

**Menlo Atherton High School PTA
General Board Meeting
February 3, 2009**

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

Opening: Denise Bullwinkel called the meeting to order at 8:45 am on February 3, 2009, in the Old Dance Studio, M-A campus. 25 members were present.

A. Public Comment:

Julie Merk/Health Care Clinic East Palo Alto, 1798 A Bay Road

- Ravenswood Family Health Clinic works with nonprofits which make up 50% of their care. They receive grants from 20 different organizations. They deal with social issues, primary care, and dental. 20% federally funded/5% state funded. M-A parents are encouraged to support the clinic by donating time to help with immunizations, sports physicals @ M-A, becoming health care navigators that are trained to help people in their native language follow-up on their health care. Emergency visits have gone down dramatically with this program. A van services the homeless as well. There will be a tour of the facility on March 27, 2009, and a fundraiser/bike ride on May 16th, details to follow. www.ravenswoodfhc.org

Big Band Dance/Mary Hom

The Big Band Dance is March 6th! This is the biggest fundraiser for the band, come and dance! 8-11:30, \$20 each or reserve a table for 10. 'Swing Central' offers Swing classes to get ready!

Big Bear Run/Suzanne Amato/ May 3rd

Thank-you to John McMurty:

- Thank-you to John for rallying a group of parents to attend the school board meeting wherein they voted 'no change to PE requirement'.

Leslie Murveit/Lacrosse

- Lacrosse has consistently had problems obtaining coaches. At this time the coaches are not paid, there are only so many 'funded' coaching positions available. If a 'funded' coaches position goes unpaid maybe that money can be transferred in this case to the 'unfunded' Lacrosse coach.

Eileen /

- February 17th, 50 Stanford sleep/brain students will help to run the sleep program for the freshman class. Sleep ambassadors (15 seniors) @ M-A are also teaching the sleep program.

B. Committee Reports:

Mini Grants/Stacey Fredericksen/Judy Hood

- Process: first teachers are alerted as to the process and funds available. Requests are submitted and reviewed and put into categories. The executive board and Mathew Zito review it as well before it is submitted at the general meeting for approval.
- ***Motion to approve the Mini Grants as stated/Charlene Margot/Mary Hom/Unanimous***

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 Thursday, March 19th to discuss the final survey results from the Stressed Out Students Survey (SOS).
- New/ Drivers Ed Thru the Brain. Fee after school program on 2/11 and 2/18 from 1:45-2:45pm will be held by a Menlo Park Neurologist for students interested in Brain Physiology and meditation called 'mindfulness'. Sign-up in the guidance office.

Lisa Major/Outreach:

- Erik Segal, a lead in the project backpack program thanked the PTA for their continued support as the group met/exceeded their goals. This year 250 full packs were delivered along with, blankets, coats, extra backpacks and socks were given out! A yahoo group 'SF Homeless' posted a thank-you.

Debbie Verity/Grad Night:

- The goal is to keep the students off the street on graduation night. Fundraising is ongoing/venue is booked/tickets go on sale March 15, 2009.

Julie Brody/Nominating Committee:

- Julie Brody, Lisa McNamara, Renatta Mullen, Marsha Brock, Lyn Clarence, Kristin Smith, Trish Mitchell.

Motion to approve the Nominating Committee/Judy Hood/Stacey Frederickson/Unanimous.

C Administrative Speaker/ Matthew Zito:

PE: The decision was made to keep our PE program as it stands. We are making policy that meets individual schools; students can take visual/performing arts/band/and electives that would have been eliminated if they were required to take PE. We will emphasize 'our own sports' over 'club sports' by giving students credit for M-A sports.

Budget: In 2003 the lottery revenues were set up for educational revenues, which have been flat. As a Basic Aid District we will run a lean budget next year as \$4,000,000.00 district wide cuts will be made. We are asked to cut \$500,000. We will not eliminate resources, rather run just look at ways to run lean.

Winter Formal: only 15 seniors attended. 350/375 students attended, half that usually attend.

This is a junior fundraiser for prom and the senior picnic.

Performing Arts Center: on time and on budget!

Tech requirement will be eliminated for next year's incoming 9th grade class. Current students are still required to take this but do not have to submit a portfolio.

E. Treasurer's Report: Molly Eason:

- Up to date.
- \$46,000 net profit from the fashion show/final numbers.

F. Upcoming Events:

Big Band Dance: Friday, March 6, 8pm

Big Bear Run: Sunday, May 3

Staff Appreciation Luncheon: Wednesday, May 20, 2-3:30pm

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Songer

M-A PTA Secretary

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