

**Menlo Atherton High School PTA
General Board Meeting
February 2, 2010**

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

Opening: Lisa McNamara called the meeting to order at 8:45 am on February 2, 2010, in the Old Dance Studio, M-A campus. 34 members were present.

Motion to approve the Mini Grant Proposals as amended/Lisa McNamara/Carla Dewar/Unanimous.

A. New Business:

Parking Tickets:

Please sign in at the office before attending the PTA meetings. Parking tickets are now being issued.

B. Committee Reports:

Parent Education: Charlene Margot

Let's Get Organized! Time Management and Organizational Skills for Teens, by Ana Homayoun
Ana is the founder of Green Ivy Educational Consulting and author of That Crumpled Paper Was Due Last Week: Helping Disorganized and Distracted Boys Succeed in School and Life

This Thursday, Feb 4, 2010, 7-8:30 p.m., Menlo-Atherton Library

Emotional Competency in the Family, by Frederic Luskin, Ph.D., Thursday, March 11, 2010, 7-8:30 p.m., Menlo-Atherton Library or PAC

Nurture Shock, Po Bronson. April 29th.

Outreach: Lisa Major:

200 backpacks short as of last week so the delivery date was pushed forward to February 19th. Students refocused, and in one week the backpack count went from 40 to 114! Additional drivers are needed. It is an amazing experience from collecting to the delivery in the Tenderloin District of SF.

Staff Appreciation: Pie for Breakfast, February 11th:

Please consider donating pies, either home baked or purchased. You can drop off the pies on Wednesday.

Mini Grants: Stacy Fredericksen/Kristin Smith:

This is the PTA's biggest expenditure. Small grants are given to aid special programs proposed by teachers, staff, and students. All proposals are reviewed for cost, purpose, and whether there is alternate funding available. A list is generated and proposed to the PTA for approval.

- #36: Journalism Magazine/McBlair: includes top of the line printing for two glossy issues. There is \$1,500 left over from creative expressions that could be used.
- #26: This should go through the school budget.

C. Administrative Speaker: Steve Lippi/Instructional VP: Bell Schedule Discussion

- The school district has adopted a policy that mandates a start time no later than 8:30am for students with 6 periods or less. The SDMSD is now considering a variety of changes to the bell schedule in response to this new policy. The modified block schedule we have now works well, except that 25% of the students have a 7th period, so not all students end the academic day at the same time. This causes issues with supervision on campus during 7th period. There are many considerations, including, students/athletes/teachers/teacher meetings/length of academic periods/mandated instructional minutes/O period/etc. SSR, which is counted as instructional minutes, is also being reviewed since it originally started as a way for students to take a break, and has now expanded into homework and test review time. The Health Education Component might be incorporated into World Studies, and it is currently offered online.
- There are 4 different options that are being used as a jumping point to start a discussion. All ideas and/or concerns submitted will be taken into consideration.

- Option 1, no block day. Same start time, same end time. Teacher meetings in the afternoon. SSR would be on block days.
- Option 2, rotating schedule. Block periods stay the same. Athletes would miss a different class for games depending on the rotation. Students who are lethargic in the morning would not be lethargic in the same class depending on the rotation. Menlo, Gunn and St. Francis all have rotating schedules that work well.
- Option 3, Teachers would meet in the morning during 7th period; SSR would fall on regular days.
- Option 4, Teachers would meet in the afternoon; SSR would be on regular days.

The biggest impact of pushing the start time and making 7th period start at 7:35, would be on freshman who are taking art, music, drama or choir, however this goes away once they are in 10th grade and band is during 6th period. The school district only receives funding for 6 periods a day, except in special circumstances. As a Junior/Senior the PE requirement is gone and students are back to 6 periods a day.

Parent comments/concerns:

- Students are not offered a forum to speak. School does not value kids who take 7 periods/this is a fairness issue. Shifting the start time to 8:40am will dramatically affect sports. Make PE better as it is not meeting the needs of the students. Students will have to choose between art and sports.

D. Youth Development Coordinator: Shannon Smew

Runs the student center for peer education, youth advisory program, and freshman transition. She makes sure the students have a voice, or mechanism to express themselves, especially the disconnected youth, and the connected youth not in leadership. Staff listens without talking.

E. Treasurer's Report: Jan Reed

January 31st 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 \$78K on 584 members and are about \$20K in excess of budget. (Line items #3 and #8)
- Directory donations of \$7K include income from planners and are about \$4.5K in excess of budget. (Line item #1)
- 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 \$500 monthly approval limit for over budget items. (Recorded in 'Other Projects' line item #71.
- 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. (Line items #49 and #50.

Upcoming Events:

- February 4th, Parent Education Series: 'Let's Get Organized'
- February 11th, PTA Valentine's Pie Staff breakfast.
- February 11th, Winter Formal
- February 12th-16th, President's Holiday.
- February 27th, Fashion Show
- Hopefully we will hold the January PTA meeting in the Cafeteria of the Performing Arts Center.

Meeting adjourned at 10:20am.

Respectfully submitted,
 Pam Songer
 M-A PTA Secretary
 psonger@comcast.net