Hillview PTO
Minutes of the Regular PTO Executive Board
Friday, September 15, 2023
8:30–9:30 AM
In-Person Meeting

PTO Executive Board Members 2023-2024:

Co-Presidents	Sarah Sobel & Sarah Thayer	Volunteer Coordinator	Maria Lemkuhl
Co-Vice Presidents	Katherine Bicer & Azadeh Rasmussen	Parent Engagement Coordinator	Amy Beim
Treasurer	Carolina Whitty	After-School Activities Coordinator	Tara Carranza Chapman
Vice Treasurer	Jory Macdonald	After-School Athletics Coordinator	Joyce Kanemitsu
Financial Secretary	Rachel Maclay	Parliamentarian	
Recording Secretary	Emily Moberg Robinson	Principal	Danielle O'Brien
Communications Chair	Rebecca Emery	Teacher Representative	Valerie Cypert Kara Connelly
Auditor	Anne Yeow	MPAEF Liaisons	Katherine Glass, Lindsay Nalevanko
Student Community Coordinator	Dolores Bernardo		

Present:

- Sarah Sobel, Jory Macdonald, Azadeh Rasmussen, Katherine Bicer, Lindsey Nalavanko, Anne Yeow, Dolores Bernardo, Carolina Whitty, Kara Connelly, Valrie Cypert, Amy Beim, Rebecca Emery, Katherine Glass, Maria Lemkuhl, Rachel Maclay, Danielle O'Brien, Sherwin Chen, Joyce Kanemitsu

Absent:

- Sarah Thayer

Agenda

I. Call to Order: Sarah Sobel

The meeting was called to order at 830 by Sarah Sobel

II. Presidents' Report: Sarah Sobel

Greetings and introductions

Parent Coffee - Fri 9/22

- 28 parents signed up so far; 8-9 AM

OCC Update
- Tracking below past years -- shorter campaign this year (school started a week later, and campaign will end at the end of the month)
- 100% participation goal; board members please make donations now
- messaging shift if necessary -- need to protect our teacher salaries (credentialed PE, librarians, etc.)
- Car line on the 26th
- One comp: Woodside asks $5500/student

District Council Update
- Brainstorm sessions with all the schools on how to address common pain points (carpool line, volunteer fatigue, hot lunch)
    - District considering helping out with hot lunch

Open exec board positions
- Parliamentarian position open: review bylaws; run nominating cte in spring

Open committee positions
- Newsletter: currently 2 editors; might be down to 1 -- need another
- Academy Lead: could use a few more in 7th, 8th
- District Speaker Series: looking for one more person; fewer and deeper events this year; will help on the team (not running this on your own)

III. Principal's Report: Danielle O'Brien

Staffing update
- Math teacher on leave; other teachers are helping fill in duties, including PT conferences
- Spanish 2/Spanish for Spanish Speakers teacher resigned; guest teacher right now, working to replace

8th-Grade football game
- As part of outreach, MA freshmen team is inviting HV, La Entrada, and Cesar Chavez 8th graders to watch their game on October 5

Parent-Teacher conferences
- HV conferences have always been a pain point -- very different from at the elementaries; many more students/teacher
- Previous system:
    - teachers contacted/scheduled select students first; then system opened up for everyone to sign up, and many families were not able to get slots
- This year:
    - parents will indicate which teachers they want to meet with and why, via a Google form (no more Canyon Creek)
        - teachers then will schedule conferences
        - Options for in-person, zoom, and phone conferences
        - Option to meet with one or multiple teachers
    - Hoping for more targeted and productive conferences
    - Students always encouraged to attend conferences
    - Want families to reach out of there's something going on at home that is not visible at school

IV. Teacher Report: Kara Connelly, Valerie Cypert

- *Thank you* for beginning-of-year $$ for classrooms, supplies -- bumped up to $350 this year

- Thank you for lunch; coffee cart for after BTS night
    - Veteran but new-to-district teacher: "Best welcome I've ever received"

- PE uniforms
    - Issue with vendor: many students have not received their uniforms yet
    - Looking into changing vendor for next year

- WEB Day
    - Thank you to PTO for supporting
    - New-to-school 7th and 8th graders were included in WEB Day this year -- excellent addition; suggest continue reaching out to/including these families during the school year

V. Treasurer's Report: Carolina Whitty

- Slide deck here
    - General PTO Account (Post Required Reserve Amount): $106,391.36
    - Sports PTO Account: $80,471.07 (this large number indicates great interest in HV sports programs!)
- Currently working to finalize budget
- Waiting to see what happens with OCC and will make adjustments as necessary
- Classroom funds: cash upfront to teachers; then they submit receipts
- New process for paying teachers for PTO-sponsored clubs, workrooms, intramurals
    - Last year: teachers turned in timesheets (including ones for non-PTO activity); it was hard to organize
    - This year: teachers will be paid for one club (10 meetings/trimester; at least 10 students) -- this will make it easier to manage

VI. School Board Update: Sherwin Chen

- Liaison with HV until December (6th year on board); thank you: PTO partnership are key for thriving students

- 2 board meetings so far (and Kristen Gracia's first year as supt); this is shaping up to be a big year for district with 3 big tasks

1. We're at the *6-year strategic directions point*: look at mission, vision, values and use them to decide what to focus on as a district
    - programmatic/pedagogical; financial -- where will we put resources
    - Supt Gracia really wants community input in this process

2. Security

- Last year: Guidepost came in and did an audit
- District made some easy fixes this summer: new check-in procedures, new gating, new signage
- Longer-term priorities
    - Emergency preparedness and training
    - Physical on-campus safety: camera systems
    - Cyber security
    - → Some of these are easy; some are very expensive and require $$ not in the budget so far

3. Refresh the *5-year facilities and maintenance plan*
   - In general, our schools are in great condition (we have annual funds $$ to maintain them well)
   - Some bigger projects will require bond measures
     - Outdated buildings and insufficient capacity: specifically Lower Laurel, HV gym
     - HVAC needs to be updated everywhere and now
       - Most classrooms do not have AC; weather is getting hotter and this is becoming a necessity → very expensive
     - Security investments
     - As we update, we have the opportunity to make schools greener and energy-efficient
     - Making these capital improvements will be a huge multi-million-dollar undertaking
       - → a new bond measure is a when, not an if -- maybe even next year
     - **Operational costs are funded by parcel taxes** (last year's parcel tax set the district up for the next 10 years); **capital investments are funded by bond measures**

Q&A
- MPCSD bond measure will not be coordinated with possible MA bond measure, although all stakeholders will be in conversation with each other
- Bond measures require a 55% threshold to pass (parcel taxes require ⅔); will be looking for campaign volunteers
- Enrollment:
  - Had been increasing annually, creating funding and capacity challenges
  - Recently: small decline; projected to be ~2500 students in the next few years (~2700 right now) -- EXCEPT
    - New TK program (boosts numbers a bit, but will stabilize)
    - Uncertain effects of housing development
  - Not actively seeking opportunities to purchase land for new building
  - Staff housing: open to opportunities with Meta, for ex, but not looking to build ourselves

VII. Community Building: Amy, Dolores
- More than 100 parents have signed up for interest groups!!
- Tabled brainstorming session until next time

VIII. Open Discussion
- Tabled until next time

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 AM

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Moberg Robinson
Hillview PTO Recording Secretary