

**Menlo Atherton High School PTA
General Board Meeting
January 13, 2009**

Board Members Present: Janet Perez, Denise Bullwinkel, 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 January 13, 2009, in the Old Dance Studio, M-A campus. 25 members were present.

A. Public Comment:

'Pie for Breakfast'/Judy Duran/Lisa Major

- Staff Appreciation will hold their annual 'Pie for Breakfast' on February 12th. Volunteers are needed for serving and baking!

PE I and PE II/ John McMurtry

- At the moment PE I is taken in 9th grade and PE II can be taken anytime before graduation with substitutions allowed for sports. The district is under pressure to change this. A board meeting will be held in February wherein we need to mobilize support thru email to voice opinions one way or the other. Is PE way beyond the physical activities students should be doing; how effective is the current program?
- The board is also considering eliminating the technical requirement. Safety Ed requirement would be taken as a freshman and taught by a credentialed life science teacher.

Ambassador Pilot Program/ Leslie Murveit/Kim Sommer/Catherine McMillan

- We have 6 parent ambassadors representing each grade, and two leadership students, one from 11th grade and one from 12th grade. These ambassadors will be a networking vehicle for new parents 'and students' to navigate M-A. We have been working to represent each community at M-A in this six-month launch, and our ambassadors have made commitments thru next year! We are looking for the PTA to take this committee on and keep it a viable and sustaining program.

Big Band Dance/Mary Hom

- The Big Band Dance is the fist Friday in March, March 6th! This is the biggest fundraiser for the band and it is a ton of fun!

B. Committee Reports:

Charlene Margot, SOS(Stressed Out Students):

- Dr. Lloyd Thacker, Founder of The Education Conservancy and Editor of *College Unranked, Ending the College Admissions Frenzy*, will be speaking Wednesday, February 4th, from 7-8:30pm in the New Gym. Other High Schools and Middle Schools have been invited to this event, which was underwritten by Pat Gemma, our district superintendent.
- Dr. Denise Pope, will be at M-A Wednesday, March 19th to discuss the final survey results from the Stressed Out Students Survey (SOS).
- New Program: Green Fundraiser/25% comes back to the school.

Lisa Major, Outreach:

- Project Backpack is on Friday, January 23rd. Students are collecting and distributing backpacks filled with gently used scarves, gloves, hats, warm clothes, toiletries, etc., to the homeless on the streets of San Francisco. Donations are still being accepted until next week. 50 students participated last year with 2-4 to a car! Michelle Breen is the faculty advisor for this program.

Julie Brody/Nominating Committee:

- We are looking for 3-4 people that would like to serve on this committee. It is very easy; we meet at Café Barrone 3-4 times to brainstorm.

Barb Windham/Peggy Propp/Challenge Day:

- Thank you to the PTA for funding this phenomenal program. “Be The Change’ is a year long process that has the power to make a difference by encouraging understanding and mutual support through empathy, respect and compassion. Stereotypes are broken down and bridges are made to define a common ground within M-A’s diverse community of students. Challenge Day was one of the top ten reasons we were chosen as a ‘distinguished school’!
- Parents voiced their support for Challenge Day: setting the stage for High School; overwhelming support for students that opened up; and empowering experiences.
- Going ‘Green’ with the lunch program was a success!
- Issues we need to address for next year: Groups were divided by English classes rather than World Studies, which did not divide the ethnic groups appropriately. Not every gym had a counselor available.

SDMC Discussion regarding Challenge Day: there were 60 intense counseling referrals that overloaded the counselors. Students might have felt forced to ‘share’ things that they would later regret. The staff has mixed feelings about the benefits of this program. A vote was taken and 70% of the staff voted to continue the program as long as the PTA funded it.

C Administrative Speaker:

D. Special Speaker:

E. Treasurer’s Report: Molly Eason:

- The Executive Board can approve requests under \$1,000 without PTA approval. We approved \$921 for the nurse and \$750 for the Outreach Christmas and Project Backpack programs. These are not line items.
- Cash Flow: Income to date/nothing new. We paid a portion of escrip to the Boosters. Mini Grants funding was down in the fall so there is more money to allocate for the spring if needed.
- Elizabeth Johnson submitted the Audit report.

Motion: to approve the Audit Report for 7/31/2007-7/31/2008 was made by Peggy Propp/John McMurtry/Unanimous.

*Please donate gift cards to support **Student Outreach** for Walgreen’s, Target, and Safeway, or put donations in the PTA Mail Box in the main office - \$10 is a suggested amount. If you prefer, we will accept cash donations. Sorry! We previously advertised that we would accept checks, but that is no longer the case.*

F. Upcoming Events:

January 21, Teacher Mini-Grant deadline	
January 30, @8:00pm – midnight: Winter Formal	Decathlon Club
February 3, @8:30am: PTA General Meeting	Dance Studio/Old Gym
February 4, @7:00pm: Parent Ed Night ‘Lloyd Thacker’	New Gym
March 3, 8:30am: PTA General Meeting	Wresting Room
Wednesday, March 19, @7:00pm: Parent Ed Night ‘Denise Pope’	Library

Meeting adjourned at _____ am.

Respectfully submitted,
Pam Songer
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