

Menlo-Atherton High School PTA
General Meeting
May 31, 2007

Present: Board Members: Julie Brody, Pam Stoner, Janet Perez, Denise Bullwinkel, Pam Songer, Elizabeth Johnson, Alice Hom and Stacy Fredericksen. Outgoing Board Members present: Marilyn Loftesness, Margie Lawrence, Debbie Verity, David Jones and Hilda Friedman.

- I. The meeting was called to order on May 31, 2007, at 8:55 a.m. by Co-President Julie Brody and SDMSC PTA VP Stacy Fredericksen in the Rise Room of the J Building at M-A HS, with 25 members present.
- II. Old Business
 - A. Approval of Minutes, Pam Stoner: Minutes of the May 3, 2007 PTA meeting were presented. **Pam Stoner moved, and Debbie Verity seconded, to approve the minutes as amended. Motion passed.**
- III. New Business
 - A. Public Comment: Julie Brody gave an update on the memorial service for Sue Kayton's son, Daniel Barclay, to be held on Saturday June 2, at 2pm. Sparkling water is needed and set up is at 1pm.
 - B. Per SDMSC bylaws, a paper ballot vote was held to elect a PTA Representative at Large.
 - i. Candidates were: Charlene Margot, John McMurtry and Dana Shelley.
 - ii. Charlene Margot was elected to be the representative, with John McMurtry elected as the alternate.
 - C. Administrative Speaker: Principal Denise Plante.
 - i. Denise applauded the work of the PTA during her tenure as principal of M-A, and noted her own growth as a person and principal through working with them. With Matt Zito's knowledge of the school, he'll continue to work on the programs started during the Dream Big initiative. Ms. Plante stressed the importance of listening to all voices at school in order for each of our facets to be as brilliant as a diamond.
 - ii. Denise discussed changes in the shadowing program this year. Formerly the PTA had been in charge of the program, but this year a staff person assumed responsibility. This year M-A had a total of 180 8th graders shadow at M-A, 45 of whom came from private schools as opposed to 28 last year. This year calls were made offering schools the option of shadowing at any time during the year.
 - iii. Clarification was requested of any problems with the shadowing program. Denise stated that only three complaints came in. Denise met with teachers who had problems with shadowing in the past. These teachers thought they had to engage the students in the lessons. Communication was opened and even though some teachers still don't like it, a dent was made in the right direction. A point person, Hermine Vinick, was brought into the program.
 - iv. A recommendation was made that PR be increased so that a consistent, positive message is spread to the community.
 - v. Could parent volunteers be available in the morning to help shadowing students? Denise Plante stated that a system in the front office is now in place and teachers are notified, so no one is sitting and waiting. Andy Stuart now screens M-A students who have requested to help with the shadowing program.
 - vi. M-A was awarded the PAL Commissioners' Cup, a silver-rotating trophy given for Athleticism and Sportsmanship with points earned and taken away for any disciplinary issues.
 - vii. We received a lot of press because of the Hakka Dance and the Six Man Club; however, she stated it was in the right context and with the right spirit along with cultural benefits and fits the school. The Six Man Club disciplined themselves constantly with the help of Fred Kessler. Denise also stated that M-A showed great school spirit at the CCS basketball playoffs.
 - viii. Denise will leave her new phone number in the front office. When she moves to Maine, she plans to use the wilderness and open a school for students who need a safe place. She will keep a 'CA Room', so stop in and see her!
 - D. Informational Presentation: Andy Stuart, the Challenge Day and Freshman Support Coordinator and Geri Nicholas, Outreach Coordinator.
 - i. Andy Stuart: Andy emphasized the successes of the freshman transition program, with upper classmen co-leading the program. He witnessed many freshmen becoming leaders themselves, and feels that the entire freshman class was positively affected. Mr. Zito is in full endorsement of the program. The leadership students continue meeting with the freshmen after Challenge Day to reinforce the message and reinforcement and debriefing of their experiences are also done in World Studies Classes. The lasting effects were seen when Teachers gave presentations to the staff implementing part of freshman transition. Challenge Day must be booked 1 year ahead, so we need to know we have the funding now. SDMSC

cannot tell us if we will have funding until the end of May, which is too late for booking. The 40 leadership students, who are advocates for the school, could not do without the support of the PTA. Students who took part in Freshman orientation and Challenge Day as well as a leader of Freshman Transition, spoke of the importance of the Freshman Transition program to them personally as freshmen and the positive difference it makes to the atmosphere at M-A.

- ii. Geri Nicholas:
 1. Geri works to train and empower students to help other students and members of the community. 19 activities were held during the year, with 84 students signed up to help and 50 of them being very active in the programs. The PTA in part funded Project Backpack, in which backpacks are delivered to the homeless on the streets of San Francisco.
 2. Geri also oversees the Student Support Fund, which financially helps M-A students with food, backpacks, tickets to school events, and other needs. 400 M-A students have been helped.
 3. Geri trains and oversees 34 student mediators, who conducted approximately 60 mediations.
 4. Geri worked on the Stressed Out Students Task Force, a committee of six students and several parents and administrators. They worked with the SOS program designed by Denise Pope at Stanford, to identify sources of stress in students' lives and then finding ways to alleviate the stress. On Sept. 25th students will take a school-wide survey with the results being used to make changes at school. Next year the Parent Education Series will focus on sleep issues, alcohol abuse, and the Stressed Out Students Program.

E. Committee Reports for May Events

- i. Kayla Skidmore, Demographics of Athletes at MA: 946 Athletes, 423 boys and 403 girls with 260 in multiple sports.
- ii. Susan Mohr, Big Bear Run: Started with \$5,000.00 seed money from the PTA for the 1st and 2nd years. This year over 700 registered with 600 people running. Incentives were given to M-A sports teams, which resulted in entire teams running. This was a viable fundraiser, raising over \$50,000.00
- iii. Barb Burgelin, Grad Night: A letter will come out with the correct time for graduation night, which will be held on June 7th with 8:30pm check in at the new gym.
- iv. Judy Hood: Fourth time heading up the PTA and Staff Appreciation Luncheon. Dream Big Theme will be supported with inspirational quotes, and tributes will be given to unsuspecting staff.

F. Treasurer's Report, Marilyn Loftesness:

- i. Income to date is \$104,784. Expenses totaled \$85,767. The following budget amendments are requested:
 1. A wooden sign for the CA Distinguished School and table runners total \$1,400.
 2. Senior Breakfast should increase from \$1,250 to \$1,500.
 3. Trivocis printing cost went from \$6000 to \$6800 due to more paper being needed for Spanish translations.
 4. Principal's Fund should increase from \$2,500 to \$3,500.
 5. Student Scholarship should increase from \$1,500 to \$2,000.
 6. Two social study cameras that work with smart boards cost \$750 a piece, for a total of \$1,500.
 7. **A motion was made and passed at 10:21am to approve the budget amendments as stated above.**
- ii. We have been spending down the excess from prior years. This is a conservative budget. Fashion Show costs may be reduced by eliminating a printed program. The calendar/directory and the student planner may be combined. SDMSC asked for \$18,000 last year and \$13,500 in mini grants for the coming fall. Grad night detail is not reflected in the budget.

IV. Upcoming PTA Dates and School Events

- A. Thursday, June 7th, 2007 M-A Graduation and PTA Grad Night
- B. Wednesday, September 5th, 2007, First PTA Meeting of 2007-2008, site TBD

Meeting was adjourned at 11:12 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Pam Songer
M-A PTA Secretary