

**Menlo Atherton High School PTA
General Board Meeting
October 7, 2008**

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

Opening: Janet Perez called the meeting to order at 8:44 am on October 7, 2008, in the Wrestling Room, M-A campus. 25 members were present.

Motion to approve the 'Mini-Grants' was made by Leslie Murveit/Charlene Margot/unanimous approval.

A. Public Comment:

Mary Hom, Band Booster Chair:

- Administration to issue parking passes for carpool drivers who must be fingerprinted and possibly obtain a TB test. Matthew Zito will be meeting with the district regarding the above.

Charlene Margot, SOS(Stressed Out Students):

- M-A is a flagship school with the SOS program run through Stanford, which is now nationwide!

Lisa Lindquist, PTO Membership:

- We are just under \$61,000. Minus \$3.50 per member expenses, brings us to approximately \$58,000 profit at present.

Barb Windham, Challenge Day:

- Three M-A High School Leadership Students spoke about Challenge Day, which is the Kick off for the 'Be the Change' Program at M-A, a yearlong program in place to reduce teasing and bullying on campus.
- According to a survey conducted after last year's challenge day, approximately 90% of the students felt it was worthwhile and came away feeling that 'They are not alone'.

July Brody/Sara Fitzgerald, Fashion Show:

- Tickets can be downloaded from the PTA website.
- Jobs are still open so please think about volunteering!

Charlene Margot and Stacia Weisenfluh, Parent Education:

- Wednesday, October 22, 7-8:30pm, M-A Library: Luanne Buchman from EdFund, Katy Murphy, head of college counseling at Bellarmine Preparatory School, and Alice Kleeman, M-A's College Advisor, will be presenting: '**Planning Ahead to Pay For College.**'
- Wednesday, December 3, 7-8:30pm. M-A Library: Dr. Peter Newsom: '**Driver's Ed for the Brain: Parent Edition.**' Dr. Newsom, a Neurophysiologist, will be talking about a series of 4 one-hour classes on controlled stress and mindfulness for students.
- Possible speakers in the spring include, Lloyd Backer from the Education Conservatory and Denise Pope, who will present the final data from the Stressed Out Student Survey (SOS).
- 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.

Mary Pat Bonham, 8th Grade Information Night:

- Monday, November 10, 2008. From 6-6:30pm, there will be a 30 minute welcome from Matthew Zito and Alice Kleeman, followed by classroom rotations until 8:30pm. Volunteers are needed, please email: 8thgradeinfo@mabearspta.org

Leslie Murveit, M-A Parent Ambassadors:

- A small group of parents unofficially formed the 'M-A PR Committee' to promote M-A in the community. Kelly Todd, an in-house liaison between M-A and the community was subsequently funded by the SDMC for one period a day to strictly work in this area. She has asked for help and the M-A PR Committee has come up with the idea of creating a 'new group' under the PTA umbrella, called 'M-A Parent Ambassadors'. The group would work closely with Kelley Todd to establish a system of trained parents able to assist new families to M-A. This January, the M-A PR Committee will launch the program taking it over from the school and offer training for new parents, strictly as a pilot program. The idea is to have a diverse group of parents that are experienced with M-A representing each grade. Would the PTA be interested in this as a new PTA committee in the fall?

C. Administrative Speaker: Principal, Matthew Zito

Expectations of dancing at M-A are changing. The students have been informed of the rules and certain precautions have been put in place to help the teachers better monitor the students. Time outs will be initiated; a brightly lit dance floor will be used, and capping the amount of students per dance, will help to control any flagrant dancing. We continue to have drug and alcohol free dances!

Incident on campus: The individual that had decided to bring a gun onto campus has now been removed from the school. This was an isolated incident wherein the student had been bullied by several students last year, and these same individuals, who do not attend M-A at this time, threatened the student in question the day before this incident. The student felt he needed protection and made a very bad decision to bring a gun on campus in his backpack. We are working with the Peninsula Conflict Resolution Center to determine how you mediate low level bullying to create a safer environment on campus? A new police officer is coming onto campus as well to interact with the students. He has worked with youth development and will have an anonymous tip line initiated.

Financial: The district lost 12% to the failed Lehman Brothers, an investment we were forced to make with the county. This will be recouped at probably 30-40 cents on the dollar 6-7 years down the road. At the present time, we are looking at how to manage these losses without going below a 3% reserve. These losses will not affect our current construction, which is still on target.

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:

November 3-4-5 Freshman Challenge Day

November 10 – 8th Grade Information Night, 6:00pm

November 15 – Campus Tours

November 29 – Fall Sports Awards

December 2 – PTA General Meeting/8:30am in the Dance Studio (please bring \$10 Gift Certificates to be disbursed discreetly by the M-A Administration to students in need).

Meeting adjourned at 10:20 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Songer

M-A PTA Secretary

psonger@comcast.net