

Menlo Park City School District Council

Meeting Minutes

March 1, 2024

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

(In Person only; no Zoom option)

In Attendance: Jill Vizas, May Matsui, Teresa Kwon, Andrea Nudd, Krista Rosa, Allison Jagtiani, Kristen Gracia, Parke Treadway, Sharon Burns, Danielle O'Brien, Linda Creighton, Alicia Heneghan, Alicia Payton-Miyazaki, Carrie Chen, Suzanne Yonkers, Allison Carlson, Eleanor DeJong, Katherine Bicer, Julie Hartstein, Meredith Nonnenberg, Laura Low Ah Kee, Francesca Segre, Sherwin Chen

8:47 am to 8:56 am— District Council Business

8:47 am

Call to Order - May Matsui, DC Secretary

Welcome and Vote for OCC Co-Chairs and Communication Chair- Jill Vizas, DC President

- Election of OCC Co-Chairs for 2024-25 (Krista Rosa and Sarah Sobel) and OCC Communications Chair for 2024-2025 (Jessica Gilmartin) Eligible to vote: Board members, Superintendent, Principals and 1 rep from PTOs or MPAEF. Unanimous vote approved.

Approval of January 12th, 2024 Meeting Meetings — May Matsui, DC Secretary

- Danielle O' Brien motioned to approve; Allison Jagtiani seconded. The Minutes are approved by vote. Motion passed.

Mid-year Auditor's Report - Andrea Nudd, DC Auditor

- There's only one activity from August 2023 through January 2024, which was a deposit of \$4750 on 12/1/2023 which was DC dues collected from all schools except Laurel. No discrepancy with the general ledger and the bank statements.

Treasurer's Report and Budget Recap — Teresa Kwon, DC Treasurer

- The transition was not efficient. Refer to the Treasurer's report. Check sent in January and deposit in February. Tax filing fees were collected.

8:56 am

Speaker Series Update-Parke Treadway, MPCSD Public Information Officer

- Project Cornerstone coming up. April 3rd in the evening about Social Media. Safe Space will also be there with a teen perspective. Look for it in newsletters coming up.
- The District is doing strategic visioning surveys, such as Sequoia USD.

8:58 am

Community News Update — Jill Vizas, DC President

- Julie Hartstein will be a PTO president next year and cannot continue this role. It's been hard to find replacements and lots of complaints. Other districts do not provide these services and we seem to be one of the schools that are more inclusive of this role. Julie has to set up expectations for people on what we will accept.
- Kristen—proposed opening it up for discussion. Run is in the newsletter to see if anyone has an interest in taking on this role.
- Action item: Run it in the newsletter and talk about it next time.
- Parke will work with Julie to put a message in the newsletter before the slate for next year.

9:09 am to 10:17 am— Updates

9:09 am

One Community Campaign Update — Krista Rosa, OCC Co-Coordinator

- 101% of our dollar goal met. PTO campaigns are going great. The MPAEF campaign is not there. More people donating at PTO levels and not at the Foundation level.
- At the end of the campaign the MOU gets updated.
- Looking ahead, given OCC is 5 years old now and has been through a world pandemic. People are not giving like they used to. Large donors have moved out or graduated. Donations are at a standstill; marketing needs to evolve. The 4 million we need to raise, and we get 60% vs 100% donations.
- Possibly moving the high donor event in the Spring instead of in the Fall. Ask people to donate more and we might try to do a more aggressive ask.
- Sarah Sobel will be her co-chair next year.

9:14 am

MPAEF Update —Suzanne Yonkers, MPAEF Co-President

- All PTO made goals, but not Foundation.
- Hoping to raise a lot of money at auction on the 9th. The last day to purchase Auction tickets is today, 3/1/24.

- Funding needs this year will be for Student As Scientists. We need to raise \$100,000 for this project.
- Fund a Need project this year is based on academics and not art.
- The funds will help bring in speakers/Scientists to speak at class level. It also supports the Robotic and new engineering kit.
- Reminders for PTOs and Principals; the online auction is from Tuesday-Friday. A message will go out to PTO/Principals to send out the messages that day about the auction.
- Silent/Live auction will be at the parties.
- The Run event will start after the auction. Registration opens on March 20th. Looking for families to sponsor the event and help offset the cost of the run.
- Another item—Friends of auctions—extend a private invite on April 24^t to invite past board executives.

9: 33 am

School Board Update — Sherwin Chen/Francesca Segre, School Board VP/President

- There are issues at other schools /districts outside of MPSCD with anti-semitic issues. It's not happening here because the leadership here was ahead of the issues/ For example, Kristen let everyone speak out on the topic at the beginning of the events. This District is getting in front of the issues, there's a lot of transparency, there's a lot of communications. Other districts have an absence of this.
- These are very active and proactive directions from the Superintendent/Administration that focus on everyone belonging here and building up the schools.
- Also—Kristen takes one-on-one meetings with parents and principals. The counseling team at HV saw a decrease in mental health issues because we are doing things differently and it matters.
- The February newsletter was great and focused on one-on-one counseling meetings with parents and principals regarding topics related to hate speeches. The site leaders and that team have the security to put it out there.
- At Hillview, whenever there's an issue, a communication will go out to the parents/community immediately. We want people to know when these situations arise and clear communication needs to go out.

9:26 am

Superintendent Update--- Kristen Gracia, MPSCD Superintendent

- The upcoming School Board meeting, the District will be presenting a presentation to the Board that will be focused on the strategic direction, mission, and core values of the District. First time getting Board input. High-level draft presentation-quality vs quantity-focused vision.
- 3 Priority areas focused on: 1) belonging 2) strengthening academic cohesion across district/across schools with an emphasis on quality programs and not quantity /SEL training for staff 3) Creating a learning environment that inspires (facility planning at schools/district).

9:41 am

Follow-up discussion on After School Athletics

Hard to find volunteers for afterschool sports. Please feel free to mention any improvements your school has made this year that has helped alleviate the pain point around the large number of volunteers needed for after school athletics and/or any changes you'd hope to see in the future.

Oak Knoll PTO—Meredith Nonnenberg, PTO VP

- Hard to find and fill the Commissioner/Administrative volunteer roles. Pain point/pressure on the administrative side and would love feedback from other, especially from Hillview.

Danielle O' Brien, Hillview Principal

- The biggest thing that they did was hire an Athletic Coordinator paid by PTO. This person is a current teacher and campus liaison as well. This teacher connects closely with the PTO and school administration. Have parents give draft ideas but the PE Teacher will balance it out with final decision.
- Per Kristen—PTO program and not district program, ran it by legal.
- Note that Hillview has 36 basketball teams. This is a lot more than most schools. PTO pays a stipend to staff members to run the afterschool program. Pay \$5000 per trimester. PTO manages all the sports passthrough fees. Joyce said the coaches recruited high school coaches. She favors these versus overpaid coaches. It's a lot of different sports at one school.

Julie Hartstein, Laurel PTO President

- It's ideal to have several resources to handle the after-school sports. Instead of it being a one-person role, it's more like a three-person role.
- Best practices for them are to recruit coaches earlier and eliminate Head and Assistant Coach titles, and just do Co-Coaches.
- Also, have shared practices instead of individual practices.

- Incentives coaches if they have kids.

Allison Carlson, Encinal PTO President

- Paid coaches are less personal but it alleviated the volunteer coaches.
- Volleyball had paid coaches vs basketball volunteer coaches. The kids practice with other teams. But it's not sustainable for basketball teams. Also some kids are on the waitlist instead of building the teams first.

10:00 am

Principal & PTO President Discussion

- *Theme: District Awards/School Awards*
- *Discussion of Budget/Award Guidelines*
- *Please be prepared to tell us what your school thinks about the current budget of \$1,000, how guidelines might be changed, and successes, any pain points*

Linda Creighton, Laurel Principal

- Golden Oak—should it be title “exemplary parent volunteer” instead of individuals.
- SSA—does everybody track their SSA recipient over the years?
- Golden Oaks—can this be moved to a district role? Should this be HV exiting away or those moving away?

Meredith Nonnenberg, Oak Knoll PTO President

- Oak Knoll created their own “Golden Otter” award. How does each school feel about creating their own Golden Oak mascot award?

Kristen Gracia, MPCSD Superintendent

- Proposed that Golden OAK is only for retiring staff (District award). All schools will do their own Golden Oak award. All agreed.
- Recommended that we try it out for a year without Golden Oaks for District Award and not for school.
- Budget of \$1000—can we increase it by \$1000?
- HAS/CSA—can we limit it to 2? Do we have funds for 50 awards? If not, let limit it to 2. The focus is about the recognition.

10:17 Adjournment

Next Meeting:

Friday, May 3, 2024