

**Menlo-Atherton High School PTA**  
**General Meeting**  
**October 5, 2006**

- I. Present: Board Members Stacy Fredericksen, Leslie Murveit, Pam Stoner, Julie Brody, Marilyn Loftesness, Hilda Friedman, Margie Lawrence, David Jones, and Debbie Verity.
- II. The meeting was called to order on October 5, 2006, at 8:57 a.m. by Co-President Leslie Murveit in the J Building at M-A HS.
- III. Old Business
  - A. Approval of Minutes, Debbie Verity: David Jones moved, and Margie Lawrence seconded, to approve the minutes of the September 7, 2006 meeting as presented. Motion passed.
- IV. New Business
  - A. Public Comment: None presented.
  - B. Committee Reports for October Events
    - i. Parent Education Night, Pam Stoner: Dr. Rosekind will make a presentation “Adolescent Sleep Needs” on Tuesday, Oct. 24<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the M-A Library. Denise Plante shares an interest in sleep issues in teens, and is trying to determine how to affect changes at M-A. A suggestion from the membership was to have an article in the Bear Naked News.
    - ii. Fashion Show, Judy Hood: Planning is proceeding on target.
    - iii. Freshman Challenge Day, Margie Lawrence: Challenge Day will be held on Oct. 30 and Oct. 31 for all freshman plus 25 faculty and staff members. Help is needed with morning registration and lunch.
    - iv. Treasurer’s Report, Marilyn Loftesness:
      - 1. Current PTA members number 932 (881 last year) with 597 donor families and 27 staff (14 last year). Donations total \$48,022.
      - 2. Fashion show income is currently \$41,764.
      - 3. Athletic Boosters was paid \$8,380, their share of 10 months of eScrip income.
      - 4. Paid \$1000 each for the following items, as budgeted – Compass Program incentives, Outreach, shout out awards, school newspaper, yearbook, leadership-Carson, and leadership-Stuart.
      - 5. Calendar net expense is \$2,368, slightly under budget.
    - v. Budget Amendment Proposal for 2006-07, Marilyn Loftesness: Amendment is proposed for the following 3 items:
      - 1. \$10,900 Benches and Picnic Tables – for newly landscaped courtyards.
      - 2. \$2000 additional funding and follow-up workshops for Challenge Day 2006. Margie Lawrence reported that there is a new process in place for follow-up work with the students, and that parents now help Andy Stuart plan the events.
      - 3. \$15,000 Freshman Challenge Day 2007 and \$7,350 Freshman Transition 2007 – in order to put it in the budget now, rather than wait for spring as has been done.

There is a \$22,000 overage in the budget as well as \$10,000 for special projects. Membership donations are expected to increase, as well as the income from the fashion show by \$6,000-7,000, resulting in more than enough to cover these expenditures of \$35,250. Suzanne Amato moved, and Maria Flaherty seconded, to approve the budget amendments as proposed. Motion carried.

- C. Guest Speaker – Principal Denise Plante: Ms. Plante reported that the gap between the Caucasian students as compared to the Hispanic students and those who are socio-economically disadvantaged has been narrowing, with scores rising for all groups.

API SCORES	Caucasian	Hispanic & Socioeconomically Disadvantaged
2000-2001	860	460-470
2005-2006	897	602-623

Also, the students taking AP tests are performing very well. In 2006, 351 students took at least one AP test, with 773 total tests taken. 87% earned scores of 3 and higher, with 25% earning a score of 5, the highest score possible.

- i. **Question: How is the percentage of lower income families determined?** It is based on those who turn in the lunch program form at the beginning of the year.
- ii. **Question: What is the status of using cards and PINs at the prepaid food stations for lunches?** Ms. Plante will check on this.<sup>1</sup>
- iii. **Question: Can you elaborate on the process volunteers need to follow (TB tests and fingerprinting) to be cleared to work with students?** If the volunteer is never alone with the students, a shortened procedure can be followed that includes being fingerprinted. If the volunteer works with students without a certificated staff member present, the volunteer must have a TB test and be fingerprinted by the county education office. Volunteers at one-day events do not need special clearance. See Toni DiCicco at M-A for specific information.
- iv. **Question: Where should the students park who have only 5 periods?** The student parking lots are closed during school hours, but the gates are opened at the end of 5<sup>th</sup> period for those who are leaving. If a student needs to stay late, they may park in the front driveway with Fred Kessler's permission, or a campus aide can be called to let them out of the lot. The benefits to this policy are a safer parking lot and the avoidance of certain behavior issues.
- v. **Question: What are students being taught about emergency drills?** Students are being taught to listen to and follow the directions of the teachers, who have been trained in emergency procedures. They are to remain calm and not use their cell phones. The school now has an emergency command center, which will be stocked with emergency supplies. All of the students' emergency information is stored in Ms. Plante's PDA, which she carries with her. The staff can communicate on the radios that the PTA purchased for the school last year. Other emergency issues are being addressed, and Cindy Ivy is aiding in this endeavor.
- vi. **Charter Schools:** Summit is the only charter school funded by the district. The district does pay for some students to attend other charter schools, but does not fund those schools. There is not a lot of opportunity to interact with Summit to learn what they are doing. Summit's school enrollment is intentionally smaller to allow them to use a different approach to education. Having this program in the district allows students to have a choice of environments. Aspects of Summit's program that she does like include:

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<sup>1</sup> The following information was included in a subsequent eNote: Did you know that you can prepay for lunches here on campus? How? Write a check for the amount you wish to prepay and either: 1. send it with your student and instruct them to bring it to Christy Egenes, site leader of Food Services, or bring to any attendant at the food kiosks or 2. mail it to SUHSD Food Services 480 James Avenue Redwood City, CA 94062. Be sure to include on the check your student's ID number. If the check is for more than one student, each ID needs to be listed with the amount for each. A pin number will be mailed to your home address and the student simply enters this number into the pin pad at any one of our food kiosks. Make check payable to SUHSD Food Service. Questions: call 369-1411 extension 2590.

1. The internship in the junior year.
  2. All entering freshmen take Geometry. Those needing to take Algebra I do so during the preceding summer.
- vii. Ms. Plante acknowledged Eileen Van Rheenen for working to get information on sleep issues to all students during class time.
- D. Committee Reports
- i. Calendar/Directory, Stacy Fredericksen: Cathy Bitler reported to her that the calendar is to be distributed on Oct. 6<sup>th</sup>. The PTA would like to express their enormous appreciation for the hours of work that Cathy Bitler and Cathy Fairgrieve put into the calendar.
  - ii. Partner School Liaison, Leslie Murveit: Charlene Margot is a resource for feeding items to their school newsletters, but she is not the primary conduit to advertise events at feeder schools.
  - iii. Freshmen Family Welcome, Stacy Fredericksen: Patty Burch reported to her that the event was a success with 300-350 people attending; the food at the potluck dinner was plentiful and varied; and leadership students raised \$150 from selling drinks. The transition from the dinner to the Freshman Dance went smoothly. Patty would like to acknowledge the leadership students for their tremendous job in planning the event.
  - iv. eScrip, Stacy Fredericksen: Emily Liggett is working on getting people to transfer their eScrip benefits to M-A. The school now has 821 donors. Contact Emily at [emligget@pacbell.net](mailto:emligget@pacbell.net) to verify that your eScrip account is active.
  - v. 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Information Night: Volunteers are needed to staff this event on Wednesday, Nov. 8<sup>th</sup>.
  - vi. Mini-Grants, Maggie King and Judy Hood: Julie Brody moved, and Mary Hom seconded, to approve the mini-grant proposal as presented, with the following amendments:
    1. Grant No. 21 – strike “Food” from the title to read “Emergency Medical Supplies.”
    2. Grant No. 25 – Yearbooks for Seniors for \$3000.00: Provisionally approved up to \$3000 with the stipulation that students submit an application to Geri Nicholas, who will send a reimbursement request to Marilyn Loftesness with the number of students approved and dollar amount specified. Geri’s agreement to coordinate this program must be solicited, and an application form will need to be created.
- The motion, with noted amendments, carried.
- V. Upcoming PTA Dates:
- A. Fashion Show – Saturday, Oct. 21<sup>st</sup>, New Gym
  - B. Parent Ed Night – “Adolescent Sleep Needs” by Dr. Rosekind, Thursday, Oct. 24<sup>th</sup>, 7-8:30pm, Library
  - C. Freshman Challenge Days – Monday, Oct. 30<sup>th</sup>, and Tuesday, Oct. 31<sup>st</sup>
  - D. PTA General Meeting – Thursday, Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 8:45am, Rise Room in the J Building
  - E. Campus Tour for Incoming 8<sup>th</sup> Graders – Saturday, Nov. 4<sup>th</sup>, 1-3pm
  - F. 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Information Night – Wednesday, Nov. 8<sup>th</sup>, 6-9pm, J Building

Respectfully submitted,  
 Debbie Verity  
 M-A PTA Secretary