

Menlo-Atherton High School PTA
General Meeting
March 1, 2007

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

- I. The meeting was called to order on March 1, 2007, at 9:05 a.m. by Co-President Leslie Murveit in the J Building at M-A HS.
- II. Old Business
 - A. Approval of Minutes, Debbie Verity: Minutes of the February 1, 2007 PTA meeting were presented. **Debbie Hall moved, and David Jones seconded, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion passed.**
- III. New Business
 - A. Public Comment: None made.
 - B. Treasurer's Report, Marilyn Loftesness:
 - i. Income to date is \$106,302, with a net cash flow of \$50,553. February expenses included \$5000 to Athletic Boosters for the Big Bear Run, and \$6000 to Grad Night.
 - ii. A mini-grant request for \$2200.00 was received from the vice principals for floor signs, after the February deadline.
 - iii. **Julie Merk moved, and Maria Flaherty seconded, to approve up to \$2400.00 for floor signs with the extra money to cover an increase in cost if the style of floor sign is changed to increase security. Motion passed.**
 - C. Nominating Committee, David Jones: The nominating committee is responsible for recruiting members for the executive board and committee chairs for the coming year. **The following slate was presented for approval: David Jones, Pam Stoner, Julie Brody, Alice Hom, Kim Mitchell, and Sarah Fitzgerald. Maria Flaherty moved, and Mary Etta Eaton seconded, to approve the slate for the nominating committee as presented. Motion passed.** Suggestions for the board and chair positions should be given to David Jones, Leslie Murveit or Stacy Fredericksen.
 - D. Administrative Speaker: Principal Denise Plante
 - i. Ms. Plante recognized the great work of her administrative team and staff during her 2-week absence due to an illness.
 - ii. County officials will visit M-A on March 15th to validate that M-A is a California Distinguished School. Thanks were given to parent June Flora for her work on the award application. Part of the strength of M-A's application was the narrowing of the achievement gap.
 - iii. The WASC visitation to confirm M-A's accreditation will be March 25th through 28th.
 - iv. Students will be surveyed this week on sleep issues. On March 6th, a minimum day, over 100 students from the Stanford Sleep and Dream course will make a ½ hour presentation on teen sleep to all students during class time. This will complete the education of the M-A community, following the staff presentation by Dr. Rosekind on January 9th and the parent education meeting on January 23rd. Next year sleep education will be given to the freshmen during their World Studies classes.
 - v. The Stanford Masters Management Group is developing a survey for M-A's alumni to evaluate their view of their high school experience at 2 years, 5 years, and 9 years after graduation.
 - vi. June Flora has applied for a grant for M-A's new biotech class through the Silicon Valley Community Foundation in the amount of \$45,000. M-A will be hiring 2 new science teachers for next year, one of whom will teach the biotech class.
 - vii. The school's master schedule for 2007-2008 will be developed during March. The freshman World Studies curriculum will be revamped for next year with only one

level of World Studies being offered. One of the results will be that, just as in PE and in the senior government/econ classes, all students will co-mingle. In addition to the regular World Studies curriculum, class time will be used for Freshmen Transition services, Challenge Day follow-up, student mentoring, and teaching organizational skills. The new curriculum will also satisfy the technology requirement for graduation.

E. WASC Visitation, Jenna Carson

- i. The WASC document has been completed and will be available for review in the office and online. Each staff member will be provided a copy. The 2 upcoming minimum days will be used to review the document with them. A handout will be given to the staff detailing the 2-year process. Another handout will be given to the students to educate them about the process and to prepare them for the visit by the accreditation team.
- ii. The WASC Visitation Team is a group of 7 educators from around the state who will be at M-A from March 25th through 28th to validate the information in the document. They expect to visit every classroom and every teacher, as well as to meet with many students and parents. By the end of the visit the team will have prepared a report with a recommendation on the length of the accreditation, which can be anywhere from 2 to 6 years, and will present it to the staff on the 28th. The PTA will coordinate with Ms. Carson to provide volunteers and food during the visit.
- iii. Two major changes have occurred as a result of the accreditation process. (1) The restructuring and strengthening of the Shared Decision Making Site Council, which has led to interdepartmental work. Decision-making is focused in the SDMSC. (2) Task forces are being used as a means for the staff to coordinate work on specific issues of interest to them. The 4th Wednesday of every month is set aside for task forces to meet. Often task forces are made up of teachers from different departments. An action plan goal is to have the department teachers collaborate more on their curriculum. Some departments have started to use the same rubric for grading. Time can be a prohibitive factor in this collaborative process.

F. M-A Athletic Boosters Big Bear Run, Diane Hester: Kim Young, Amy Boyle and Diane Hester are planning the event. The first Big Bear Run in 2006 raised \$30,000. The goal this year is to raise \$40,000 and have 500 runners. They have already raised \$45,000. The team who has the highest number of participants and the team who has the highest percentage of participants will each receive \$500.

IV. Committee Reports

- A. Staff Appreciation, Judy Hood: A staff appreciation event was hosted on Valentine's Day.
- B. Mini-Grants, Judy Hood: Judy read an excerpt of a letter from teacher Stephen Ready voicing his appreciation of the PTA mini-grant program, reading, "...the true benefit of the program is not just in the materials and programs that it funds. Perhaps even more so, the benefit of the program is also in its allowing the teachers' to dream."

V. Upcoming PTA Dates and School Events

- A. Big Band Dance – Fri., March 2nd, J Building
- B. Winter Sports Awards – Wed., March 7th, 7-9 pm, J Building
- C. Trivocis articles deadline – Thurs., March 8th
- D. Sadie Hawkins Dance – Fri., March 16th
- E. PTA General Meeting – Thurs., April 5th, 8:45 am, Rise Room
- F. M-A Open House – Thurs., April 5th
- G. Spring Break – Week of April 9th – 13th

Respectfully submitted,
Debbie Verity
M-A PTA Secretary