

**Menlo Atherton High School PTA
General Board Meeting
May 28, 2008**

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

Opening: The meeting was called to order by Julie Brody at 8:40 am on May 7, 2008, in Room F-15, M-A campus. Fifteen members were present.

A. Administrative Speakers:

Principal / Matthew Zito:

A teacher is needed for Physics and possibly for 9th grade Earth Science or Biology. The Academy had a very nice graduation at Canada College. At this time, we anticipate the same parking configuration on campus will be in place for next year. The performing Arts Center is on track for the end of 'next' summer. Overall, this has been a good year!

John Giambruno/AVID(Advancement Via Individual Determination): Avid is a program set up to help students that have a desire to go to college and the willingness to work hard, but fall short of their potential. At M-A this class is designed to bring out the best in each student by helping to close their achievement gaps by providing them with academic and social support. Students need to apply for the class, and out of 70 applications, 31 were accepted in 2007. These students showed a strong desire and willingness to move up into advanced level classes. More awareness needs to be brought to the program especially with the incoming freshman class, possibly through leadership. This year a 'Senior Seminar' (UC approved course) will be offered, wherein each student will work on a research project each semester! Peer tutors are needed, especially on block days. Interested AP students, college students and parents are encouraged to help, please email John Giambruno at jgiambru@seq.org

Carmina Chavez/District Community Liaison: Carmina has been with the district for 20 years and is currently the 'Community Affairs Coordinator' for 5 High Schools in the district. Her focus is to empower families to encourage and assist their own children in the college process. This encompasses helping parents decipher transcripts, make decisions on what classes they should take and how to communicate with the appropriate counselors. There is a huge drop out rate right now due to families not familiar with the education system, or bright students not able to navigate because they speak a totally different language. The program is has thus far been very successful and currently has 13 parent ambassadors trained to reach out to the community. M-A is the first school to request her help in increasing the Latino community involvement by building a bridge of clearer communication between the families and the administration, teachers and counselors. Her motto to the families: Be Involved and Advocate!

Kelley Todd/Student Activities Teacher/Report on Student Leadership:

One of the most extensive/comprehensive programs in the state, and comprised of a very diverse student body. Training for designated leaders, teachers and over 100 leadership students in three classes, includes: leadership conferences for designated class leaders and teachers; step-up workshops; and motivational speakers. Mini Grants have helped to fund two conferences.

Jenna Carson/Student Activities Director:

Jenna will be on sabbatical attending Stanford University for her Masters in Education. Feel free to call her!

D. Treasurer's Report: Molly Eason / Review of Budget

Motion to approve preliminary budget/Judy Hood/Leslie Airola-Murveit/Unanimous.

Motion to approve \$3,500 for Environmental Chemistry Class materials/ Pam Stoner/Julie Brody/Unanimous. Motion to approve \$2,400 for prepaid expenses and an increase in fees due to an added session/ Pam Stoner/Julie Brody/Unanimous.

E. Upcoming PTA dates to remember

Monday, June 2nd, 7 p.m. Senior Farewell

Tuesday, June 3rd, Senior Picnic 8 a.m.

Wed., June 4th, Senior Breakfast – New Gym Courtyard, 8:30 – 10

Wed. June 4th, Graduation Practice – 10:15 a.m.

Thurs., June 5th – GRADUATION 4 p.m.

Wed, August 13th – Thurs. Aug 14th – ARENA CHECK-IN – New Gym

Monday, August 18th – Trivocis Deadline

Tuesday, August 19th – Freshman Orientation

Tuesday, August 19th 8 a.m. - Freshman Parent Coffee

Thursday, August 21st – First day of school

Wednesday, Sept. 17th – Orientation to M-A – Matthew Zito – 10-11:30 a.m., Library

Meeting adjourned at 11:14 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Songer

M-A PTA Secretary

psonger@comcast.net