

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

9/11/25

Approved on: 9/10/25

Members in attendance:

John Giambruno, Pablo Beramendi, Stephen Ready, Elisa Nocedal, Libia Bustamante, Erin Walsh, Celine Sanie (parent), Irene Gil, Michele Breen, Amy McGaraghan (parent), Paige Winikoff (parent), Karl Losekoot, Randy West, Stephanie Cuff-Alvarado, Danette Bathauer, Sapna Bhagwat, Isabel Habibi, Parmis Hoghooghi, Abigail MacLeod (student), Valeria Lorenzo

16 total attendees today - 16 voting members.

Opening: The regular meeting of the SDMSC was called to order at 3:43 pm (after round of intros).

Minutes by: Pablo Beramendi

- **Reviewed minutes from previous meeting, 5/08/25**

Motion made by: Randy

Seconded by: Pablo

Approved #: 16

Opposed #: 0

Abstention #: 0

MOTION 4:00 pm

- **By-Laws and Reminders:**

- Reviewed this clause:

Section 5 – Decisions of the SDMSC

All decisions of the SDMSC shall be made only after an affirmative vote of a two-thirds (66%) majority of its members in attendance, provided a quorum is present.

- For selected cases, we also invoke this clause:

Section 7 – Conduct of Meetings

All regular and special meetings of the SDMSC shall be conducted informally with Robert's Rules of Order called upon if deemed necessary.

- Selection of Students: as in the bylaws: "Four students, with selection coordinated by the Leadership class." Some students don't show up, others show up all the time, which may indicate that we need a different way to elect them. Other options could be teacher nominations, student

nominations, get students from the Academy. Need students from a wider representation group. Need to consider accessibility of after school hours, while driving accountability. We could bake into the bylaws how to select them. Mr G to think about it and bring a proposal to the next meeting so that we can vote on it. There's opportunity for more student and parent representation. Paige mentioned that one of the problems that we have is that having meetings at 3.30pm can be hard for working parents.

- **Open Forum:**

- Pablo acknowledged and thanked everyone on campus for their job during the last very difficult 24hs.
 - Teachers also appreciated all the support received, as well as Paiged praised the communication, which is critical for the parent community: school working very closely with the PD and the communication with parents was very good.
 - Karl mentioned that he got some feedback from families that would have appreciated a faster communication.
 - Atherton Police did a great job according to Karl.
 - Amy mentioned that some teachers/ students from other schools who were getting into campus did not know about the incident.
- Shout out to Ginger, our resident dog that's here on Tuesdays.
- Mr. G mentioned that we had a set of great first weeks. Erin commented that the vibe on campus feels very good, kids are being nice to each other and supporting each other.
- Karl mentioned that we had the Board meeting last night:
 - Freshman: trying to expand electives. Have 210 Freshman taking a 7th period elective. Another 130 Freshman involved in fall sports (not including Cheer, Robotics, Unions or community based organizations). Also record of cross country kids.
- Shout out to Librarian: several students coming from several places (Italy, Kenya, Indiana, New Jersey), and this is a place where they can connect to each other and to staff.

- **Officer Elections, and at large reps, staff, students, and parents.**

- Motion for Mr. G as chair.
 - Motion made by: Elisa
 - Seconded by: Pablo
 - Approved #: 15
 - Opposed #: 0
 - Abstention #: 1

- MOTION 3:50 pm
 - Vice Chair (sub) nominated: no nominations/ volunteers
 - Secretary: Pablo nominated
 - Motion made by: Mr. G
 - Seconded by: Paige
 - Approved #: 16
 - Opposed #: 0
 - Abstention #: 0
 - MOTION 3:52 pm
 - Parliamentarian (rule checker for compliance): no nominations/ volunteers
- **Name Change Proposal and Mission Review (not voting, but for next meeting)**
 - This will be voted next meeting.
 - Our agenda is not aligned with our denomination.
 - Proposal: M-AAC (Menlo-Atherton Advisory Council). Name nominations accepted to Mr. G.
 - Karl mentioned that this body started as a Site Council, but there's now a separate body for that. This body is an advisory council to improve the culture and the experience of our students, teachers and staff.
 - Site Council is responsible for the major deliverables to the Board and there are legal requirements, which is different from SDMSC.
 - Council is more encompassing than Committee.
 - Do we want to better represent what we are trying to achieve? E.g., Voice vs. Council.
 - Legal words that we need to avoid: Site.
 - Opportunity to revise the vision and guiding principles (page 4 of bylaws). Suggestions accepted by Mr. G.
- **Summer Collaboration Approval - Thoughts for Fall Collaboration on process, etc**
 - Mr. G mentioned that the Foundation appreciates proof of the activities.
 - To be voted next time - Mr. G to fix access to evidence.
- **Cell Phone Check**
 - Stephanie: Marked improvement with no fighting with students. During the security issue, classrooms continued as normal and phones were not provided. However there was a student that did not feel comfortable with this and would have appreciated to have her cell to text home. Answer was that it was a regular class period.

- Karl mentioned that several families reached out on this. The purpose of a secured campus is that instruction can continue. If you provide kids with their phones, then instruction stops. Is there an opportunity to explain what “secured campus” means? According to the County, the rule is “no phones” in these situations. Parents agreed with the idea that parents could be better educated. Also enabling access to phones could create a lot of chaos and open students’ rumors.
- There’s still some questions from teachers on what happens if students don’t follow the procedure. Karl advised to chat with the ABP.
- Karl mentioned that the District is sending a survey to staff, students and parents about cell phone practices. Opportunity to provide feedback on whether this system is working.
- Stephanie trying to figure out location of pocket to avoid students grabbing their phones on the way to the bathroom. The other issue has been fake phones. Another challenge is that students can still text from their computer.
- Erin mentioned that overall she’s very happy with the program. Social pressure is a good thing as there’s pressure to comply.

Adjourning meeting at 5:05 pm:

Motion made by: Elisa

Seconded by: Mr. G.

Approved #: 14

Opposed #: 0

Abstention #: 1

MOTION PASSES: 5:05 pm