

**Menlo-Atherton High School
Shared Decision-Making Site Council**

11/6/25

**Approved Minutes
Approved on: 12/11/2025**

Members in attendance:

Mr Giambruno, Tricia Barr (parent for Pablo Beramendi), Taylor Bentley (student), Mica Podaly (student), Amy McGaraghan (parent), Irene Gil, Emily Rigotti (for Karl Losekoot), Erin Walsh, Randy West, Celine Sanie (parent for Foundation), [someone] for Michelle Breen, Mitzi Ulloa, Nephertyie Gutierrez (student), Shionda Nickerson (4:25pm, so some votes were without her),

Absent: Stephanie Cuff-Alvarado, Valeria Lorenzo, Angelica Rodriguez, Tomiko Fronk, Monica Corona

13 total attendees today - 13 voting members; after 4:25pm, 14 voting members.

Opening: The regular meeting of the SDMSC was called to order at 3:36 pm.

Minutes by: Tricia Barr

- **Reviewed minutes from previous meeting, 10/9/25**

Motion made by: Randy West

Seconded by: Erin Walsh.

Approved #: 13

Opposed #: 0

Abstention #: 0

MOTION 4:03 pm

- **Open Forum:**

- Randy West gave shout-out to College & Career Day
- Students said they are concerned with less participation in canned food drive.
- Celine mentioned concerns re: privacy to ensure list of canned food drive recipients, and distribution day, especially with the current political situation and concerns about ICE.
 - Erin Walsh mentioned it's a partnership with the EHP in EPA and it's worth checking in with them about this.... What have they done, if anything?
- Assembly - went well. Great energy.

- Announcement from Mr G: new course proposals by Monday, Dec 5th. This body provides a recommendation to Principal and other councils/committees including School Board.
 - Goal is to have it on the agenda for the Dec SDMSC meeting.
- **Final Review and Approval of Summer Collab (looking back)**
 - STARS - (Successive Transition Achieved with Responsive Support) a wing of our academic resource dept. students with moderate to several mental health / emotional needs
 - Motion made by: Erin Walsh.
 - Seconded by: Amy McGaraghan
 - Approved #: 12
 - Opposed #: 0
 - Abstention #: 1
 - MOTION 4:06 pm
- **Fall Collab Review and Approval of Projects (looking forward)**
 - Film Analysis & Graphic Organizer - questions around this, Latin films (when it's not a spoken language), and the number of total hours requested (24 hrs). More information requested.
 - Motion made by: Tricia Barr to approve without Film Analysis & Graphic Organizer, which will go back for more information.
 - Seconded by: Celine Sanie
 - Approved #: 13
 - Opposed #: 0
 - Abstention #:
 - MOTION 4:19 pm
- **New Name: M-AAC , Menlo-Atherton Advisory Council**
 - Need 75% of voters to cover this item, as it changes the language of the bylaws.
 - So we won't be able to cover today.
- **New Member Language for Students:**
 - Need 75% of voters to cover this item, as it changes the language of the bylaws.
 - So we won't be able to cover today.
- **Challenge Day Survey**
 - There were previous discussions around Challenge Day as future

- Karl wants to have something that addresses social emotional health and brings all 9th graders together, but also wants to address students feeling tokenized, etc.
- Mr G to do list:
 - Surveys: As of right now it's recording emails
 - Shionda said it should say 'School-based Counseling Services'
 - Spelling Solace (not Solice)
 - Thank you for participating in this M-A tradition, Challenge Day.
 - We'd like to hear about your day.
 - Remember that if you are in need of any sort of emotional assistance, go to PAWS in B-22, or request an appointment online through [this form](#). [bold this sentence]
 - Instead of "What would you like to address and talk about? What are some issues on campus that you would like to address? " ask for an Individualized summary of your experience, and "Any suggestions for improving Challenge Day?" or "Is there anything else you'd want to share regarding your experience with Challenge Day?"
 - If someone says they didn't attend Question 1), skip to end.
 - Do we want to have different forms for Juniors and Seniors?
- One student mentioned that it was soon after the death of a student, yet didn't feel like they had a forum to talk more about it.
- Shionda mentioned that when Mr. Harris died, they pushed into all his classes.
- All were welcome to receive support. Did groups, 1:1s, etc
- Taylor felt like when Mr Harris died, beyond the push-in, students didn't feel comfortable requesting support.
- Mica asked Why is Challenge Day specifically for 9th graders and not for older kids?
 - Shionda said it went better when it was for Juniors. Even though some juniors opted out, the students were more mature.
 - There have been questions about whether freshman are the right group.
 - Shionda: If goal is connection of freshman, and its not meeting that, maybe we need to re-think the timing...
 - Mica: Challenge Day is valuable, but how it's promoted, and the timing may not be ideal
 - Nephertytie: They are so young that they don't know if they will be judged. It did bring people together but some people shared other student's experience (that wasn't supposed to be shared).

- Nephertytie: Challenge Day is a good thing, but maybe more for juniors or seniors.
- Junior/Senior Challenge Day Reflection Survey:
 - Should we continue doing Challenge Day?
 - What grade is the ideal grade for Challenge Day?
- Taylor said one downside to having Challenge Day early was if she saw someone in her group who'd shared, it made her know that person through their trauma vs their character. Maybe this wouldn't be the case if Challenge Day was later (junior or senior yr), vs as early freshman...
- Maybe a buddy system, or something else for sharing.
- Another reason why they picked freshman was it's hard to take 3 days out of your curriculum; would be even harder for juniors. Students agreed.
- With Dillon's death, there was a moment of silence and poem;
- With Mr Harris' death, students (those here in the mtg are juniors) mentioned not all their teachers had a moment of silence or statement (even though Shionda thought they all had).

Adjourning meeting at 5:03 pm:

Motion made by: Erin Walsh

Seconded by: Mitzi

Approved #: 14

Opposed #: 0

Abstention #: 0

MOTION PASSES: 5:03 pm