Menlo Park City School District Council
Meeting Minutes
October 27, 2023

Location: MPCSD TERC, 181 Encinal Ave, Atherton, CA

(In Person only; no Zoom option)

In attendance: Jill Vizas,May Matsui,Andrea Nudd, Kristen Gracia, Krista Rosa, Parke Treadway, Sharon Burns,Danielle O'Brien, Linda Creighton, Carrie Chen, Suzanne Yonkers, Eleanor DeJong, Sarah Sobel, Katherine Bicer, Erin Reuther, Melitta Stevens, Laura Low Ah Kee, Francesca Segre

8:45 to 9:15 — District Council Business

8:47 AM Call to Order–Jill Vizas, DC President

Welcome and Treasurer Update - Jill Vizas, DC President

- The current Treasurer, Raymond Win resigned. We are in process of getting a new Treasurer on the Board.

Approval of September meeting minutes—May Matsui, DC Secretary/Parliamentarian

- Andrea Nudd motioned to approve; Melitta Stevens seconded. The Minutes are approved by vote. Motion passed.

Speaker Series Update — Parke Treadway/Hilary Allen, Programming Co-Coordinator

- Speaker series was great, not a big calender this year. Be A Man movie –made by teens, and will have some of the teens on the panel. The next one will be on Jan 31st. John Paye is in the video and has agree to be a panelist.
- Next big speaker series event need a big athlete to be a panelist–to discuss boys and expressing their emotions in our society. Puberty talk event is in Feb via Zoom, but all other series will be in person.

8:55 am to 10:10 am — Updates

8:55 AM One Community Campaign Update —Krista Rosa,OCC Co-Coordinator

- Last day of campaign goal data. Huge improvement, MPAEF at 95%, Encinal is 99%, Laurel 102.1%, Oak Knol 110%, HV 105%

- more people are donating to Benevity. Suggesting breaking campaign down–revamping. We never told people how much we are raising. Next year, we need to tell people to raise $4mil next year.
- They will meet in Jan to discuss the MOU.
- Happy hour on Nov 8th to celebrate the accomplishment! Nov 7th OCC meeting is still on.

MPAEF Update —Suzanne Yonkers,MPAEF Co-President

- 95% of the goal is met but they are still $160K short. New money coming in would be from corporate matches, and we don't know it's coming.
- Upcoming events: Sport Basement events Dec 4th-10th, proceed comes back to Foundation, Winewalk Dec 2nd in downtown MP, Giving Tuesday Nov 28th (this support endowment), 20th anniversary of endowment and asking for $20 for every staff to receive professional development (361 teachers). Saturday March 9th at Upper Laurel for MPAEF annual party.

9:06 AM–9:46 AM

Principals & PTO President Reports:

- Proposed Topic to PTO/Principals: Please discuss one highlight from your School Site Plan that you plan to implement this year during the Share-Around: Encinal, Hillview, Laurel & Oak Knoll Schools
- Site Plan background/definition: : the legal compliance document that has to go to the state is not require anymore but it's best practice to be transparent. Facilitated by the Site Council with principals. LCAP -Local Control Accountablility Plan (control by the state) sets the priority from state and require schools to set goals in certain areas such as academic achievement, parent engagement, etc. If anyone is interested in these Site Plans (80 pages), they are online. Principals are able to distribute their plans to their staff or anyone interested. Note: board meetings are recorded too. Belonging will continue to be a focus, and strength based approach, really harnessing to see what works well for kids. Also about recognizing importance of being mindful of the educator's impact on the kid's educational growth.
- Each principals will share one thing from their Site Plan around belonging.

Encinal Elementary, Sharon Burns, Principal

- One of LCAP's goal is supporting families of English learners. Encinal hosted a coffee event with families of english learners. English learning families are strategically placed in classroom with other kids in the same language. First family of english learner event, one family shared their story to Sharon and she shared it with DC. This family was from Korea, and they gave their kids their American name in order to assimilate in

America. This family had a daughter who was in Kindergarten stated she didn't want her American name. Their other daughter in 5th grade wanted to keep her American name. Overall, the family really appreciate the work that Encinal school is doing with "belonging". The power of a name…is really profound. The power of using children's literature to teach. Every kids in the whole school read the book in Encinal and at Laurel.

- Next book is "my bindi"--this kid was excited to see a book that she can relate to in a book. All books are funded by Jeannie Ritchie grants and by PTOs!
- Community Reads–4 books a school year, the whole school reads it these books!

Laurel Lower Campus, Linda Creighton, Principal

- Lower campus teacher have develop PBL units/standards are matching social studie/social justice standards. The students go deeper to represent who I am and create a Flag to represent them, Kids learn social justice standard with flags representing themselves. Kids interviewing their families around heritage and being proud of who they are and be able to express their identity to have a strong sense of belonging. Authentic and meaningful work with programming and ways to integrate social justice. These projects are developed by these instructional coaches. Instructional coaches are amazing!

Hillview Middle School, Danielle O'Brien, Principal

- Hillview's sense of belong is opposite of elementary. Goal #6 on site plan was around parent engagement. Action item was to create a parent engagement role on the PTO level…she sent out survey to parents. Parent engagements at different times of the days, socials have been a big hit, 11 parent social groups (hiking club), over 100 parents express interest in social groups, working with ASB to do community events with parents/students (disco bingo) and working on leadership. Parent coffee had 60 people and everyone stay to watch Hawk talk and stay and watch questions.

Oak Knoll Elementary, Meredith Nonnenberg,PTO President

- Taking the sense of belonging into the whole community, including parents and not just students. Trying to be more strategic with movie nights, sports night and do things at different hours for different segments of parents. Last night, they had pre-party event for english learner family and extended to ALL international families. Connecting families from other cultures to connect and had over 100 families showed up. Looking at afterschool athletic programs. Refocus the lens for students and parents. Mood meter in all classrooms and in gym (social emotional focus) and making sure people are feeling seen.

9:54 AM

Superintendent Update, Kirsten Gracia, Superintendent

- Parke and Kristen met with a parent group which includes Isrealies and Palastinan. They discussed focusing on HOPE at upcoming principal meetings and hope to lift up PEACE, HOPE, and LOVE.
- Hotlunch update: Jamie Barren,Marita, Debbie went to have a meeting with Lunchmaster. They decided that our system is the most heavy in terms of labor. Proposed a hotlunch plan in January to start a new system in HV and try it. Current hotlunch system is ordering online per kids per school. This is not what other schools are doing. Most school does bulk ordering. Bulk ordering through the Lunchmaster provide a variety of every entrees for the students, and kids show up and pick up what they want. The kid scanned the lunch. This will cut down a lot on the labor. If we do this, then Debbie will coordinate this for everyschool and your PTO volunteers canl focus on helping out hotlunch. The vision is that this will cut down the labor. The goal is to take the heavy lifting off the volunteers and they can focus on showing up and serving lunch. Alicia is piloting to have 5th graders to help out. By the end of this school year, we will implement this bulk ordering for lunch for all schools.
- Kirsten's vision for Farm to Table Schools: She will visit schools that have full blown gardens that the kids are engaged in all the works and feeds the entire districts for lunch. Lots of connection of belonging with gardening, nurturing our kids, the kids make the food and sit down to eat together. It makes a difference when the kids grow their orwn food.
- Strategic vision: Parent round tables, tons of survey data came back and it's guiding the planning for next steps.
- Parallel to strategic planning is facility planning. Now getting back to focus on facility planning and recommendation that we will need a BOND to further out future planning. Target to get a Bond in Nov 2024–focus on facility needs. Will be presenting in Nov 2023 for BOND for next year. Areas of need are safety and security, building and facility, technology and structure, and energy.
- Safety and security–all intercom call does not go to every room. Our all call is 30 years old at Encinal, but we need an all call system that reaches every room. Analog phones need to be update. Fire alarm works but way out dated and need an update. Expand our surveillance camera and card key entry for entire staff for the whole schools. We can lock everyone in the whole school when needed.
- Terms of building and facility; Laurel building need updated, HV locker/gym need update, gyms at all the elementary schools need updated. Infrastructure in grounds are over 30 years old (Cat 5 currently), energy–are we getting the most

out of our solar? Every school is require to have solar and battery back up on all new schools. We have multiple avenues of grants, money for feds/states for line of revenues that can pay for some of these items. What do we cover and what can bonds covers.

9: 46 AM

School Board Update, Francesca Segre, School Board Vice President

- Board looked at all the school site plans, plans 92% teacher retention, but still harder for recruitment, bring our kids higher post covid, taking early learning center from 2 year olds (pilot). CA voted on Prop 28 (Arts and Music funding) and will go toward theater programs at the schools. We must seek to understand each other not promote hate. All the work around identity and ownership is really important in order to not spread hate. Schools need to be a safe space for all kids and make sure we are educating our kids.

10:17

Adjournment

Next Meeting date: Friday, January 12, 2024