Menlo Park City School District Council
Meeting Minutes: May 2, 2025

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

Members present: *Kristen Gracia, Erin Reuther, Laura Wiggs, Krista Rosa, Allison Jagtiani, Melitta Stevens, Sharon Burns, Danielle O'Brien, Linda Creighton, Alicia Henegan, Carrie Chen, Jennifer Baskin, Sally Loverro, Eleanor deJong, Lindsey Sikes, Katherine Bicer, Azaheh Rasmussen, Julie Hartstein, Michelle Fong, Tosin Falasinnu, Laura Low Ah Kee, Francie Maletis, Jed Scolnick, Sherwin Chen*

District Council Business

The meeting was called to order at 8:50 am. Erin Reuther welcomed the group and thanked everyone for their service this year.

The March 7 meetings minutes were approved - Laura Low Ah Kee made the first motion to approve and Francie Maletis seconded the motion.

Voting

Erin Reuther presented the 2025/2026 District Council Slate. Candidates who were present in the room recused themselves from voting and stepped out of the room for the vote. All nominations were voted upon and approved. The new members are as follows: President: Jen Baskin; Secretary: Laura Wiggs; Treasurer: Andrew Fong; OCC Co-Chair: Lennard Hachmann; Community News Coordinator: Christa Peterson; Recognition Coordinator: Meredith Nonnenberg

The Nominating Committee noted that it is still searching for a Programming Chair. The Council voted to update the Programming Chair Officer description in the District Council Bylaws. Katherine Bicer and Jen Baskin motioned to approve the amended language; all voted in favor of the new language:

The Programming Chair shall work with district leaders to organize and implement a speaker series of events focused on topics of interest to the MPCSD community. The series typically includes three key events with expert speakers, plus other parent education as implemented by district departments. The Programming Chair duties could include meeting 2-3 times with the superintendent's office, researching speakers, outreach to speakers and/or their agents and related organizations who may offer speakers/expertise, facilitating logistics and/or payment with speakers, and attending the three speaker events. The Programming Chair should be detail oriented, organized,

comfortable with technology such as Zoom, Excel, Google Docs/Sheets/Presentations, and communicating via email.

OCC Update
Erin Reuther noted that the new OCC MOU has been signed by all PTOs; DC needs to sign as a formality; Erin Reuther will sign the MOU on behalf of the OCC.

Krista Rosa updated the Council on fundraising - the campaign met its goal and all schools met or exceeded their fundraising goals this year with a few more (10%) pledges yet to come in. Sixty-five percent of families donated this year with lots of matching gifts, especially for Laurel.

Eleanor deJong updated the group on plans for the fall, noting that the marketing team has already had two meetings for next year. They are working on a Match Kick off Weekend that will piggyback with a Back to School Night launch of the campaign.

Speaker Series Update
Kristen Gracia provided an update on the year and recapped our three speaker events that were well attended by parents. The Speaker Series for next year will continue to build on the themes of belonging and reducing student anxiety.

MPAEF Update
Jen Baskin and Sally Lovero noted that the 5K Run is coming up on May 18th. Costs to run the event have increased; registrations are much lower this year than in past years. Discussion ensued about how to draw more runners to cover these increased costs.

Principals & PTO President Reports: "*Proud & Plans*" Edition: Highlight some of the things you're proud of from this school year and how that's weaving into your 2025-26 planning.

Hillview: Melitta is excited to continue next year with student and parent engagement efforts (Bingo Night, Family Carnival, etc). ASB is really engaged and there is lots of teamwork happening with teachers, students, parents, etc. Parent Engagement Coordinator is now a PTO Board position. Kristen Gracia commended Danielle for her vision of making parents feel like they are welcome at HV.

Oak Knoll: Laura Low Ah Kee is proud of how they are welcoming and bringing international families into the fold. PTO has an international liaison position. Going to allocate more budget for these efforts next year. They are creating a new buddy

program for all new families outside TK and kinder. Can this program be replicated at a District level - further discussion ensued.

Laurel: trying to grow belonging and parent engagement. Many hands up but not enough positions for all of them. The STEAM fair was a huge success. Having a leadership person with younger families is very helpful to draw in new families that will stay as volunteers for a while. Tosin mentioned that 6th graders are overwhelmed and asked what can HV do to help with the transition. Further discussion ensued that highlighted HV's efforts (WEB day, 5th grade field trips, etc).

Encinal: Science Night - has been hard to recruit volunteers this year but recruiting for PTO at a Bare Bottle event was very successful. Sharon has been sending messaging in the newsletters about science in the classrooms. Eleanor highlighted simple and inexpensive assemblies (Astronomy Night; movie night) to bring folks together. Shaon highlighted the whole-school send off for our Special Olympians.

Superintendent Update

Kristen noted that MPCSD won an award from the County for its PAWsitivity program. Will be spotlighted for the District communications. Principals acknowledged how hard this program is to run with staff members taking care of all of these dogs. She also noted that there are two big agenda items coming up for the Board Meeting: a report on SBG at Hillview and implementation of Measure U. Further discussion ensued about how lengthy the process is and that there are a few quick-start projects in the works (upgraded wiring, campus beautification, etc).

School Board Update

Jed acknowledged the 7th grader Board member guest for the recent Board meeting and noted that it was neat to have a young, engaged person join for the Student Services presentation. Sherwin Chen spoke to how long each process takes for the Bond implementation projects. Summer 2027 - first time we will see any construction. Lower Laurel will be a 3-year project once it starts. Kristen, Jed and Sherwin discussed further.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:10 am. Last Meeting: June 6, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Wiggs, 5/10/2025