

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

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

Opening: Lisa McNamara called the meeting to order at 8:42 am on December 1, 2009, in the Old Dance Studio, M-A campus. 19 members were present.

Motion to approve Gloria Principal, Marty Tedesco, Marsha Brock, Dana Hayse, Lisa Deal, and Janet Perez as the 2009-2010 PTA Nominating Committee/ Lisa McNamara / Carol Orton / Unanimous.

A. New Business:

Gift Card Collection:

Lisa McNamara called for donations to the gift card program run by the Administration.

B. Committee Reports:

Challenge Day/ Peggy Propp/Barb Windham

- This year 475 students participated with over 150 adult volunteers, with additional administration and counselors than last year.
- Different approach this year: We worked closely with ACS early on to provide additional staff and give tips on what students could do ahead of time to make the day more successful. This helped address M-A's Rule that intervention must occur on the 'same day' for any critical issues. World Studies teachers were also involved early on to work with the students on expectations.
- Day After: World Studies teachers were able to interact afterwards as a class and share the experiences of each student. Feedback was received that this alone has helped improve the class dynamics.
- Leadership students worked on helping to make this day a success and on follow-ups on bullying.
- Suggestions: Obtain sign-ups at Arena Check In. Attend fall Staff Meeting to recruit staff.
- Some students would like to see a continuation in the upper grades. The question is 'How Can we keep this alive?'" Challenge Day Reunions/ Rally Message of 'Be the Change'/ Noontime Club?
- Any comments or ideas can be emailed to: challengeday@mabearspta.org.

Safety Committee/ Simone Kennel / 9th year at M-A, 3rd year with the Parent Education Program.

Goal is to evaluate and revise the current school safety policy. First we are looking at the lock-down and evacuation procedures. Second we are working with officers, Wade and Ortega, from the Atherton Police Department to learn how to protect the students with non-verbal communication procedures. We are looking at a new student info system wherein calls, emails, and texting, would be able to alert everyone within 1/2 hour. This year we have had one lock down drill and two evacuation drills, where the students disperse onto the turf field and find their 3rd period teacher. Laurel and Encinal are extra sites if needed. An anonymous tip line has also been set up with a direct line to Lori Olcutt. Emergency cards will have an online option. *Anyone interested in joining the committee can contact Pam Stoner or Simone Kennel.*

Outreach/Lisa Major

- The gift project provided for 60 families, a 65% increase from last year. Counselors helped to identify and support families in need. Michelle Breen is the faculty advisor.
- Project Backpack will kick off its 13th year! Donations of backpacks, toiletries, small food items and clothing will be delivered to the homeless in the Tenderloin district of SF, by 50 students and adult leaders. The recipients are very grateful for the items and the personal connections.

Outreach is a great way for students that cannot join leadership to experience community service through M-A.

Canned Food Drive/Julie Brody (Andy Stuart, Kelly Todd, Jill Smith)

- This year we are partnering with the Second Harvest Food Bank wherein they are providing the meat and produce and we providing the canned goods. We are storing, sorting and handing out the groceries at Ecumenical Hunger, in East Palo Alto. This is a great opportunity for families that can benefit from Ecumenical Hunger year round, to find out exactly where it is in their community, and what they have to offer. We hope to feed over 400 families. In order to continue our partnership with Ecumenical Hunger, M-A might advertise for volunteers and/or the outreach club might get involved.

Modified Bell Schedule/Carol Orton

- A committee has been reviewing options that will: maintain the modified block schedule; provide the 64,800 instructional minutes required; assess all strengths/weaknesses; address SSR; address brunch/ lunch/advisory and homeroom minutes; address the stressed out students research; dovetail with athletics and bus schedules; and work for all 4 schools in the district. Surveys by all teachers and informal surveys of students have been conducted along with extensive reviews of schedules of schools in the surrounding area. A proposal will submitted to the SDMSC after the New Year.

Administrative Speaker: Matthew Zito

- Hopefully we can hold the January PTA meeting in the Cafeteria of the Performing Arts Center!
- District Budget stable. Teachers were given a 1/2 % raise. We have 5-7 million in a reserve account so we do not foresee any cuts next year and new teachers will be able to be retained.
- Items we are looking at: popping up the ceiling in the main hallway; putting the Media Arts Building on the fast track; a new transformer for the lights; columbine locks on all doors; old doors replaced; and carpet replaced.
- No summer school at M-A, it will be held at Woodside High School.

D. Treasurer's Report: Jan Reed

November 28th YTD Analysis:

We are currently forecasting a favorable cash variance of about \$23K by year-end, mainly as a result of excess contributions over budget as follows:

- Annual Donations to date remain at \$77K on 581 members and are about \$19K in excess of budget.
- Directory donations of \$7K include income from planners and are about \$4.5K in excess of budget.
- eScrip is for use during 2009/2010 school year was \$1K under budget; at current run rate, we are anticipating that the total eScrip receipts for use during 2010/2011 school year may be as much as \$3K under budget.
- PTA Executive Board approved an additional \$250 expenditure to support the canned food drive in November, which was within the \$500K monthly approval limit for over budget items.
- Although Freshman Family Welcome expenditures were about \$200 over budget, the overage will be covered by under spending in the Freshman Transition budget line item.

Upcoming Events:

- Parent Education Series: 'Launching Successful Teens', Tonight
- General PTA Meeting – February 2 @ 8:30am, Wrestling Room

Meeting adjourned at 10:26am.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Songer

M-A PTA Secretary

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