

**Menlo Atherton High School PTA
General Board Meeting
September 2, 2008**

Board Members Present: Janet Perez, Denise Bullwinkel, Lisa McNamara, John McMurtry, Molly Eason, Kristin Smith, Pam Stoner, Julie Brody, and Pam Songer.

Opening: The meeting was called to order by Janet Perez at 8:45 am on September 2, 2008, in the Wrestling Room, M-A campus. 22 members were present.

Vote: to approve Lisa McNamara as 2nd VP of the PTA Board was made by Janet Perez/unanimous approval.

A. Public Comment:

Eileen Van Rhreenen/Kay O'Neill: Teen Sleep Program:

- Thank-you to the PTA for their continued support of this program
- Stacy Fredericksen was the connection between the SDMSC and the PTA Board last year, and she played a key role for support given to the program. This year the focus will continue to look at a 'later' start time for school.
- Freshman Education will again be collaborated with Stanford beginning in February.
- There is a new website linked to the PTA: Scroll to 'Links' then scroll to 'Sleep Info'. You can access it directly by going to: www.m-ateensleep.org/

Suzanne Amato: Athletic Boosters:

- Thank-you to all the volunteers and the PTA for a smooth Arena Check-in!
- We are looking for interested volunteers who would like to 'shadow' our current Board for next year's positions.
- The Athletic Boosters website will be updated shortly, however, all emails are correct!

Debbie Verity/: PTA Website: <http://www.mabearspta.org/index.html>

- All volunteers have webmail addresses now. Please use these to communicate. When someone responds using your webmail address, you receive it at your personal email address. Be aware that when you reply, your reply personal email address is used.

Barb Windham/ Challenge Day:

- Challenge Day is the Kick off for the 'Be the Change' Program at M-A, which is a yearlong program in place to reduce teasing and bullying on campus.
- In its fifth year, Challenge Day itself is an amazing program! Run by four professionals and many, many parent volunteers, it is a series of activities and games that teach students to build trust while creating empathy and respect for themselves and their peers. Students are challenged to 'step out of their box' and start to break down barriers with understanding and respect.
- If you are interested in being one of the amazing volunteers and seeing for yourself how the students transform with this fantastic program, we could use your help! Please email Barb Windham @ honorroll@mabearspta.org

Kristin Smith and Lisa Dettmer/Administrative Support:

- Volunteers are needed to help with limited but well needed support! This includes for instance, 'Fall Testing' and 'Star Testing' in the spring. This is an ongoing support list and you will be notified when help is needed. If interested please email Kristin Smith and Lisa Dettmer @ adminsupport@mabearspta.org

Parent Education/ Charlene Margot and Stacia Weisenfluh:

- Charlene developed an 'M-A specific' education program based on 'Common Ground', an effective parent education group targeted by private schools.
- Our focus will be on 'Student Success!'

- September 17: The first event this year will be **M-A 101**, put on by Matthew Zito! The will focus will be on 'How M-A works'
- Driver's Ed for the Brain: 4 one-hour sessions for students. There will be a parent informational meeting.

Trivocis/BearNotes:

- To date we have 300 online sign-ups for the Trivocis. Please consider signing up online to reduce printing and mailing costs. If you still want a hard copy, you can still print the sections of the Trivocis you are interested in.
- To sign up online, you have to be signed up for BearNotes. Email bearnotes@mabearspta.org
- If you have already signed up BearNotes but have not been receiving them, go to the PTA website, click on BearNotes and sign-in again. OR Check your spam folder and if it is there, put it on your 'white list' so it will not be read as spam.
- To date we have 1,500 email subscribers to BearNotes!

C. Administrative Speaker: Principal, Matthew Zito

More than 600 freshman students entered M-A this year, resulting in 9 additional sections opening up in AIS, BIO, Honors English, PE, and regular English classes, etc. Classes in World Studies will have 30 or fewer students and English, 25 or fewer. The Foundation and the District both contributed funds to make this happen.

We have **13 National Merit Finalists this year**/finals sometime in March. These students are not only recognized nationally but also in California for their academic achievements. Students obtain information from their English classes their junior year regarding PSAT registration. The top performing students, or semi-finalists will be encouraged to apply for the Scholarship. Students should throw away their scores from their sophomore year and retake the PSAT test as a junior.

September 21, we will have a tour of the Performing Arts Center. A new cafeteria with seating for 150/additional outside benches and two more serving windows, will help the distribution of healthier lunches and brunch items such as bagels/fruit/juice.

Over \$300,000 is raised to support over 50 athletic programs at M-A.

Senior Pranks: letter goes home delineating what is appropriate. Approval of Briann Oliver, the plant manager is encouraged. Remember, a final semester 'D' will eliminate a student from the UC system. Over 5,000 students were on the wait list at UC Santa Cruz, so they sent out revocation letters to acceptees who got D's their final semester at M-A and instead took more promising students off their wait list.

Homecoming will be at M-A this year due to Bay Meadows closing.

D. Treasurer's Report: Molly Eason:

- Review of 2008-2009 budget. The reserve is the same as last year, a few minor changes, and we do not project huge profits.

Motion: to approve the 2008-2009 Budget was made by Judy Hood/Julie Brody/Unanimous.

E. Upcoming Events:

Wednesday, September 17 – Parent Education 'M-A101' – 10-11:30am, and again at 7-8:30pm.

Sunday Sept 21 – Performing Arts Roof Raising (tour of the new facility) – 3-5:00pm

Tuesday Oct 7 – PTA General Meeting – 8:30am in the Wrestling Room.

Meeting adjourned at 10:12 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Songer

M-A PTA Secretary

psonger@comcast.net