

**Menlo-Atherton High School PTA
General Meeting
September 7, 2006**

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

- I. The meeting was called to order on September 7, 2006, at 9:02 a.m. by Co-President Stacy Fredericksen in the Rise Room, J Building at M-A HS.
- II. Old Business
 - A. Approval of Minutes, Debbie Verity: Minutes were amended to reflect the correct name of the Athletic Boosters. David Jones moved, and Sally Fundakowski seconded, to accept the minutes as amended. Motion passed.
- III. New Business
 - A. Meeting Format: A period of public comment will be held at the beginning of each meeting to allow the membership to present concerns to the Board. The Board will not hold a discussion, but will take the comment into consideration for inclusion on the next meeting agenda or will refer the presenter to the proper staff member.
 - B. Public Comment: None presented.
 - C. Club Funding Policy: A club funding policy is being developed to ensure funds are equally available to all clubs. The requests will be submitted through the mini-grant process. Additional details will be available soon.
 - D. Guest Speaker Steve Lippi, Instructional Vice Principal: The PTA was thanked for their contribution to the school.
 - i. At the 3rd week, M-A is still at the opening phase. Enrollment is 1,912 as of today, lower than last year. A district budget meeting is being held today to review staffing levels in terms of enrollment. Some juggling of classes due to low enrollment in some, and overcrowding in others, will occur.
 - ii. The J Building will be demolished later in the year. Science rooms have been renovated, and the portables have been removed.
 - iii. **Question: Has the budget shortfall, due to a property tax miscalculation, impacted the ability to fund classes?** M-A is in a basic aid district, fully dependent on property tax revenues for school funding. The school has not yet been impacted, but more will be known after today's budget meeting. Only 3 new teachers were hired this year.
 - iv. **Question: How large do classes need to be in order not to be cut?** A class under 20 students is pretty small, but circumstances would determine whether it is cut. For example, if it is the only section of a class, it may be saved.
 - v. **Question: Since M-A is in a basic aid district, is it true that the lower enrollment, the better it is?** Yes. Residency verification is important so that only students from our area attend the school.
 - vi. **Question: Did M-A reach the testing benchmark last year?** M-A was hoping the API score would increase 4 points, and we gained 29 points. Targets were also met for the sub-groups, so M-A did very well. The graduation rate is considered when determining PI status. A comparison is made between the number of students in a class who started as freshmen and the number who graduated as seniors. This data gauges the support that students receive over their 4 years. Last year, using the 2005 graduating class, M-A needed to reach 83%, but was at 80.5%. The answer is to find out why

the students leave because those who move without notice and giving a reason are counted as dropouts. The school is doing this research.

- vii. **Question: Can M-A report scores for sub-groups separately as do other schools in the area, with the hope of improving the public perception?** The state reports aggregate scores, and the school chooses to do so also.
 - viii. **Question: Is the WASC accreditation process on hold?** No, there will be a spring visit. There is no relation between accreditation and the PI status. The school is still working on getting the state to correct the PI status based on errors in last year's data. PI should have ended last year and Mr. Lippi feels that this will be recognized by the state.
 - ix. **Question: How many charter schools is the district financially supporting? Are there any innovations that charter schools are employing that would work at M-A?** Mr. Lippi does not know how many charter schools are in the district. Eric Hartwig is the link to the charter schools. Mr. Hartwig has many different responsibilities, but they are all centered on curriculum issues.
 - x. **Question: What is the effect on M-A of the district having to fund charter schools?** The district is required to pay for charter schools. Today's budget meeting will address this issue. Mr. Lippi is not knowledgeable about the effect.
 - xi. **Comment: Charter schools focus on matriculation of students to college.** M-A remedial students have 3 periods with one teacher and this appears to have been successful in raising their scores. The Shared Decision-Making Site Council (SDMSC) is developing task forces and will be considering the learning environments.
 - xii. **Question: What is the maximum allowed class size?** Basic and below basic classes are 20:1 or 22:1. Per the teacher contract the maximum average size is 35:1. No class is over 40, and there are a number in the 26 to 28 range. **Is there a group focused on trying to lower class size?** All recognize small class sizes as the ideal, but the property tax revenue doesn't allow it. The focus then shifts to providing small class sizes to students who are struggling. Per Stacy Fredericksen, the Foundation (not the PTA) can fund teachers, but their donations per student are about half of what the elementary district foundations receive. **How much would be required to fund reduced class sizes?** A figure is not available. Mountain View has a model for this.
 - xiii. **Question: Is there a committee to raise funds to purchase computers for the classroom?** No. In the F-wing there is a computer lab.
- E. PTA Membership: The PTA is a participatory body in which all members vote. All of those who join the PTA are eligible to vote.
- F. PTA Web Site: Debbie Verity will be responsible for updating and maintaining the PTA web site.
- G. Proposed Budget 2006-2007, Marilyn Loftness: The following items were noted:
- i. New line items include Compass Program Incentives \$1000, Shout Out Awards \$1000, Jazz Assembly \$800 (all were previously funded through mini-grants), Shadowing \$250, FACTS Committee \$500, and Computer Program \$600. \$14,000 was budgeted last year for two days of this year's Challenge Day program and an additional \$7,000 was in this year's budget to fund a 3rd day. The 3rd day is no longer needed, so the total budgeted expenses for the PTA for '06-'07 will be reduced to \$114,921.
 - ii. A proposal to fund a Senior Class Challenge Day has been made.

- iii. A question was posed as to whether the value of Challenge Day has been researched. Margie Lawrence reported that the faculty did not have time to address this issue last year. Parents are now organizing the event and follow-up events and evaluation will take place. Feedback will be given to the PTA.
 - iv. Molly McDermott moved, and Judy Hood seconded, to approve the budget as amended, with the \$7000 budget item for a 3rd day for the Challenge Day program removed. Motion passed.
 - H. Grad Night Treasurer: Denise Barnett has volunteered to be the Grad Night Treasurer. Maria Flaherty moved, and Molly McDermott seconded, to approve Denise Barnett as the M-A PTA Vice President and Grad Night Treasurer. Motion passed.
 - I. SDMSC At-Large PTA Member: There is a seat available on the SDMSC for a parent at-large. Two meetings will be held per month, one on the 1st Wednesday from 2-4 pm, and one on the 3rd Tuesday from 4:30-6:30 pm. Interested PTA members should contact Leslie Murveit or Stacy Fredericksen.
 - J. PTA Vice President Position: The board is recommending the creation of a new PTA Vice President position with the officer acting as the SDMSC PTA Representative. Margie Lawrence, 2005-2006 Co-President, has been nominated to this position.
 - i. A motion was made by Judy Hood, and seconded by Molly McDermott, to create the position of PTA Vice President for the SDMSC PTA Representative. Motion passed.
 - ii. A motion was made by Molly McDermott, and seconded by Mary Etta Eaton, to approve Margie Lawrence as the SDMSC PTA Representative. Motion passed.
 - K. Committee Reports:
 - i. Calendar/Directory, Cathy Fairgrieve: The calendar/directory should be distributed by the 1st of October.
 - ii. Fashion Show, Judy Hood: The theme is “Going Places.” This is the primary fundraiser for the PTA, with funds coming from ticket sales, raffle tickets for Nano iPods (donated again by the Brandon family), a family sponsorship category, and large underwriters. Gregg Shriner of Divine Catering will cater the noon luncheon and donate the food at cost.
 - iii. PTA Logo: Cheryl Moreno donated the development of the “Dream Big” logo for the PTA and the school.
 - iv. Freshman Family Welcome: Patty Burch and the 6th period Freshman Transition class are organizing this potluck dinner, which will be held from 6 to 7 pm on September 15th, with a freshman dance to follow.
- IV. Upcoming PTA Dates
 - A. Back to School Night – Thursday, Sept. 14th, 6:30 tour of Pride Hall, 7 pm parent meeting in Ayers Gym, and 7:30 pm classroom tour.
 - B. Freshmen Family Welcome – Friday, Sept. 15th, 6-7 pm, M-A Campus
 - C. PTA General Meeting – Thursday, Oct. 5th, 8:45am, Rise Room
 - D. Fashion Show – Saturday, Oct. 21st, noon luncheon, 4 pm and 7:30 pm, Ayers Gym
 - E. Parent Ed Night: Dr. Mark Rosekind on teen sleep issues – Tuesday, Oct. 24th, 7 pm, Library

Respectfully submitted,
 Debbie Verity
 M-A PTA Secretary