

**Menlo Atherton High School PTA
General Board Meeting
March 5, 2008**

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

Opening: The meeting was called to order by Pam Stoner at 8:50 am on March 5, 2008, in Room F-15, M-A campus. 20 members were present.

A. Public Comment:

M-A Parent and Pacific Islander Community Supporter, Steve Teu:

Mr. Teu presented a very informative talk about the cultural differences that face the Tongan community at M-A, and to hopefully increase an awareness of these differences through the PTA. "If you really knew me, you would know this..." was the theme as he walked through his journey of being born in the U.S., moving to Tonga with his children so they could experience their culture first hand, and finally coming back to the U.S. Mr. Teu firmly believes that cultural diversity 'training' is highly important at M-A in order for the teachers and administrators to better equip themselves for situations that are culturally different and highly misunderstood. At the same time, Steve and his wife, Sela, are working to bridge the gap for the Tongan community so that they are more aware of how their cultural differences affect them at M-A and living in the U.S. You may contact him at: s4steu@hotmail.com

B. Administrative Speakers:

Liz Schoeben – ACS (On Campus Adolescent Counseling Services)

Adolescent Counseling services is a non-profit agency that has provided counseling services to the Palo Alto and Menlo Park-Atherton communities for 30 years. ACS has been on the MA campus for 13 years. At MA, ACS has a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and five interns. We offer crisis intervention, individual, group, and family counseling free of charge to any MA student. Some of the issues we see include: academic stress, parental communication, peer conflicts, depression, anxiety, law violation, and drug and alcohol issues.

- Thanks to the ongoing support of the PTA, this year a Mini Grant was awarded in October that helped pay for: a DVD player, brochures, and two therapeutic sand trays.
- For more information: **Visit Adolescent Counseling Services at <http://www.acs-teens.org/>**

Jenna Carson – Student Activities Director

- M-A received the maximum allowable WASC Accreditation.
- World Studies I: No AP World Studies will be offered for freshman in order to achieve consistency. This will be reevaluated after one year.
- SDMSC: the teachers will stress Non-tolerance of cheating.
- Professional Development Day's Main Goal: Curriculum and instruction alignment, wherein teachers worked within departments on courses with the goal to have similar standards and high expectations. A balance was achieved as teachers worked together in teams.

Matthew Zito – Student Activities Director

Staff Collaboration Goals: to obtain instructional improvement in class; focus on staff to talk about instruction and diversity.

Performing Arts Center: one month behind schedule.

Middle Students: we are looking at smaller class size and student support services that connect students to opportunities.

D. Treasurer’s Report: Molly Eason/Review of Budget vs. Actual Spending

- No Motions at this time.

Meeting adjourned at 10:40 am. Pam Stoner/Stacy Fredericksen/Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,
Pam Songer
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