

Menlo Park City School District Council

Meeting Minutes: *September 6, 2024*

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

In attendance: Kristen Gracia, Erin Reuther, Sharon Burns, Laura Wiggs, Teresa Kwon, Allison Jagtiani, Parke Treadway, Azadeh Rasmussen, Danielle O'Brien, Melitta Stevens, Alicia Payton-Miyazaki, Tosin Falasinnu, Julie Hartstein, Carolina Navas, Francesca Segre, Sherwin Chen, Laura Low Ah Kee, Francie Maletis, Sarah Sobel, Krista Rosa, Carrie Chen, Jen Baskin, Eleanor de Jong, Anand Gupta, Jammie Behrendt, Willy Haug, Christina Carrier, Kathia Camacho Lopez, Stacey Shirer, Adrienne Maracha, Marites Fermin

District Council Business

Laura Wiggs called the meeting to order at 8:47 am. Erin Reuther welcomed everyone; all members introduced themselves. Next, the Council voted to approve the May 31 meeting minutes. Minutes were approved.

Teresa Kwon, Treasurer, gave an update and noted that expenses are expected to be the same as in past years, approximately \$5,500. Anand Gupta, Auditor, noted sufficient documentation for all expenses.

Melitta Stevens noted that Community News will start in all newsletters on September 8.

Parke Treadway gave an update on the MPCSD Speaker Series: three big events are in the works, including an October event that will focus on how to leverage diverse literature in the home.

Superintendent Update

Kristen Gracia shared that MPCSD had a smooth opening due to strong partnerships with site leadership; that all District work this year will be anchored to our newly-launched vision; and she finished by noting that our facility planning work is designed to bolster quality schools that are safe and secure. Further discussion ensued.

Kristen then presented her Cabinet members; each introduced themselves and their departments - Jammie Behrendt (Educational Services), Willy Haug (Technology Services); Stacey Shirer (Student Services); Adrienne Maracha (Human Resources); Christina Carrier (Superintendent's Office); Kathia Comacho Lopez (Maintenance, Operations and Transportation); Marites Fermin (Business Office).

School Board Update

Francesca Segre, Board President, and Sherwin Chen, Board Member, discussed the urgency of the facilities bond (Measure U) that will appear on the November ballot, and acknowledged that strong schools create strong communities. Discussion ensued.

One Community Campaign Update

Sarah Sobel and Krista Rosa stated the campaign is going well and raised \$1 mil of its \$3.75 mil goal last week. Campaign ambassadors are showcasing how our District stands out from others, and they were thanked and acknowledged. Further discussion ensued.

MPAEF Update

Jennifer Baskin and Carrie Chen are working on a philanthropic donor event. Discussion ensued. They also highlighted the Jeannie Ritchie Grants, for which applications are due Oct 4, and will send out further information to site principals on how staff can apply. They also clarified that staff members can donate directly to their site's PTO, instead of the OCC, if they do not have children in the District and wish to donate.

Principals and PTO Presidents Reports: *Back to School Highlights and Challenges*

Highlights: Sharon Burns highlighted Encinal's *Community Reads* program which uses literature as a means to explore identity, among other topics, as well as a bracelet/keychain-making activity for students to create something tangible that expresses their identity. Danielle O'Brien stated that Hillview's bulk ordering lunch system is a huge success; fewer volunteers are needed and the lines are running quickly. Alicia Henegan (ULRL) said her site rolled out free childcare for families at BTS night and it was well received. Linda Creighton is hoping to scale it to LLRL next year. Alicia Payton-Miyazaki acknowledged a large new family cohort at OK this year, and said the site is creating events to welcome them to the school.

Challenges/opportunities: Schools (LRL and OK) noted challenges related to volunteer fatigue, specifically around how to grow and sustain the after-school programs at their schools. Discussion ensued. Encinal spoke of the challenge of ironing out the wrinkles with its new lunch program and Hillview would like increased transparency around the dollars the OCC is trying to raise: why \$3.75 mil?; this the 'right' amount?, etc.

Kristen Gracia and Erin Reuther adjourned the meeting at 10:17 am.