

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

5/08/25

Unapproved Minutes

Approved on:

Members in attendance:

John Giambruno, Tricia Barr, 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),

16 total attendees today - 16 voting members.

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

Minutes by: Pablo Beramendi

- **Reviewed minutes from previous meeting, 3/13/25**

Motion made by: Randy West

Seconded by: Pablo Beramendi

Approved #: 14

Opposed #: 0

Abstention #: 2

MOTION 3:41 pm

- **Open Forum:**

- Opened with a moment of silence for Dylan Tyler. Paige addressed the audience and provided some background on Dylan, as well as expressed how grateful we all are for this contributions.
- Stephanie Cuff-Alvarado addressed the issue that there's been so much tragedy this year, on both the student and staff side. Probably one of the greatest strengths of MA is that 99% of folks here really love this place, and love what MA can do. Is there anything we can do in the fall that is some sort of intentional staff meeting, i.e., an intentional way to remind everyone how much we love this place, the sense of camaraderie. This could be helpful for folks.
- Shionda mentioned that she's getting a lot of reach out on support, and shared the idea to have a "teacher support day".
- Mr G mentioned that there's AP test and several other good news.

- Karl thanked Shionda for supporting our students today. Great to walk into the library and see the full football program there. He also thanked the ABPs for their cooking. Shoutout to Olivia, his assistant, for all the work she does for the school. Tomorrow PTA is offering ice cream.
- Parmis mentioned that an award received.
- Karl mentioned that we talked about cell phones in the past. We piloted different approaches and ran a survey. There's interest in exploring the expansion of the project. First step would be to move into a pocket system for all classrooms, so we'll make sure that every class has pockets available and folks understand the new system, as well as the notification process. We are also going to explore the magnetic pouch (San Mateo utilizes this system).
- Shionda gave a shoutout to folks who organized the "Stress Relief Event". There are plans to do it again in the future.
- Abbie mentioned that next Friday there's a performance event worth attending.
- Topic for beginning of year next year: need to revisit field trip policies. Need to make sure that best practices are shared and known.
- Elisa mentioned that the testing space is usually very busy. It's a large space but not always a space that is conducive to concentrating - Mr. G to bring it up to Emily.

- **Spring Collaboration Evidence:**

- Mr. G asked attendees to review initiatives and provide feedback.
- Evidence approved.

Motion made by: Stephanie Cuff-Alvarado

Seconded by: Parmis Hoghooghi

Approved #: 15

Opposed #: 0

Abstention #: 1

MOTION 4:15 pm

- **Calendar:**

- Can no longer do the 8 hours on Monday. As long as hours are not happening in 1 day, then it should be ok to meet. Intent is to avoid 8 hours in 1 day.
- Summer: did not feel right to elicit summer collaboration this early. There's been a rolling summer collaboration before, so Mr. G will work on that. Be on the lookout for summer collaboration, which will still be happening (thank you Foundation!).

- Mr G mentioned that Calendar is 95% complete.
- Mr G asked for everyone if they have access to the calendar, on any of it's available forms.
- Arena Check In (9th Grade) should get moved to 8/12. 8/8 should be 10th-12th.
- First SDMSC will not be on 8/14. Calendar needs to be revised.
- There's no staff breakout of meetings, e.g, first Thursday is a staff meeting and so on. There's a cadence that we follow and this will continue in the next school cycle.
- There will be 2 District minimum days placed on calendar.
- Karl mentioned that Sep 17th will be the Evac Day. Also mentioned the opportunity to swap College & Career Day with 8th Grade Information Night. Paige and Amy mentioned that the suggestion makes sense, as it makes sense for parents and students to have the information sooner rather than later for the 8th grader.
 - SAT for seniors would be later in October, which we offer during College & Career Day.
 - Karl to run this by the District Office.
- Moved Challenge Day from October to January (not the 1st week back), so October does not look as busy as in the past.
- Abbie asked about Trick or Treating day usually falling on a minimum day. Karl mentioned that this changed for this year, but also 2 min days are pending to be allocated.
- Mr G mentioned that a 7th period on a Thursday is better than on a Friday, so we'll slide. He'll make the change on the calendar.
- Shionda asked to pace surveys so that they don't get offered too close to each other. Qualtrics was the main issue.
- Mr G asked about 3/12 as a potential Block Day. Proposal to move CAST Testing to later in the month. Otherwise Feel Good Friday moves to 3/6, and the Block days would shift.
- Min day on 3/20.
- AB testing will be the first week of May.
- Focus week will be week of 5/25, and Finals the week of 6/1.
- Lucas asked about Spring Sports date, not included in calendar. Mr. G to confirm.
- 5/19 will be a minimum day.
- PTA lunch needs to be scheduled on 5/19.
- Shionda asked whether we should have Spring Rally on the same day as Feel Good Friday.
- Need to add Focus and Finals Week in May.

- Stephanie/ Karl mentioned that we want to avoid min days during the week of finals.
- Abbie asked to have Distribution Day on 12/6.
- Need to figure out Concert Days - Mr. G.
- Need to revise Fun Run day, likely moving from 5/17 to 5/16.
- Parmis asked when the holidays (e.g, Lunar New Year) will be included in calendar. Karl mentioned that dates are not set yet.
- Agreement with calendar presented today:
 - Motion made by: Elisa
 - Seconded by: Paigei
 - Approved #: 16
 - Opposed #: 0
 - Abstention #: 0
 - MOTION 4:54 pm
- **Finalizing Challenge Day**
 - Run out of time to discuss.
 - Mr. G mentioned that he'd entertain feedback offline, and discuss at the next meeting.
- **Choosing SDMSC Reps, At-Large Nominations, Student Nominations Process, Thoughts for next year, Goodbyes and Certificates**
 - Will choose positions at the next meeting.
 - Department meetings are next Thursday. Make sure that you bring up in case you don't want to participate on SDMSC next year.
 - Abbie mentioned that there's been issues with "voter fraud". Let's share ideas on how to increase voter count, as well as how to avoid voter fraud.
- **MAAC: M-A Advisory Council** may be considered as a new name next year, to differentiate from Site Council and emphasize that SDMSC is an Advisory Council.
- **First meeting NEXT YEAR**
 - 9/11.

Adjourning meeting at 5:01 pm:

Motion made by: Stephanie
 Seconded by: Amie
 Approved #: 15
 Opposed #: 1

Abstention #: 0

MOTION PASSES: 5:01 pm