

**Menlo Atherton High School PTA
General Board Meeting
January 9, 2008**

Board Members Present: Pam Stoner, Janet Perez, Denise Bullwinkel, Pam Songer, Molly Eason, Stacy Fredericksen, Elizabeth Johnson and Patty Burch.

Opening: The meeting was called to order by Pam Stoner at 8:42 am on January 9, 2008, In Room F-15, M-A campus. 28 members were present. *Motions: Delete Stacy Fredericksen as 'present' on the board; Delete the Motion: A line item expense to Outreach from \$600 to \$1,600.00, was made by David Jones/Debbie Verity/1 abstention; and approved the minutes with these deletions were made by Pam Stoner/Kathy Jackson/Unanimous.*

A. Student Activities Teacher: Andy Stewart, Chairs: Betsy Bowersox/Teri O'Neel

Challenge Day was started 4 years ago, and is one of the top 10 strengths to M-A. We have become a model school thanks to the continued support of the PTA and the 140 volunteers that have stepped up to help this year!

Proposed changes/needs: smaller groups needed which will take some additional funding; change the name to 'Be The Change Kick-off', since Challenge Day is only the first step in the program and is followed up with workshops in World Studies, Freshman Transition and Staff Presentations; and we need a freshman parent to work with an incoming eighth grade parent to take this over for 2009.

Three students gave feedback on Challenge Day: The consensus: Challenge Day was an eye opener for everyone. It helped kids learn to connect with others 'without judgment'. Students expressed their pain and frustration with school, their home lives, and personal aspirations as they opened up about their struggles. The students learned that crying is a sign of strength not weakness and all students no matter what their background or circumstance can still maintain a positive attitude. Each one of the three students that spoke thanked the PTA for funding the program along with the follow-up programs in World Studies and Freshmen Transition.

B. Administrative Speaker: Principal Matthew Zito

- **Health Advocacy Workshop Held for Teachers:** Why do kids not do their homework, why are they late ever morning? Information and an understanding of where kids come from generationally with different rules that apply to different situations show that show schools run with middle class values.
- **Performance Art Center:**
 - Cement /foundation in place, mechanical systems are now being worked on.
 - Lawsuit is going sideways, we agreed to a settlement but by then they took it back. There is a new Atherton town manager so nothing is happening at the present time.
 - Two main issues: we don't want to be directed on school use and they want nothing after 9pm.

- Bond: 1 out of 5 mailers were mailed out called the “999Bond” \$9.99 per \$100,000 assessed land value. This would pay for: landscaping; fencing; converting one room to a science room (we really need two); cost run over from the performing arts center; and including but not limited to, finishing touches on the construction.

C. PTA Teacher Representative: Jenna Carson

Taught Math in Middle School San Francisco before coming to M-A 10 years ago. Focus is on freshmen/student activities/ and coaching soccer @ M-A. This past Monday a ‘Bridges Out of Poverty Workshop’ was held for all staff. This workshop taught that all mindsets are different and each individual’s goals are usually based on generational goals. It is important to not be judgmental and expect ‘your’ goals to be those of your students or their parents. The *Bridges out of Poverty* Book will be on the website for parents. The next focus will be the PTA SOS “Stressed Out Students” survey results.

C. Treasurer’s Report: Molly Eason

*\$9,500 from escrow was paid to the Boosters
Challenge Day money needs to be addressed so we can put it into the budget and the money spent now for next year...*

D. Motions:

Motion to accept the Audit presented by Elizabeth Johnson, as it stands, was made by Judy Hood/David Jones/Unanimous.

E. Committee Reports:

Fashion Show/Nancy Sterling: \$26, 000 was our target in the budget, with \$47,000 actual net after expenses! We saved \$3,200 using a color copier to print the program. Our ads and underwriting were down and family sponsors not as successful, however, our ticket sales netted \$32,000, which was \$8,000 more than last year. The lunch was a success. The food and decorations were donated saving at least \$2,000. We are looking for junior parents to step up for next year. We also need a space to store supplies and possibly a parent information center on campus. Major factors to the success of the show were Becky Galvez and her connections with the students at school, and the efforts made to make it convenient for those students that didn’t have rides to and from practice.

Feed our Families/Sara Fitzgerald: 500 families were fed all within the M-A community. We had 900 bags of vegetables, 1,000 loaves of bread, and 55 chickens, which resulted in 2 bags of groceries per family! Having the can goods come into the fourth period classes helped with storage and encouraged more students to become involved. Problems: storage units were dark/cold/far away from the sorting area. Trader Joes and Key Market were very generous with their donations. This is a supportive, inclusive and inspiring program.

Outreach/Lisa Major: An outreach student started Project Backpack 10 years ago and this year 230 backpacks were delivered. The Holiday Drive, which runs concurrently with Project Backpack, helps 58 families. Donations from the rotary club and the PTA are used to buy target gift cards to shop for the kids. This could be supplemented by fundraising. Sponsors include: Outreach, Leadership Club, Luna Club, Coldwell Banker, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, individuals and families of M-A. We can work on coordinating better with Feed our Families. With Geri Nicholas leaving, we need to find ways to continue to support these kids.

Athletic Boosters/Suzanne Amato: We have two granting sessions per year in September and January, which supported over 900 athletes. Mini grant requests from coaches are 80% granted, purchasing shoes/equipment/etc., and parent information nights are sponsored. We oversee the scholarship fund funded by the Atherton Police Department @ \$5,000 a year. In December we changed to electronic requests for donations through eNotes, Trivocis and online donations. The Big Bear Run, our most important fundraiser has three new chairs: Michelle Culhane, Beth Harris and Darci Wentz. Volunteer online! We started with \$5,000 seed money and cleared \$50,000 last year. We need a better tracking system to know how many athletes' families are members of the boosters. Families can combine their donations to become a family sponsor and have their name on the official t-shirt.

Foundation for the Future/Kathy Jackson/Cindy Folker: Five key areas of focus include: Class size reduction/16 new sections in World Studies/Freshmen English and frsh/soph geometry classes; Professional Development/ \$100,000 allocated this year to bring in outside programs and department meetings; Breath of Curriculum kept drama/choral/yearbook, which were all on the cutting floor; College and career prep: Sat pep/Alice Kleeman's salary/Career Center Staff/ all funded by the foundation; and \$750,000 was spent on salaries and other positions in the school. Collaborations with the PTA have been great!

Two goals have been set: raise \$1,000,000 and increase the number of donors. We are on track with our fiscal year ending in August. Some families have given us a 'challenge grant' wherein if we get 50 more people to donate they will donate \$50,000 more! The future might bring a 'Donation Day'. Alumni have not been a focus so far.

M-A Band Boosters/Mary Hom: This is a loosely organized parent group to help more with logistics and fundraising for 111 Students/4 band classes/beginning /intermediate/advanced concert, and advanced Jazz Band. 1st year for a website: MABandBoosters.org. Our challenge is to bring more focus to the Band, possibly combining it with Drama to create one 'Performing Arts Boosters'.

M-A Drama Boosters/Betsy Nash/Lynne Clarence: 2nd year for the Boosters. Drama is an elective supported by the Foundation. Programs are run, directed and publicized by the students. Three performances a year, Fall/Winter Arts Festival, including music, art and photography/Spring Musical (this spring, Bye Bye Birdie). Fundraising pays for the salary of an after school production person and a consultant for the student directors.

Nominating Committee/Patty Burch: In progress.

Meeting adjourned at 11:19am

Respectfully submitted,
Pam Songer
M-A PTA Secretary