

**Menlo-Atherton High School PTA
General Meeting
November 2, 2006**

Present: Board Members Stacy Fredericksen, Leslie Murveit, Julie Brody, Marilyn Loftness, Hilda Friedman, Margie Lawrence, David Jones, and Debbie Verity.

- I. The meeting was called to order on November 2, 2006, at 8:54 a.m. by Co-President Stacy Fredericksen in the Rise Room of the J Building at M-A HS.
- II. Old Business
 - A. Approval of Minutes, Debbie Verity: Correction was noted in section IV D iii that the leadership students raised \$150, not \$1500, at the Freshmen Family Welcome. David Jones moved, and Patty Burch seconded, to approve the minutes of the October 5, 2006 meeting as amended. Motion passed.
- III. New Business
 - A. Public Comment:
 - i. Laurie Holyoake proposed holding a home tour as a fundraiser.
 - ii. Lynne McClure reported that Steve Lippi gave her the following information in response to a question at the September meeting on the cost of reducing class sizes. To reduce the average class size to 25 students, 16 new teachers would need to be hired at a cost of about \$1 million. To reduce it to 30 students, 4 new teachers would be needed at a cost of about \$360,000.
 - B. Guest Speaker, Judy Duran: Judy introduced Clint Barret, Network Specialist Supervisor for the district, who has responsibility for implementing a new security camera system for the district. The intent is to reduce vandalism and thievery, in addition to increasing student safety and property protection. At present there are 11 camera locations at M-A, but only the one at the front is operational. After an additional camera location is installed, vendors will be invited to explore the district campuses, design proposals and then submit bids. The district preference is to have 1 vendor install the systems for the entire district, but this is not definite. Ideally the new system will record 24/7 with watermarking and at least 6 months of archiving. All cameras will record simultaneously. The system will be automated, but also may be operated manually. An option would be to have an auto motion capture feature for use at night.
 - i. **Question: How will the students be told?** The students figure such things out. It was suggested that the students be told the reasons for the system.
 - ii. **Question: How will the cameras be protected?** They have to accept that vandalism will be a possibility, and that regular maintenance will be needed.
 - iii. **Question: Is insurance available?** Yes, but it's not always worth the cost.
 - iv. **Question: Will decoy cameras be installed?** Probably.
 - v. **Question: What about the system that was installed a few years ago?** The biggest expense was setting up the system, which is still there.
 - vi. **Question: The campus is dark at night when the existing lights are not on. The lights are on automatic timers and no one seems to know how to override the settings. What can be done?** Clint will speak with district

- personnel since this is a district responsibility. Installing solar units is a possible solution. Clint will report back next month.
- vii. Judy reported that she is responsible for athletics. Eligibility for students to participate in all activities, including athletics, was determined Wednesday and was based on students having at least a 2.0 GPA. They must also have accrued a minimum number of units towards graduation based on their grade level. As of the beginning of the year the requirements were at least 40 units for sophomores, at least 95 for juniors, and at least 150 for seniors.
 - viii. The deadline for submitting winter sports packets is November 10th. If the deadline is missed, students cannot join a team.
 - ix. **Question: Several openings for coaches are being advertised. How does Pam Wimberly recruit coaches?** Several of these have been filled. By September 2008 coaches will have to be ACEP certified. This is a full day course that costs \$105 that can be taken online or in a classroom.¹
 - x. **Question: Can PE credit be given for offsite activities?** The district athletic division must approve this for each student.
- C. Committee Reports for November Events
- i. Canned Food Drive, Sarah Fitzgerald: Student leadership will hold a kickoff on Nov. 13th. Parents are needed to deliver meals on Dec. 8th & 9th. Diane Kelvie is co-chairing.
- D. Treasurer's Report, Marilyn Loftesness:
- i. Membership donations are currently \$48,846 (last year \$50,270) with 939 members (881 last year).
 - ii. Expected fashion show income is \$35,000, over budget by \$9,500.
 - iii. eScrip paid to Athletic Boosters this year totals \$9,848.
 - iv. \$3,487 was paid to parent PTAs for membership dues and insurance.
 - v. \$4,437 in mini-grants was paid.
- E. Budget Amendment for 2006-2007, Marilyn Loftesness: A budget amendment was requested for up to \$500 for food for teachers/staff for 8th grade information night. It will be included in next year's budget based on the actual amount needed. Judy Hood moved, and Mary Etta Eaton seconded, to approve the amendment. Motion passed.
- F. Freshman Challenge Day, Andy Stuart, Margie Lawrence, and Katie Riddle:
- 86 parents, district staff, Denise Plante, Fred Kessler and many leadership students participated in Challenge Day on Oct. 30th and 31st. Many parents attended a preparation meeting the prior Saturday, and all facilitators received a handbook.
- Katie Riddle from the student leadership team explained that the team created posters with slogans and gave reminders in candy bags to the freshman in their English classes to prepare them for Challenge Day. In addition to working on the prior Saturday, the team arrived early both days to set up. They also surveyed the sophomore and junior classes about how Challenge Day has continued to impact their lives. A freshman survey was conducted at the end of Challenge Day. The results will be presented during the morning Bear News.

¹ This refers to a CIF bylaw passed in May 2005 that requires high school coaches be certified through a CIF/ASEP Coaching Education program by December 31, 2008. For further information, go to www.cifstate.org -> Coaches Center -> Coaching Education Classes -> Coaching Education: FAQ.

Follow up activities will occur with the small groups that were formed during Challenge Day meeting with leadership students during the year. Teachers will be incorporating ideas from Challenge Day in the classroom with the curriculum. The M-A teachers that have participated in Challenge Day are relating their experiences to other teachers. There has been a realization of the degree that rumor and gossip affect the students, and the student leadership team will be tackling these issues.

The Challenge Day task force is petitioning the SDMSC to make a presentation at the in service days on Jan. 8th and 9th. Also the senior leaders are petitioning the SDMSC and teachers to have their own Challenge Day. Funding will be a main issue. The students have said that their personal challenge will be a promise to their senior teachers to not have senioritis and to work hard through the end of the school year.

Andy Stuart thanked Margie Lawrence and Betsy Bowersox for their hard work, which allowed Andy to focus on the program, the students and the follow up activities. M-A is considered to be a flagship school by Challenge Day. Oprah will have an upcoming show on the program.

- i. **Question: Will the plan for addressing rumors and gossip only be presented to the freshmen? Can you do it with the other classes?** The leadership students aren't available to do this. But this could be incorporated into class lessons, such as teaching the students tools to eliminate these problems while studying novels that illustrate these issues.
- ii. **Suggestion: Freshmen-parent team could follow the class through high school.**
- iii. **Suggestion: Put an article in the Bear Naked News on rumor control.**

G. Informational Presentations

- i. Band Boosters, Mary Hom: Band Boosters is a loose group of parents that raises money for the band. There are about 140 students in the bands. The wrapping paper sale raises about \$3000, and the Big Band Dance (March 2nd this year) about \$10,000. The district provides \$5,000 for program expenses.
- ii. Athletic Boosters, Kayla Skidmore and Susan Mohr: Next year's co-chairs Suzanne Amato and Laurie Knapp were announced. Yesterday a kickoff was held for the 2nd annual Big Bear Run that will be held on May 6th. The PTA was thanked for their financial support for last year and this year. There are 52 athletic teams at M-A with 700 athletes. Last year only 11% of the athletes participated in the Big Bear Run. The focus this year will be on increasing their participation. Volunteers are needed for the event. New chairs for next year's run are needed now so that they can shadow this year's team.
- iii. Blood Drive, Megan Dunn, Junior Student Body Officer: A blood drive will be held at M-A on Nov. 6th. Students who are 16 and older may donate blood. Parent volunteers are needed during the following shifts: 8-10am, 10am-12pm, and 12-2pm. Contact Jenna Carson.

H. Committee Reports

- i. Partner School Liaison, Charlene Margot: Committees should feed information to her to include in the Partner School Newsletter. A page will be created on the M-A web site for Partner School information.

- ii. Trivocis, Stacy Fredericksen: The district is making database changes, so next year the Trivocis may be able to be distributed electronically to most families.
 - iii. Fashion Show, Judy Hood and Chris Rivera: The Fashion Show was very successful and a positive experience for the students. The PTA expressed their appreciation to Judy and Chris for their extraordinary work.
 - iv. Parent Education Night, Julie Brody: Denise Plante has been supportive of the idea of introducing sleep education in the classrooms. The January 23rd and April parent education nights will also be on sleep issues.
- IV. Upcoming PTA Dates and Events:
- A. 8th Grade Campus Tour – Sat., Nov. 4th, 1-3pm.
 - B. FACTS Forum – Mon., Nov. 7th, 7-8:30pm, Library
 - C. 8th Grade Information Night – Wed., Nov. 8th, 6-9pm, J Building
 - D. Winter Sports Meeting – Mon., Nov. 13th, 7-9pm, J Building
 - E. Fall Sports Awards – Thurs., Nov. 16th, 7-9pm, J Building
 - F. Drama Performance: Cat on a Hot Tin Roof – Nov. 30th through Dec. 2nd
 - G. PTA General Meeting – Thurs., Jan. 11th, 8:45am, Rise Room of the J Building

Respectfully Submitted,
Debbie Verity
M-A PTA Secretary