

**Menlo Atherton High School PTA**  
**General Board Meeting**  
**August 31, 2010**  
(Subject to Approval at the October M-A PTA General Meeting)

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

**Opening:** Carol Orton called the meeting to order at 8:45am, in the PAC cafeteria. 50 members were present.

**Motions:**

*Motion to approve the minutes of the May 25, 2010 M-A PTA General Board Meeting/Amy Boyle/Jill Morgan/Unanimous*

*Motion to approve the 2010-2011 PTA Budget/Lisa McNamara/Amy Boyle/Unanimous*

**A. New Business:**

Treasurer's Report/ Jan Reed

The only changes from the May meeting are, as follows:

- 1) a \$2,600 carryover for mini-grants for which payment still needs to be made;
- 2) the addition of \$1,500 to underwrite an anti-bullying program; and
- 3) the deficit spend budget amount is approximately \$32,000 (it was noted that there are sufficient reserves to do a deficit spend budget for a couple more years).

**B. Committee Reports:**

Arena Check-in/ Gloria Principe:

- 73 volunteers participated (including a dozen Hispanic parents, which really helped)
- Schedule distribution also went smoothly and this year 17 volunteers assisted with text book distribution in the Library, which was a huge help.

Fashion Show/ Jill Smith, Suzanne Amato and Candi Athens:

- The date of the Fashion Show is March 5, 2011. There are 80-90 signups already, mostly from Arena Check-in. The chairs would like to encourage all grades to participate in the volunteer effort.

Parent Education/ Charlene Margot:

- M-A 101 was provided to new parents in the morning and evening and was a success.
- October 4<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00pm Dr. Ken Ginsberg will be at the PAC to talk about "Building Resilience in Children". He is brought by a consortium between M-A and Las Lomitas and Menlo Park City School Districts. Given the draw for this event Charlene will look into providing a feed to the PAC cafeteria.
- November 4<sup>th</sup> Sargent Leo Capovilla of the San Mateo Narcotics Task Force will be in the PAC cafeteria to present. No children are allowed to attend this event.
- November 30<sup>th</sup> the Teen Truth Live documentary will be presented for parent viewing in the PAC. This documentary on the affects of teen bullying will be shown to the entire student body the week before.

Staff Appreciation/ Lisa McNamara:

- Projecting one event per month (next one in Oct.). Bakers and volunteer helpers are needed.

Challenge Day/Ellen Mouchawar and Stashia Gross:

- Will be held November 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. The goal of this all day freshman workshop is to breakdown barriers between factions on campus; small group facilitators are needed for either day.

### **C. Administrative Speaker/ Matthew Zito:**

- M-A is oversubscribed by approximately 100 students (total just over 2,000) as more students showed up in August than expected; therefore, the administration is having to move around 9<sup>th</sup> graders to assure class sizes for freshman stay below 30 students; in addition, there are several big classes for 10<sup>th</sup> grade. There are 570 in the freshman class.
- 10 new teachers have been hired and the administration is very pleased with those coming on board. Some positions had over 125 applicants.
- Luckily the state budget impacts have been minimal, so M-A is still able to still have a strong support staff and low class size. The district's \$17 million reserve is providing much needed stability.
- The construction projects went well, including the remodel of Pride Hall and data connections.
- Temporary field lights will be going in after an EIR. M-A will continue to forge ahead, even with opposition from neighbors, with the plan for permanent field lights, as the later end time necessitates the lighting, particularly for soccer and lacrosse practices.
- M-A moved back the start times of school. This was done to comply with a district mandate that requires at least 80% of all students must begin school after 8:30am. The ultimate schedule was determined by collective reasoning first by a 7 person committee (with parent and student input) that recommended to a 23 member site group that then discussed with the entire 140 member staff various proposals. The conclusion was to maintain a consistent dismissal time for all days of the week, thereby providing equality for all after school programs. There has been not surprisingly some backlash, particularly for the late start times on Wednesday and Thursday.
- Infinite Campus ran into some early stumbling blocks and recently has had some integration problems that are being focused on. It is the administration's goal to shortly have all teachers develop websites that will connect to the portal; currently 30-40% of the staff are participating.
- The current bike racks are insufficient. A short term solution will be pursued in the next several months to add some 8 foot fence lengths to enlarge the space. A long term solution will be to redesign the bike facility by the pool; this will be part of the Media Arts Building Project.
- The East Palo Alto bus is now aligned with the new school start time. However, the administration is still working with SamTrans to add another morning route to the #85 bus from Portola Valley to accommodate the late start on Wednesday and Thursday.

### **Upcoming Events:**

- Back-to-School Night - September 2nd @ 6:30pm
- Freshman Family Tapas - September 10th @ 6:00pm
- School Picture make-up days - September 15th and 16th
- SDMSC Meeting - September 16th @ 3:30pm
- Next PTA Meeting - October 12th @ 7:00pm - theme will be "Teen Sleep Research"

***Meeting adjourned at 9:50am***

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Carlson

M-A PTA Secretary

secretary@mabearspta.org