

# Menlo Park City School District Council

Meeting Minutes: October 25, 2024

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

**In Attendance:** Erin Reuther, Sharon Burns, Laura Wiggs, Teresa Kwon, Parke Treadway, Danielle O'Brien, Alicia Henegan, Linda Creighton, Melitta Stevens, Alicia Payton-Miyazaki, Julie Hartstein, Michelle Fong, Francesca Segre, Sherwin Chen, Laura Low Ah Kee, Sarah Sobel, Krista Rosa, Carrie Chen, Eleanor de Jong, Lindsey Sikes, Katherine Bicer, Marites Fermin

## **District Council Business**

Laura Wiggs called the meeting to order at 8:47 am. Erin Reuther welcomed everyone. Next, the Council voted to approve the September 9 meeting minutes by unanimous consent.

Theresa Kwon, Treasurer, noted that District Council dues from all PTOs and the MPAEF were submitted on time. A \$45 carryover amount from last year was spent on Service Awards plaques.

Melitta Stevens, Community News Coordinator, stated that newsletters are all running CN. Parke let us know that any information from partner high schools or public service organizations like city/police and fire will now run in District News instead of in CN.

Parke Treadway gave an update on the MPCSD Speaker Series, which kicks off on October 29, with an event that focuses on how to leverage diverse literature in the home. There are two other marquee events in the works, along with an annual puberty talk in February and a Project Cornerstone Parenting Workshop in March.

## **Updates**

*Special Budget Presentation:* Marites Fermin, CBO who is retiring in November, gave a detailed MPCSD budget presentation. MPCSD's operating budget for 2023-2024 was around \$74 million and Marites broke down the revenue sources, noting that approximately 90% of our revenues come from local sources which are very stable. Sherwin Chen, School Board Member, discussed teacher compensation and how that changes year over year. Questions were asked and answered.

*School Board Update:* Sherwin Chen noted that as a District we are focusing our attention on closing the gap on frustratingly-low test scores, and that each site has a

plan to address and bring these scores up to pre-Covid levels. He also noted that the Bond committee continues to work hard to pass Measure U on November 5. Further discussion ensued.

*One Community Campaign Update:* Sarah Sobel and Krista Rosa stated that we are at 90% of our goal and had a very successful campaign. Discussion ensued.

*MPAEF Update:* Sally Lovero said the Dine Out Week was very successful with lots of restaurants participating this time; next month features Sports Basement shopping days and the Wine Walk is coming up.

*Principals & PTO President Updates: “Dollars for Scholars” edition*

Highlight something exciting your budget will support this year that is important to your students and community:

- Laurel is working to maintain their beloved programs that are increasing in costs;
- Hillview’s 8th grade party is usually funded by parents and now the PTO will commit \$10K up front as part of its budget surplus. It is working to spend down the surplus and has formed a committee to come up with ideas;
- Encinal will continue its mini-grant program and school cultural assemblies;
- Oak Knoll will move away from cultural assemblies toward more curriculum-focused assemblies in PE, math, science, etc.

Erin Reuther adjourned the meeting at 10:15 am.