

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

**12/12/24**

**Minutes**

**Approved on: 1/16/25**

Members in attendance:

John Giambruno, Tricia Barr, 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 (student), Abigail MacLeod (student).

23 total attendees today - 16 voting members.

Opening: The regular meeting of the SDMSC was called to order at 3:34 pm.

Minutes by: Pablo Beramendi

- **Reviewed minutes from previous meeting, 11/07/24**

- Motion made by: Elisa Nocedal

- Seconded by: Paige Winikoff

- Approved #: 16

- Opposed #: 0

- Abstention #: 0

- MOTION 3:39 pm

- **Open Forum:**

- Chromebooks - Mr. G (as Tech Coordinator):

- Will be ready in Jan.

- We should have received an email in case we've been assigned one. We should come and pick it up.

- Randy West: brought the need for permission for extra time for testing - students should not be able to miss their class. Karl acknowledged but this could be a challenge on what is already a difficult communication process with teachers. There are best practices for the Testing Center that could be accessed. There needs to be strong communication with the teacher.

- Distribution day this last saturday. Several tons of food collected - Abbie MacLeod. Karl acknowledged and congratulated Abbie for the work.

- **Why SDMSC reviews new course proposals?**

- Have been reviewing these courses for a long time.
- The course proposal system is designed to be stressful, going through various committees and board approvals.
- As to why SDMSC reviews these:
  - Not approving here but recommending.
  - Community input, coming from this body.
  - Body is not the gate keeper, but an introductory body. This is considered a valuable part of the process.
  - 66% favorable within those present (11 today) - That would pass the recommendation.
- Paige Winikoff asked about approval process. Mr. G. mentioned that approvals/ reviews follow this process:
  - SDMSC - opportunity for community input.
  - Subject Area Council.
  - IBT
  - Principal Council.
  - Board - opportunity for community input.
- WASC encouraging us to build new things - Andrew Stuart
- Tricia Barr - Historically things have gone to the Board. Board will need to understand that there are fewer community members involved in the process, or discussion would need to go to the Site Council.

- **New Course Proposals**

- [AP Seminar](#)
  - Liane Strub & Jason Hunt presented the proposal at 3:55pm.
  - Course currently offered at Carlmont (they've been teaching it for 2 years. Have 2 sections with high satisfaction).
  - Emphasis on teamwork and multimedia presentations.
  - Exams are also different from any other AP, as presentations/ research make most of the grade.
  - Recommended to offer to 11 and 12th grade.
  - Course is not designed to replace other English courses.
  - No pre-requirements for this class.
  - Concern about the balance of schedule overall. If it were offered as an English course (which is not) then students could use it as a shortcut - Erin Walsh.
  - Amy McGaraghan shared positive feedback from experiences at other schools.
  - Adding courses is a zero sum game, i.e., some courses may need to go or we'd need to get more resources.
  - Motion made by: Erin Walsh

- Seconded by: Isabel Habibi
- Approved #: 14
- Opposed #: 1
- Abstention #: 1.
- AP Seminar is recommended at 4:24pm.
- [Sports Medicine 2](#)
  - Stephanie Mock presented the proposal at 4:25pm.
  - There is homework but it's mostly "coloring". 2 projects per semester that they'll need to work on as a group.
  - Class taught at other schools (e.g., Mission Hill) with success.
  - Coming as a CTE elective.
  - Amy McGaraghan - Question on who this course would serve best: variety of students, many who are interested in medicine or athletics. But there are also students who don't know what they want to do.
  - Stephen Ready: sees the course as a bridge to personal training, nursing and other related professions.
  - Motion made by: Erin Walsh
  - Seconded by: Elisa Nocedal
  - Approved #: 13
  - Opposed #: 1
  - Abstention #: 1
  - Sports Medicine 2 is recommended at 4:42pm.
- [Civic Engagement](#)
  - Andrew Stuart and Anne Olson presented the proposal at 4:44pm.
  - Opportunity to dual enroll course - We'd pair with Canada Road.
  - G elective proposed.
  - Amy McGaraghan questions whether there's a way to support meeting all the requirements from students - Anne mentioned that we need to identify the local criteria to get the Seal.
  - Karl: course may go through Social Studies, but potentially as a General Elective (Andrew).
  - Celine Sanie: Curriculum seems to follow the ethnics studies syllabus, which have been problematic at our school. Curriculum may be polarizing and may not be seen positive at school. Wonder if this is the right time. Andrew: important not to ignore these social issues, and there may be ways to manage the controversy. Paige W. also concerned with the potential divisiveness of the course, specially talking about global social challenges and particularly when kids that are not yet in college. Also concerns on who's teaching, what is being taught. Erin W. says that we shouldn't approve or not approve the course based on who teaches it, but on the course/ curriculum itself. Anne: goal of the class is not about what teachers' opinion is, but rather to expose

students to social issues that we see, e.g., why do we need a Can Food Drive? What is the source of the issue? A way for students to think critically about the problem and get insights to the issues. Curriculum is vetted by the Community College, and is currently offered across the State. In terms of the divisiveness, this has not experienced in previous courses in other schools - there is a way to teach these topics and avoid divisiveness. XX: question is more about the timing, as this seems to be more of a college course. Mr G thinks differently.

- 3 Leadership Courses, Parent concerns over global issues. And the oppressor vs Oppressed, rather than exploring. Anne thinks this is why we need this course.
- The goal is to teach the 8 principles of ethical service. Lots of Frontloading for the college course. To lay the framework for the college course.
- Is Service Learning Optional or part of the course? Yes, sort of. It's involved to help students participate in Service Learning, while making it part of Sociology.
- Dual Enrollment. Is there a requirement for hours? TBD
  - Motion made by:
  - Seconded by:
  - Approved #:
  - Opposed #:
  - Abstention #:
  - Sports Medicine 2 is recommended at X:XXpm.

\*Members dropped to below 13, which puts us below quorum at 5:10 PM. No vote is possible.

**Adjourning meeting at 5:20 pm:**

Motion made by: Elisa Nosedal

Seconded by: Erin Walsh

Approved #: no quorum

Opposed #:

Abstention #:

MOTION PASSES: Yes