

**Menlo Atherton High School PTA
General Board Meeting
Sept 1, 2009**

Board Members Present: Lisa McNamara, John McMurtry, Carol Orton, Jan Reed, Kristin Smith, Janet Perez, and Pam Songer.

Opening: John McMurtry called the meeting to order at 8:40 am on Sept 1, 2009, in the Wrestling Room, M-A campus. 54 members were present.

Motion to approve the Budget/ Kristin Smith/ Roger MacFarlane/ Unanimous.

A. Public Comment:

Booster's Chair/ Di Gow

Boosters support more than 50 athletic teams at M-A. We take in money and disperse it to the teams. The Big Bear Run is our biggest fundraiser held this coming year on May 2nd. We need two chairs to step up to run this important event. Email Di Gow @ maboosters@gmail.com to volunteer!

Big Band Chair/ Laura Hale

October 9th we will be playing at the opening of the Performing Arts Center. On October 30th, our big fundraiser will take place; this is usually held in the spring.

B. Committee Reports:

Challenge Day/ Peggy Propp

- 'Since 2004 the M-A PTA has sponsored Challenge Day, a day-long event for the freshman class, both financially and with parent and community volunteers. ...Stereotypes are broken down and common ground established amid diversity, inspiring the students to live, study and work in an environment of compassion, acceptance and respect.'
- November 2nd and 3rd. It takes 180 volunteers to run smoothly. We still need 60 small group leaders. *To volunteer, email: challengeday@mabearspta.org.*

Parent Education: Charlene Margot / 9th year at M-A, 3rd year with the Parent Education Program.

- September 3rd / M-A 101, a 'new and returning' parent orientation. Matthew Zito, guidance counselors, and current and alumni students will be on hand to tap for information. **Two duplicate sessions @ 10am and 7pm in the M-A Library.**
- September 14th/ "2 Million Minutes," a documentary on how students spend their time in High School preparing for adulthood, and what affect it will have on their economic prospects in the future. This event is hosted by a local VC firm and combined with a presentation by Robert A. Compton, the executive producer.

7-8:30pm in the Library. RSVP @ (650)868-0590 or email@

parenteducation@mabearspta.org.

- November meeting will be on Adolescent Mental Health, details to follow.
- Charlene is in need of a co-chair for this committee to help with the logistical aspects of each event. Please email her at parenteducation@mabearspta.org

Fashion Show: Noreen Carruthers

- MAIn Street is the theme this year, somewhat of an urban renewal! February 27th, 2010 is the new date so mark your calendars, it will be held in the new Performing Arts Center! Volunteers are needed in the trenches beforehand and for the day of show. Please email Debra Yoder @ ghohl@mindspring.com, or Lori Kaplan @ lekapan18@gmail.com if you would like to participate. Many parents of non-seniors help as well, so don't hesitate to jump right in!

Arena Check In: Gloria Principe/Lee Ann Yasukawa

We really improved from last year and will continue to make improvements for next year. We had 90 volunteers throughout the two days! Thank-you to all those that helped!

Staff Appreciation/ Lisa Major

Looking for help working at the events and/or baking, especially for our 'Giving Thanks' event. Email Lisa at staffappreciation@mabearspta.org

C. Administrative Speaker: Matthew Zito

New staff has been hired, including two new hires in social studies replacing Mr. Weaver, and Mr. Welch. Mr. Weaver had been working in the district for 43 years!

Performing Arts Center:

- October 9/10th weekend is the Opening/ October 9th will be low key, for parents and alumni/ October 10th will be a formal opening for the community with the Jazz Band performing.
- PTA funds contributed to the acquisition of 9 red benches surrounding the PAC.
- The Cafeteria will be up and running for students in late September. It can hold up to 125 students for lunch increasing our food service delivery points from 8 to 10.
- The City of Menlo Park has access rights to the PAC for 55 days per year. These days are mainly used in the summer and in December. M-A's school schedule takes precedence over City functions. We have hired someone to help manage and schedule the PAC.

Vehicle Entrance from Ravenswood: The front entrance to the school was extensively studied to determine if there could be a vehicle entrance coming directly from Ravenswood. The assessment determined: it would be too costly; only 68 less cars would enter as opposed to entering off of; there was little interest from the cities of Menlo Park or Atherton, or the County to make the change; and most importantly it would be an extremely unsafe intersection for pedestrians and cars alike.

A digital M-A sign will be up at the Ravenswood intersection soon.

Communicado: All teachers are being required to use this system this year for posting homework along with attachments for handouts given in class. This will run in parallel with a new system, 'Infinite Campus', which will take over next year. 'Infinite Campus' has more functionality, homework and 'grades' will be posted, and emails will be easier to use.

Planners have been handed out and teachers are required to use them as well.

ACS counseling services will continue to be used.

Electives: some UC's want to see a whole year of an elective to satisfy the 'G' requirement. Some electives can be 1/2 a year but for 2, 000 students it is too complex and time consuming to change at this point.

Grade distribution is looked at on a regular basis and at this point grades are fairly consistent in each section.

D. Treasurer's Report: Jan Reed

- The revised budget shows \$80,000 more than we anticipated due to: more profit from the fashion show than expected; more donations collected: and under spending in several categories. We plan to spend down this amount allocating more monies to mini-grants and site council projects. A motion was proposed and passed to make this budget the budget of record for the start of the 2009-2010 school year.

E. Upcoming Events:

M-A 101 – Sept 3rd @ 10am and again at 7pm, M-A Library

Robert A Compton (2 Million Minutes, documentary) Sept 14 @ 7pm, M-A Library

Back to School Night – Sept 10th at 6:30pm

Student Club Rush – Sept 15th @ lunchtime

School Picture make-up days – Sept 16-17th

Freshman Family Welcome – Sept 25th @ 6pm

General PTA meeting – October 6th @ 8:30pm/ Old Dance Studio

Meeting adjourned at 9:59 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Songer

M-A PTA Secretary

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