

Menlo-Atherton High School PTA
General Meeting
April 5, 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 April 5, 2007, at 9:00 a.m. by Co-President Stacy Fredericksen in the Rise Room of the J Building at M-A HS, with 18 members present.
- II. Old Business
 - A. Approval of Minutes, Debbie Verity: Minutes of the March 1, 2007 PTA meeting were presented. **Pam Stoner moved, and Patty Burch seconded, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion passed.**
- III. New Business
 - A. Public Comment: Patty Burch voiced a concern about student access to the parking lot when they return from AP testing at lunchtime. Leslie will follow up with the administration to arrange for the lots to be opened.
 - B. Treasurer's Report, Marilyn Loftesness:
 - i. Income to date is \$107,064, with a net cash flow of \$41,862. Major March expenses included \$800 for the Jazz Assembly.
 - ii. An announcement was made that the Board approved up to \$1000 for WASC hospitality. **Maria Flaherty moved, and Helen Hubert seconded, to approve up to \$1500 for WASC hospitality expenses. Motion passed.**
 - iii. Three students and one chaperone from Quiz Kids will be traveling to the competition in Chicago. Expenses, not including their airfare that is being covered with miles, are \$2500. **Judy Hood moved, and Eileen Van Rheen seconded, to approve up to \$500 for Quiz Kids entry fees. Motion passed.** If any student needs additional aid in order to compete, they will be referred to Geri Nicholas in Outreach. If she approves the student's need, the PTA can consider increasing the Outreach budget.
 - C. Nominating Committee, David Jones: The positions that still need to be filled are one co-vice president, secretary, auditor, parliamentarian, fashion show, calendar/directory, 8th grade info night (exact role to be determined by the administration) and eNotes editor.
 - D. General Meeting Date Change: Discussion was held on changing the general meeting date to the 1st Wednesday of the month starting in 2007-2008. Since there was no objection, the change will be included in the revised bylaws, and will be approved by membership vote on the bylaws next year.
 - E. Administrative Speaker: Instructional Vice Principal Steve Lippi
 - i. The California Distinguished Schools visit went well and receipt of the award is pretty certain. The announcement will be made in mid-April.
 - ii. The WASC committee presented a positive report to the school. The report has been presented to the WASC Board, which will determine the accreditation period given to M-A. The committee members were impressed with what they saw in the classrooms. The report supported issues already noted in the self-study, such as needing to improve articulation with feeder schools. The school is already moving ahead with the action plans presented in the self-study.
 - iii. Star testing will start the week after spring break. AP testing will occur in May, with no overlap between the two testing programs.
 - iv. Graduation will be held on Thursday, June 7th.
 - v. Work is being done on the master schedule for next year. Discussions are being held with teachers about class size reduction. The department chairs want the teachers to have their own classrooms rather than sharing with other teachers, and this restricts the number of classrooms available for class size reduction.
 - vi. **Question: Will sophomores be required to take PE next year?** No, a new requirement that all freshmen and sophomores must take PE, which has not been

approved but is expected to be, would only apply to **incoming** freshmen. This may be the 1st phase of a number of changes. In the future PE substitutions will not be allowed, and athletics will not substitute for PE as 1 of the 6 required classes. A discussion ensued on the negative impact on being able to take electives, though it was noted that health issues would be covered in the PE curriculum.

- F. Informational Presentation by the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Coalition of San Mateo County, Executive Director Valerie Brown, and Teacher and M-A parent Perryn Rowland
- i. Pregnancy rates for teens have reached the lowest point over the last 30 years from the peak in 1991. Reasons for the decrease include: (1) teens are using contraception regularly, and (2) they are delaying sex. There are pockets in San Mateo County where teen pregnancy is still high and several of M-A's feeder schools are in these areas.¹ Chlamydia, an STD that is easily treated but can cause serious problems when untreated, is also high.
 - ii. The Coalition presents a class called Teen Talk to middle school and high school students in San Mateo County, including the Sequoia district high schools, with a goal of reducing teen pregnancies. The curriculum includes state-required information on HIV prevention in addition to the following topics:
 1. Anatomy and Physiology
 2. Personal Values Clarification
 3. Communication, Decision-Making and Abstinence
 4. Birth Control Methods and Condom Demonstration/Activity
 5. Sexually Transmitted Diseases
 6. Sexual Identity, including Homosexuality
 7. Dating Violence/Sexual Coercion & Unhealthy Relationships
 8. Sexual Assault
 9. Teen Parent Panel, presented by trained Redwood High School students who are teen parentsTeen Talk presents the information in a fun way, using games and open discussions. They present the facts to students, encourage the development of decision-making skills, and help the students explore their own values.
 - iii. A pre-test is given to the students before instruction begins and 2 weeks after to measure the effectiveness of the program. Last year M-A students scored 79% on the pre-test on pregnancy and STD topics, and scored 96% on the post-test. Teachers also evaluated the program, and 100% wanted the Teen Pregnancy Coalition to return to their classroom.
 - iv. **Question: Do they talk about pregnancy?** Yes, pregnancy options are presented, including abortion, adoption, safe arms law, and keeping the baby.
 - v. **Question: What kind of follow-up is done?** The curriculum is presented in the freshman year in their science class. More follow up is desirable, but funding is the issue. Teen Pregnancy Coalition's funding comes from foundations and individuals, not from the districts or schools. The superintendent and Sequoia District have been very supportive and recognize the importance of the program. No federal funds are available to the Coalition because they do not follow the federal mandate of only teaching abstinence. The program cost is about \$100 per student. The curriculum will be presented this year from April 30th to May 11th.
 - vi. **Comment: Her daughter talked about a clinic at Sequoia High School.** This is the Teen Wellness Clinic. There is a permanent site on the Sequoia campus and they also have mobile clinics that visit each district high school. The services are confidential and are available to all teens.
 - vii. **Question: Can teens opt out of Teen Talk?** Yes, but few do.
 - viii. Parents can get involved by becoming a board member, advocating for district funding, and spreading information about the program. The Coalition's annual

¹ Information presented in the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Coalition's Fall 2006 newsletter stated that, "Teen pregnancy rates dropped 41% over 7 years in areas of San Mateo County served by Coalition programming."

budget is \$300,000, and they serve about 3,000 students per year. They also run teacher trainings when they are not able to present the curriculum at schools, and parent trainings, though 95% of their work is done in the classroom.

IV. Committee Reports

A. Teen Sleep Program, Eileen Van Rheenen: The last parent education meeting on teen sleep will be held on April 18. A student survey is being conducted on sleep issues, and the results will be presented at the meeting. Any ideas for future changes as a result of the survey will be reviewed with Ms. Plante before presentation at the meeting.

B. Grad Night:

i. The following financial information was presented:

\$ 8,636 opening balance
\$ 6,000 seed money from PTA
\$11,000 approximate ticket sales
\$ 6,800 approximate donations
\$ 4,500 expenses to date

The inflow to date is \$32,572, with a goal of \$35,000.

ii. It was reported that, at a recent meeting of all fundraising groups on campus, a discussion was held on developing a graduation committee in a class' freshman year, with planned fundraising events held throughout their 4 years.

C. PTA Display Cases, Patty Burch: Patty requested Board approval on allowing Andy Stuart to continue to use the PTA display case on the right of Pride Hall for Freshman Transition information. The Board approved the request.

V. Upcoming PTA Dates and School Events

A. M-A Open House – Thurs., April 5th

B. Spring Break – Week of April 9th – 13th

C. Deadline for Trivocis submissions – Mon., April 16th

D. PTA General Meeting – Thurs., May 3rd, 8:45 am, Rise Room

E. M-A Athletic Boosters “Big Bear Run” – Sun., May 6th

Meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Verity

M-A PTA Secretary