Hillview Middle School PTO
Minutes of the Regular PTO Executive Board
Friday, October 20, 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: Amy Beim, Katherine Bicer, Sherwin Chen, Anne Yeow, Dolores Bernardo, Sarah Sobel, Jory Macdonald, Lindsay Nalevanko, Azadeh Rasmussen, Carolina Whitty, Emily Moberg Robinson, Katherine Glass, Joyce Wong, Rachel Maclay, Kara Connelly, Sarah Thayer

Absent: Valerie Cypert (it was Kara's month), Maria Lemkuhl

Agenda

I. Call to order: Sarah Sobel and Sarah Thayer

- meeting called to order at 8:34 AM

II. Presidents' Report: Sarah Sobel and Sarah Thayer

- Open exec board positions: Parliamentarian
    - Really need for running nom-com in the spring

- Open committee positions: Newsletter
    - Currently have 2 people, but Monica Bosch is moving up to district office

- General Meeting Nov 17
    - Parent social coffee from 8-830 (please come!!); General Meeting at 830 (both in PAC)

III. Approval of Minutes: Emily Moberg Robinson

- September 23 Executive Board Meeting minutes
    - Motion to approve: Sarah; seconded: Katherine
    - Approved

IV. Principal's Report: Danielle O'Brien

- Staffing update
    - Monica Bosch is moving to DO; Carolina Flores is taking over Office Manager role – has done a lot to build community with paras; great at bringing people together; lots of experience
    - Sophia Duffy: new Sp 2 + Spanish-for-Spanish-speakers teacher; just graduated from UCLA; she was in MPCSD's first Spanish Immersion cohort

- Site plan
    - The site plan was approved on Thursday 10/19/23
    - Themes of district: academic precision, strength-based approach, sense of belonging
    - Site Plan Actions (a little less detail) are available here

- Parent-Teacher conferences
    - New process this year – Danielle has gotten no complaints (unlike in previous years with Canyon Creek tool)
    - One suggestion: how about including an option for a quick check-in or email, as opposed to a formal conference

- Food For Thought: parent brown-bag lunch with Principal O'Brien: Wed Nov 8, 1230-130:

- Parent circles are going well

- Principal O'Brien went to Jennifer Wallace's talk, sponsored by SUHSD Parent Ed
    - *Never Enough: When Achievement Culture Becomes Toxic and What We Can Do About It* -- culture of achievement, anxiety
    - very interesting, especially in context of MPCSD's double compacted math program
        - 100 6th graders taking double compacted this year (out of 300 students total)
            - opened the class up to all students this year, instead of having it be invite-only, as in the past
            - → PTO discussion of various experiences with and feelings about the double compacted math pathway

V. Teachers' Report: Kara Connelly

- Teachers appreciated the food during conference week
- Thank you for PTO classroom funds
- Message to teachers from Katherine Glass, who sits on the Jeanie Ritchie committee: grant apps this year were great, and in particular, there were some excellent HV ones; recipients will be announced soon

VI. Auditor's Report: Anne Yeow

- Auditor's report available here
- 6-month report
- $284,270.69 total assets as of August
- Everything looks good
- There are no uncleared checks (thank you, bill.com)

VII. Treasurer's Report: Carolina Whitty

- Treasurer's report available here
- Spending surplus: $106,391.36 (this is after the $36K required reserve) – we will split it up over the next 4 years to boost us until donation numbers come back up
    - As opposed to past years' 'spend it all right now' philosophy

- Income: expecting around $141K
    - **Academic enrichment:** about $17K over; Carolina and Danielle reviewed this

    - **Program support:** some deletions from last year
        - 8-th grade party: at the end of COVID, the board voted to sponsor the party to make up for 2 very difficult years that cohort had gone through (moreover, many PTO donations weren't getting spent during the shutdowns, when programs/events traditionally sponsored by the PTO could not be held)
        - There are some ideas being floated about community-building events for whole school – that could use $$

- **Technology/Operations**
    - A little over because of additional tax preparation expenses

- **Pass-Through:** zeroed, as income offsets expenses

- Budget Approval: need preliminary executive board approval right now, and then will present the budget to the gen mtg in Nov
    - Motion to approve: Emily
    - Second: Sarah S
    - Unanimous approved

VIII. School Board Update: Sherwin Chen

- Academic achievement report
    - The Board reviewed this past year's SBAC results: pretty much the same as last year
        - ELA: 80% meet/exceeded (down 1% from last year)
        - Math: 78% (up 1%)
        - District-wide: down 4-5% from pre-COVID high-water mark
        - State context:
            - ELA: 46.7% (down .4%)
            - Math: 34.6% (up 1.2%)
        - Why?
            - Nationwide trend
            - The district and the board have been very conscientious about focusing on well-being in the past 2 years – including messaging 'don't sweat the SBAC' to parents and students. Some students may have taken this message very seriously.
            - Supt Gracia will be employing a slight tone change going forward…
        - What's next?
            - Procedural assessment for all children who achieved below-grade-level scores: the district compared their SBAC scores to their benchmark scores
                - a good percentage were making their benchmarks
                - The students who are below in both SBAC and benchmarks: teacher intervention
            - Math
                - piloted strength-based assessment program last year (help teachers disaggregate different steps in a problem and identify which element the student is having trouble with)
                - This now will get rolled out across the district
            - ELA
                - focus on getting district-wide instruction for teachers on fundamentals of reading AND how to take apart more complicated texts – ie very targeted
                - Goal: improve pedagogy, not SBAC scores

- Overall:
    - Local benchmarks are about individual students; state testing is about systems
- PTO discussion:
    - Would be interesting to compare our data on academics and social/mental health with places that didn't shut down during COVID

IX. Community Building Update: Amy Beim and Dolores Bernardo

- Dolores: Met with Chris Gumbrecht – ASB teacher – and Johnna Becker(AP) with a proposal to host another Sportshouse event that includes more inclusive activities (for ex art stations), and maybe even transportation
    - Chris will take PTO proposal back to ASB

- Amy: working with Dolores and ASB to plan more community-building social events (potential events: family bingo night; family movie night that includes a social aspect)

X. Open Discussion

XI. Meeting Adjourned: Sarah and Sarah

Bylaws:
https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1680769346/districtmpcsdorg/mmpuinwdjp3za55szjdw/2020-21_Hillview_PTO_Bylaws_-_approved_31221.pdf

Standing Rules:
https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1680769284/districtmpcsdorg/bvgce7t948ne88qkt5dp/2020-21_Hillview_PTO_Standing_Rules_-_approved_31221.pdf