Minutes of the 2024-2025 Menlo Park City School District Parent Teacher Organization ("District Council")

181 Encinal Avenue, Atherton, CA 94027

DATE: June 6, 2025

TIME: 8:45 am

PLACE: MPCSD Teacher Resource Center

MEMBERS PRESENT: Erin Reuther, Laura Wiggs, Teresa Kwon, Sarah Sobel, Krista Rosa, Allison Jagtiani, Melitta Stevens, Kristen Gracia, Parke Treadway, Sharon Burns, Danielle O'Brien, Linda Creighton, Alicia Heneghan, Alicia Payton-Miyazaki, Carrie Chen, Jennifer Baskin, Sally Loverro, Eleanor DeJong, Lindsay Sikes, Katherine Bicer, Azadeh Rasmussen, Julie Hartstein, Michelle Fong, Tosin Falasinnu, Laura Low Ah Kee, Francie Maletis, Jed Scolnick, Sherwin Chen, Andrew Fong, Lennard Hachmann, Christa Peterson

1.	**Call to Order and Welcome**	**Erin Reuther**

- Erin welcomed all attendees and everyone shared any exciting summer plans.

2.	**Approval of May Meeting Minutes**	**Laura Wiggs**

- Laura Low Ah Kee made a motion to approve the minutes; Sarah Sobel seconded the motion. All approved; motion was passed.

3.	**Treasurer Report**	**Teresa Kwon**

- There is one outstanding expense for this year, award plaques, and almost $1000 remaining in the account.
- A draft budget was shared: dues from PTO and MPAEF will stay the same; the amounts allotted for insurance, programming series and service awards was slightly increased.

- Jen and Sarah made and seconded motions to approve the draft budget; motion was passed.

4.	**Other District Council Updates**	**Members**

- Parke thanked Hillary Allen for her contributions to the Speaker Series and welcomed Jess Endlich as the incoming Chair; the Council voted on her nomination and the motion was approved.
- Next year's programming focus will continue to be on belonging and growing independence for our children. Project Cornerstone is already booked again and other programming is in the works.
- We welcomed Christa Peterson as the new Community News Coordinator.

5.	**Superintendent Update**	**Kristin Gracia**

- Kristen thanked the group for all of their work this year.
- She met with the city manager and reaffirmed that schools are the heart of a community and what we do is important.
- At the last School Board meeting she presented the Board's compensation policy and noted that MPCSD is now ranked in the top 3 for compensation amongst neighboring districts and has a 95% retention rate. She asked the Board to reaffirm their compensation philosophy.
- Next year she wants more community engagement, along with the OCC, related to our budget and what we fund and why we ask the community for funding. Further discussion ensued.

6.	**School Board Update**	**Sherwin Chen, Jed Scolnick**

- Both members thanked the MPAEF for the grant and the members in the room for making the OCC so successful.
- They emphasized their alignment on the importance of growing student belonging across the schools.

7.	**OCC Update**	**Sarah Sobel and Lennard Hachmann**

- Working on a parent survey to get feedback from non donors, and to help refine messaging in the fall.
- OCC kicks off at BTS night and the OCC team is to connect with Kristen and Parke on the community education/engagement plan.
- Emphasis will be on how to reach non donors.

8.	**MPAEF Update**	**Sally Lovero and Jen Baskin**

- Jen will be our new DC president and all outgoing PTO presidents are shifting into OCC leadership roles.

- Schoolhouse Rocks Run was a huge success. The city of Menlo Park proclaimed it as an important community event and Lennard was thanked for his efforts.

9.	**Principals and PTO Presidents Updates: *Hot Topics Edition***	**Members**

- Laurel (Julie Hartstein) - appreciated the honest and transparent conversation from DC this year; talking about the musicals was a big opportunity for them; appreciated sharing ideas between the schools and Jammie from the District; Laurel is in a better place for next year: created a musical committee.
- Encinal (Eleanor deJong) - the musical conversations led to a great meeting with Jammie and felt like a tangible benefit of the DC. Next year: volunteer appreciation is so important - should we just invite everyone? She would love to brainstorm with other schools about best practices.
- Hillview (Melitta Stevens & Kathryn Bicer): Think musicals should be a topic next year in the DC: do we need a DC role for this? HV needs a leadership structure for musicals. Kristen notes that the District has poured Prop 28 dollars into it because we value it to grow confidence, belonging, and academic excellence.
- Hillview (cont.) How to alleviate after-school sports stress - who coaches, etc?
- Oak Knoll: They echoed the discussion of musicals and appreciated the conversations along with discussions about after-school programming.

10.	**Adjournment**	

- The meeting adjourned at 10:15 am

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Wiggs
Recording Secretary of the Meeting

Board Resolution

Date: September 12, 2025

Resolved, that Jennifer Baskin and Andrew Fong are added as authorized signers on Menlo Park City School District Council business banking account, and Teresa Kwon and Jill Vizas are removed, effective immediately.

Approved by the Members of the Menlo Park City School District

Council.

Laura Wiggs, Secretary