

**Menlo Atherton High School PTA
General Board Meeting
October 6, 2009**

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

Opening: Lisa McNamara called the meeting to order at 8:41 am on October 6, 2009, in the Wrestling Room, M-A campus. 19 members were present.

Motion to approve the Audit Report was made by Kristin Smith/Pam Stoner/Stacy Fredericksen/ Unanimous.

Motion to approve the Mini Grant Proposals, and increase the Mini Grant budget for this round of funding from \$20,000 to \$20,363.47/Pam Stoner/John McMurtry/Unanimous.

A. Public Comment:

Safe Rides/ Claire Sutton / Heather Bogott:

Safe Rides provides safe and confidential rides to students from Redwood City to Mountain View, who are either intoxicated or just cannot get a ride home, on Friday or Saturday evenings. M-A students work at Safe Rides one night a month, from 10-2am, with typically two drivers (One boy and one Girl). Drivers are seniors that are cleared by the DMV, are trained in CPR, and 1st Aide. Juniors can go on rides as navigators. Anywhere from 45 to 600 rides per year are given. Two Red Cross cars are used along with cell phones for assistance. This program is under the umbrella of the Red Cross, and it is mostly advertised to students by word of mouth. Each school is required to raise \$300 a year for GPS systems.

B. Committee Reports:

Challenge Day/ Peggy Propp

- This year 475 students will participate at a 4-1 ratio of students to small group leaders, 15 to 20 of these will be M-A Teachers.
- More counselors will be available this year, with a triage set-up for extreme cases.
- November 2nd and 3rd. It takes 180 volunteers to run smoothly. We still need 16 small group leaders. Training scheduled: Oct. 21st in the library. *To volunteer, email:*
challengeday@mabearspta.org.

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

- “Who Is My Teen? What Every Parent Needs to Know About Adolescence” with Dr. David Arredondo, MD, Psychiatrist, and founder of ‘The Children’s Program’. He was, the first Mexican-American graduate of Harvard College and Harvard Medical School, will be speaking about teen development and mental health issues.
November 9th, 7-8:30 pm, Menlo-Atherton Library.

SDMSC Update / PTA Website: Pam Stoner / Karl Losekoot (Dept Head / English)

- SDMSC (Shared Decision Making Site Council) meets 2X’s a month, the 1st Wednesday from 2-3:15pm, and the 3rd Thursday from 4:30-6:30pm. The meetings are also advertised in Bearnotes.
- Greg Whitnah is the chair, and there are 20 members along with 1 Parent at large / Pam Stoner and one PTA rep / John McMurtry (standing in for Denise Bullwinkel). All meetings are open to the public.

- A review of the Integrity Contract is underway. Is it appropriate/what needs to improve.
- A review of the Cornell Notes, a notetaking system, is underway. The Avid Program is a strong supporter of this system. All teachers have been required to switch to this system in the effort to have a consistent strategy throughout the school.
- Concurrent Enrollment: A review, and decision, was made regarding concurrent enrollment in non-profit and for-profit Institutes outside of M-A. The decision was made that for-profit schools will not be added to the M-A transcript at this time due to an equity issue.

Boosters: Di Gow

- Palo Alto Daily: reporting scores well. San Jose Mercury News: no coverage.
- \$45,000 was just given out to the various sports teams, and this year every frosh/soph coach will be given the same amount as a varsity coach! New uniforms were or will be purchased for basketball and baseball; new soccer balls were also purchased.
- Our funding comes from direct donations, escrow and the Big Bear Run.
- Coaches are given two opportunities each year to submit for a grant request for equipment and/or uniforms. This year new uniforms were purchased for basketball and baseball, and new soccer balls were also purchased.

Grad Night: Stacy Fredericksen

- The first general meeting of the Grad Night Committee will be in the Library on Wednesday, October 7, 7 - 8 p.m. Come join the fun as we plan a super memorable celebration for our super special Class of 2010. Everyone is welcome! Grad Night is an M-A tradition; a safe and sober graduation night all-night party solely for the graduating class. Tickets are on sale now! For more information, go to http://www.mabearspta.org/grad_night.html.

D. Treasurer's Report: Jan Reed

- Membership donations to date were \$73K on a budget of \$55K
- Directory donations to date were \$8K on a budget of \$4K
- Any donations in excess of budget will be made available for additional funding needs of the school.

E. Upcoming Events:

Grand Opening of the Performing Arts Center – October 9th and 10th.

Homecoming Dance – October 23rd 7:30pm, Big Fox Theater.

Fist ever 'football game under the lights' AND the 'Big Band Dance' – October 30th (game at 6:30pm, dance at 8:00pm).

General PTA meeting – December 1st @ 8:30am, Wrestling Room (No meeting in November).

Meeting adjourned at _____ am.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Songer

M-A PTA Secretary

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