

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

1/16/25

Approved on: 2/13/25

Members in attendance:

John Giambruno, Pablo Beramendi, Stephen Ready, Elisa Nosedal, 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), Lucas Selvik (student), Valeria Lorenzo.

14 total attendees today - 14 voting members.

Opening: The regular meeting of the SDMSC was called to order at 3:35 pm.

Minutes by: Pablo Beramendi

- Mr. G explained that Civic proposal was not fully covered in the last meeting. Mr. G also apologized for some of his comments may have been received at the last meeting. Proposing Teacher will rethink proposal and get back to committee.
- **Reviewed minutes from previous meeting, 12/12/24**
 - Motion made by: Isabel Habibi
 - Seconded by: Erin Walsh
 - Approved #: 17
 - Opposed #: 0
 - Abstention #: 1
 - MOTION 3:42 pm
- **Open Forum:**
 - Irene Gil: proposed to cover Challenge Day, i.e., intent, how it's landing for students, etc. Mental Health Coordinator resource available to help with this.
 - Challenge Day:
 - Karl mentioned that attendance was better than last year.
 - There were some kids that still missed the first couple of days, but feedback and attendance was positive.
 - Staff members from the PTA to be thanked.
 - We are trying to find the right spot in the year (2nd week in the 2nd semester currently). Used to be run in October.

- Abbie MacLeod thanked Ms. Bathauer for the performance of the play. Lots of people are asking to be on the play.

- **Fall Collaboration Evidence Approval**

- Several edits/ comments made
- Motion made by: Elisa Nocedal
- Seconded by: Eboni Freeman
- Approved #: 21
- Opposed #: 0
- Abstention #: 0
- MOTION PASSES: 4:02pm

- **Cell Phones in Class Task Force and results**

- Erin Walsh presented and Rachel presented the [results](#) from the pilot/ study.
- Rachel Wan mentioned that legally we are not allowed to not take attendance if students don't put their phone/ paper in the pocket chart. So we need to make sure that we go around the room to properly take attendance.
- A consistent phone policy across campus would maximize the results of the enforcement.
- Mr G: a policy will not be developed by this body.
- Eboni Freeman would like to add a question about "how did your mental health/ attention change with no access to your phone" to make sure we can track those results/ opinions.
- Celine Sanie mentioned that there are large school districts in the country that have implemented a policy like the one piloted. It'd be interesting for Erin/ Rachel to research the results from those school districts. Erin mentioned that this research has been done. Mr. G mentioned that the Chronicle had an article from the San Mateo County. Rachel mentioned that due to the success in other districts they have decided not to pilot these experiments anymore as they already have their own policy.
- XX: Given that it's so important to have a full staff culture, it'd be important to understand what would make teachers hesitant to implement the program.
 - Mr G mentioned that every classroom is different so he's been trying the policy according to needs.
 - Ms. Bathauer utilizes the policy even during rehearsals.

- Parmis Hoghooghi: Why can't we have a policy by the end of the year if this is such an important topic? And other schools in the district (eg., La Entrada) already have the policy in place.
 - XX: agree that needs to be a top priority. But some teachers are exhausted from fighting with students on this subject.
 - Erin mentioned that fighting with students over phone can be exhausting. Also other teachers believe that we should teach students to use phones responsibly.
 - Mr. G mentioned that there may be a snowball effect when you kick a student out of the classroom due to a phone policy violation, as they end up missing class.
 - Eboni brought up that if we want more teachers to be more strict we cannot have teachers alone as they take all the heat. Also parents may not like the fact that they cannot contact their kids during the day. If we want teachers to buy into this we need to reduce the workload that this would bring to them. It has to be a community effort, coming from every front.
- Celine wonders if the "full day pocket" would solve many of these issues
 - Erin responded:
 - Part of the challenge is also the cost of the pockets.
 - Other challenge is that community members may want to contact their kids during the day.
 - The alternative is pouches that are magnetically shut. Students at San Mateo they lock their phones in these pockets. Sometimes they randomly need to check the pockets as not every student puts their phone in.
- XX (teacher): Curious to know data about teachers' own personal use of their phones. Teachers may be guilty of the crimes that they get irritated by. There could even be a challenge for teachers for them to put their phone in pockets.
- Mr. G mentioned that he also puts his phone away in a pocket.
- Parmis asked whether it is that important to be able to reach your kids at any point in the day.
 - Erin responded that this may be driven by parents' behavior that we may all fall into.
- Amy McGarahan: what's tricky with kids is that there are not pay phones around as there used to be. In the past there used to be plans in advance and not change them. Nowadays we use phones to constantly change plans.

- Erin emphasized that when you are in class you are supposed to be learning and not on your phone.
- Eboni mentioned that there's a hard mistrust in the world around us, and phones also bring comfort.
- XX (parent): there is value in the pockets so that students have limited access.
- Irene Gil also brought up that many folks in our community don't even use email.

- **WASC Briefing and Updates**

- Coming in April.
- Rough drafts and a summary of what's happening.
- Karl mentioned that we are in the process of reviewing what's written and is in the WASC report.
- Within each of the 5 categories we come up with things that we are doing well, and areas where we need to improve. This is a summary and not encompassing of all that we are doing well/ need to grow on.
- We will use indicators to hone in on specific tasks or subgroups where we need to grow.
- Report coming out by mid April.

Adjourning meeting at 4:59 pm:

Motion made by: Elisa Nocedal

Seconded by: Erin

Approved #: 19

Opposed #: 0

Abstention #: 0

MOTION PASSES: 5:00 pm