

M-A SITE COUNCIL

9/25/25

3:30 - 5:00 pm

In the Staff Lounge (across from B-10)

Minutes

In attendance: Karina Flores, Mark Helfenberger, Tricia Barr (PTA), Elisa Nocedal, Susan Price, Rob Bentley (Foundation), Andrea Valencia (student), Alexa Habibi (student), Fernando Ramirez (ELAC), Karl Losekoot,

Guests: Amy McGaraghan (parent), Libia Bustamante

A. Welcome and Introductions

B. Approve [Minutes from 4/24/25](#)

Motion to approve: Elisa

Seconded: Tricia

Approved: 9

Nay: 0

Abstain: 3

C. REPORTING OUT: How was the start of the year for you? What was your experience?

Chair: Great, transitioning to Academic Resource Teacher, minimal conflicts coming through the conflict mediation center.

Students: Leadership started strong with lots of great events (dog days, class clash, etc.). Seeing the increase in homework from sophomore year to junior year, partially attributed to AP classes and sports. Maybe freshmen could get a more welcoming 'intro to M-A' on top of orientation (what M-A offers, services, programs, etc). Ideas: have teachers with classes open, specific activities for freshmen during break times, a sports fair similar to JIVES or club rush

Staff: Susan: "Teaching ILS (independent living skills), start of the year has been good. Special shout-out to leadership for the first dance." Elisa: "Better year than last year. Mostly sophomores and Juniors, they are maturing well. Lots of students who are heavily addicted to phones, lots of phone calls home over this topic. Definitely students who need to be reminded. Worried about over-reliance on the computer (kids watching videos and playing games)." "Phone policy has been fabulous. Even if they didn't put the phone in the pocket, the phone stays put away. Freshmen are following that well. There are still challenges with Chromebooks. AVID: Classes are fuller since the pandemic. The year after the pandemic, a class had to be collapsed. Freshmen and Sophomore year classes are full. Sophomore year currently at 28 students. Planning first field trip to see colleges. Also working on fundraising for field trips. The overnight trip last year was \$500/student, and they asked students to cover \$100 (if possible).

PTA: Membership is down from last year, but momentum is good, and numbers will still likely be met. Do we bring BearNotes to parentsquare? Gradnight location is secured. From the

parents' perspective, the start of the year has been good. Enjoyed back-to-school night. Agree that junior year is challenging.

Foundation: 3rd child going through M-A, agree about Junior year. Much love for M-A, its size and diversity, and a lot to offer. Services are wide and easy to navigate. The Foundation has also been very easy to work with. The first big fundraising effort has been positive, above normal raising at this point. 'Has fundraising been more aggressive?' Started with an email, then text follow-ups, nothing has changed since last year with effort, but the email is shorter and possibly more effective.

ELAC: Very grateful for the opportunity to be at M-A. arrived from Mexico two weeks ago. Son is happy with the schedule and is already improving his English skills. Glad for the opportunities offered for immigrant and undocumented students at M-A

Principal: Mood and level of conflict on campus is low, so good start to the year. Increase the number of electives, including Speech & Debate, Photo, and Digital Filmmaking for freshmen. 250 Freshmen opting to take 7th-period electives. 140 Freshmen are taking fall sports. Karl observing in Sports Medicine class today - was really academic.. Muscle groups, physiology, and hands-on component, etc

Parent: Good start to the year with sports and teachers. Happy with communication over the secure campus event. Karl: Is there stuff we can do better for the start of the year?

- "Helping kids connect to campus, especially freshman year. Fall sports have been very inclusive in that regard. I would feel like my students would have struggled with their adjustment without those sports connections."
- "I have appreciated the bear notes and communications with absences or late to class notices. How is the phone pocket policy going?"
- "All teachers are using the pockets this year."
- "Anecdotally, I hear that students are not putting phones in pockets."
- "Teachers could offer a reward for class if every student puts their phones in their pockets for 1 week, or 2 weeks."
- "District is working to give 1-2 parents access to ParentSquare for editing access to send out bearnote.s"

D. Purpose of Site Council

- In addition to Site Council, M-A has another group called SDMSC, possibly changing name to MAC (M-A Advisory Council)
 - This group is about improving our school community and culture. What is or is not working within our school? These can be best practices around day-to-day functions of school (grading policies, field trip logistics, etc.)
- Site Council is a group in compliance with Ed Code. We must be 50/50 staff and community
- We serve two main purposes:
 - We are here to manage federal money (in our case, Title 1 funds)
 - Title 1 funds are allocated based on how many families fill out the free and reduced lunch form. This is a bit antiquated, as all lunch is now free (in California). Ranges from \$60-100k/year.
 - We review and complete the School Site Plan for improving our school

- That plan is aligned with the District's improvement plan
- Often our plan has parts that we execute well and parts that we fail to execute to our expectations.
- We will review the plan this semester, reflect on what worked and didn't, successes and challenges
- Next semester, we will begin to write the site plan for the next year.
- Our approved site plan will be presented to the School Board for approval

Action Item: (Libia?) - we need to get the School Site Plan translated. It should be up on the website.

E. Council Officers

Karina Nominates Mark Helfenberger for secretary, Karl Seconds. Tricia offers to be the co-secretary

Approve: 10

Deny:0

Abstain:1

Karina nominates Alexa Habibi to Vice Chair, Susan Seconds

Approve: 9

Deny:0

Abstain:2

F. Review 25-26 Site Plan [w](#) 2025 26 M-A SPSA, Final Draft.docx

There are multiple challenges with navigating the modifications of curriculum to meet the needs of students with IEPs. Additional support or guidance would be appreciated. A modified grade counts towards graduation, but is not A-G (college entry requirements). The most needed thing to make this happen is time. Time to sit down and meet with the teacher of that student to figure out how best to make those modifications.

Can we send out a feedback form to teachers to gain information on what worked and what needs improvement regarding the small settings testing center? Teachers overall voiced positive opinions on it, but had issues with certain logistics (as an example, if a student has 1.5x or 2x on an exam, they will then miss part or all of their next class while they finish that exam, often with that teacher not being notified).

Motion to Adjourn:

First: Karina Flores

Second: Elisa Nocedal

Approved: 9

Deny:0

Abstain: 2

G. Title 1 Fund Review (if time)

[Parking Lot](#)

Budget Code:

Certificated - 01.0397.0.1110.1000.1116.200.480

Classified - 01.0397.0.1110.1000.2916.200.480