in the upper grades.
- Cohesion Committee has started - one school/two campuses mindset.
- Site plan finished and submitted today.
- Teacher/Peer coaching and learning has been initiated.
- 21 after school programs this year.
- Specialist Showcases were last week, went very well.

## **PTO Update**

Membership team working on being really inclusive. Ashley Guilliot talked to the caring and sharing families about being a part of the PTO. 35 of the 50 families joined this year. Great success!

### **Encinal - Jill Vizas, PTO co-President**

- **Be a Student for the Night** went really well. Was better attended than last year.
- Encinal has begun the new Lucy Calkins Reading Workshop program. 8 teachers were selected to attend training and met the head of the reading program at Teachers College.
- Encinal is dedicating more money for classroom libraries. Celebrating reading.
- Fall family picnic was a great success. Added a bouncy house this year. Kids played bubble soccer and there was a dunk tank.

### **MPAEF - Alka Gupta**

- All campuses now have messaging/signs showcasing teachers and the 4 MPAEF initiatives.
- Doubling down on messaging - Dollar for dollar challenge - contribution matching program in October.
- MPAEF has collected \$1.6m which is about 1/3 of the total expected contribution.

### **MPCSD - Ginny Maiwald**

## **NEW STUDENT ATTENDANCE GUIDELINES FOR MPCSD**

New changes to our attendance practices due to school ranking based on attendance:

- Excused absences are **only** for student illness, student medical appointments, exclusion for failing to meet immunization requirements, student attendance at a funeral of one's immediate family, religious observance, court appearance, and shadow days.
- All other absences will be marked "unexcused."
- For absences longer than 3 days that are not related to the above "excused" absences MPCSD is offering an Independent Study Program. This will allow a student to be away from school equipped with appropriate educational curriculum and materials. Students in Independent Study will only have an "unexcused"

absence should he/she not complete the assigned Independent Study Program assignments. Otherwise Independent Study will not have an impact on your child's attendance record. To arrange an Independent Study Program for your child parents must contact the school office 5 days prior to child's absence.

### **School Board Update – Stacey Jones**

Great time in the district - it is a time of composting and harvesting. Working on cleaning house in the District. Working on strategic directions for 2016-2022.

- Tech
- Talent
- Teaching & Learning
- Wellness
- Vertical Experience - from pre k to 12th grade.

Parent and community input sessions are starting next week.

Working on long term financial planning - parcel tax Measure C (2010) will be sunseting in the spring of 2017. District has used that parcel tax money to deal with enrollment growth. Trying to look and see if we need to ask for another parcel tax. Parcel tax is passed by voters and used for school employees not buildings which is paid for by bonds.

Reviewing School Board policies - many have not been updated since 2003.

Migration team is working on new Website.

### **Meeting adjourned early at 9:55am**

Next District Council Meeting - Friday, November 6th, 8:45am, TERC

November Snack – Encinal  
December Snack – Laurel