

**Menlo Atherton High School PTA  
General Board Meeting  
December 7, 2010**

**Board Members Present:** Amy Boyle, Kathy Oppenheimer, Stephanie Nisbet, Jan Reed, Jill Morgan, Jill Zanolli, John McMurtry and Cathy Carlson.

**Opening:** Amy Boyle called the meeting to order at 8:40am, in the PAC cafeteria. 18 members were present.

**Motions:**

*Motion to approve the minutes of the October 12, 2010 M-A PTA General Board Meeting/Kathy Oppenheimer/Jill Morgan/Unanimous*

*Motion to approve the Nominating Committee slate of Kathy Oppenheimer, Stephanie Nisbet, Lori Cohen, Paula Rash and Sue Jagers/John McMurtry/Jan Reed/Unanimous*

**A. New Business:**

Recognition of Lance Powell/Amy Boyle

- The PTA wanted to recognize Lance Powell, teacher of Biology & Environmental Chemistry, who has been nominated for Educator of the year by California League of High Schools.
- In his 6th year at M-A, Mr. Powell works primarily with the Academy students, who are a very diverse group of students that are targeted to go to college, but don't necessarily have the navigational tools to do so (40% honor roll in the academy this past year). Mr. Powell developed the Environmental Chemistry curriculum that anchors chemistry to the environment through field trips and hands on learning. This innovative class has been accredited by the UC program and is a gatekeeper for college, as chemistry is a necessary class to gain entry to college. The program is also being adopted at Woodside High School. Mr. Powell is currently writing a book to share the success of the program with other educators. Funding from the PTA and Foundation have been key to the success of this class.

Treasurer's Report/ Jan Reed

- Current deficit spend is \$26,000 versus \$35,000 in the budget, mainly due to two factors: 1) higher than anticipated donations; and 2) a reduction in the cost of the student planners.

**B. Committee Reports:**

Challenge Day/ Stasia Grose and Ellen Mouchawar:

- In its 7th year, Challenge Day again had very positive feedback and was a success in breaking down stereo types.
- Over 500 freshman participated in the program.
- Several parent volunteers were thanked for their efforts on registration and lunch organization, as well as all those that facilitated groups. It was noted that several community members facilitated groups, including a parent of a Gunn suicide victim, who was very supportive of the program in a letter written to the organizers.
- Gunn and Saratoga are looking to M-A as a model.
- Thanks was also given to the PTA, the administration and to ACS for their collective support.

Parent Education/ Charlene Margot:

- Parent Education is in its 4th year at M-A and is the only program in the Sequoia District. Carlmont is working to develop a program and M-A will do a joint program with them this year.
- January 27th, Anastasia Goodstein will be coming to talk about what tweens and teens are doing online. Specific discussion will center on social networking, blogging and cyber bullying. The event will take place in the PAC at 7:00pm.
- November 30<sup>th</sup> the Teen Truth Live documentary was presented to a small turnout of parents, but lively discussion ensued.

### **C. Speakers:**

#### **Adolescent Counseling Service/ Christina Walker Psy.D., Site Director:**

- ACS as been at M-A for ten years. The program takes a holistic approach to the child, including emotional, social and academic support. The program is currently housed in the guidance office in three offices. The staff includes the Site Director and six interns, each committing two days a week at the school. Four of the interns have masters degrees, one is in process of obtaining a masters and one is a PHD from Berkeley. They have a wide range of experience.
- The program works with various modalities, including individual therapy, work w/ parents and they are talking about starting groups. The referrals come from teachers, administration, guidance and self.
- As the program is school based, it operates under school hours, so coordinating services is very important. ACS is available after school.
- To date this year, 198 students have been seen at M-A (100 in the month of September). The breakdown of the students is 35% male, 65% female. The current case load is, 60 ongoing cases, 8 family cases and 56 new cases.
- The primary reasons for seeking assistance from ACS is academic stress, ADHD, child abuse, communication with parents, depression, domestic violence, new student, peer relationships and substance abuse.
- ACS awareness is increased with posters in each of the classrooms and cards that can be passed out to students. John McMurtry will assist in making sure that ACS contact information is readily available on the school website.

#### **Student Leadership Report: Trick or Treat Street/ Justine Ferry:**

- 300 children, ages 2 to 10 participated in Trick or Treat Street on Thursday, October 28th, where the children were able to trick or treat in the M-A hallways.
- This is a terrific community building event that shows teenagers and M-A in a positive light. Positive e-mail support from the community was received.

### **Upcoming Events:**

- SDMSC Meetings - December 16 @ 4:30pm in Staff Center Lounge
- Parent Education Event:  
Totally Wired: What Tweens and Teens are Really doing online - January 27 @ 7pm PAC
- Winter Break December 17 - January 4, 2011
- Next PTA Meeting - February 8 @ 8:30am in PAC Cafeteria
- Fashion Show - March 5, 2011!

***Meeting adjourned at 9:30am***

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Carlson

M-A PTA Secretary

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