

**Menlo-Atherton High School PTA
General Board Meeting
Sept 5, 2007**

Board Members Present: Julie Brody, Pam Stoner, Janet Perez, Denise Bullwinkel, Pam Songer, Molly Eason, Stacy Fredericksen and Patty Burch. Members absent: Elizabeth Johnson.

Opening: The meeting was called to order by Julie Brody at 8:45am on September 7, 2007, Room F-15, M-A campus. 62 members were present. *Motion to approve the minutes from the May 31, 2007 meeting was made by David Jones/Stacy Fredericksen/Unanimous*

A. Administrative Speaker: Principal Matthew Zito:

- **Construction:** Heavy pre-work was completed in July so that the foundation could be started when school began. Hard Cost approx. 30 million to build this 30,000 sq ft building. The money has gone into the foundation, design and systems of the building. It will have 3 rehearsal or 'breakout' rooms, and a main room that will be 98% sound proof with the best acoustics. It will take approx. 18 months to select seating and two years to be substantially finished.
- **Traffic:** The construction has amplified long-standing issues with traffic and parking. 7:40-8:10 and 2:10-2:40 are the peak times affected. Anthony Kockler, our new School Resource Officer, will be working to facilitate any changes necessary to improve the situation. SRI is not a possibility at this time; they hit their threshold for liability. We have been in negotiations, offering up to \$60,000 to insure the lot, hire guards, and/or pay a fee of \$2,000 a month to have access. Council members and neighbors have also contacted SRI to no avail. Parents may contact Kelly Ferguson on the city council and Tom Little and Alice Redne, decision makers at SRI.
- **Parking:** We are doing all we can to mitigate the parking and traffic problems at M-A. \$5,000 will be put towards a traffic study by the City of Menlo Park, with the district paying the balance. The new performing arts center will have 402 seats with parking for 300 vehicles. Hilda Friedman is helping to lead an effort to negotiate with Sam Trans, and we encourage more parents to make calls. For individual on-street parking and traffic issues, please call the Atherton Police Department. Bike parking is available outside the Administration for parents and outside the music room for students. Construction workers are kept in the fenced area and have been fingerprinted. Volunteer parking is in the gravel area by the E wing.
- **Late pick-ups:** The library is open till 4:30pm. After that students should wait outside the administration building for pick-up.
- **Drama productions during construction:** We use the two gyms; one holds 1,800 and the other 500, the library, and F-15, which holds 85. The outside courtyard from F-15 has been completely refurbished as an outdoor amphitheater at a cost of \$95,000. A large stage can be installed and butane heaters used. Seating is for 200. Small concerts can be held here or at Carrington Hall, Hillview gym or our gym.
- **Class size and Educational Focus:Foundation:** More upper level sections have been added reducing large class sizes. Foreign language is still approx 37 per class, and these numbers do decrease in the upper grades. We are now fully staffed. We offer more breath in our classes than any other institution in the area, from learning disability classes for those reading at the third grade level, to college level classes. The majority of students take a mix of different level classes. Middle classes are very rigorous and not taught as leftovers.
- **Athletics:** This will be a strong athletic year as witnessed by 300 M-A supporters showing up for the Football pre-season game against Saratoga. We have a 6-year accreditation record with a 4 year distinguished school record.
- **School Accreditation:** M-A received a 6-year accreditation from WASC and a 4-year California Distinguished School Award.
- **New Student Services Coordinator:** Miki Cristerna's goal is to make the process more transparent, less mystifying.
- **Heavy backpacks:** Teachers do not have the space to store books in the classroom. Biology books can be bought for \$80-90.00 on eBay, or students should purchase locks for their lockers for a refundable fee of \$5.00.
- **New Dean of Students:** Simone Kennel brings a positive, friendly presence, as she will handle daily disciplinary issues.

- **Cell phones:** New rules in place due to excessive misuse of privileges last year. 1st offense, student leaves class and home is called. 2nd offense, 2 class periods will be missed. 3rd offense, one day of suspension.
- **Football Locker Room:** Thefts and fighting have been reported due to non-students coming on campus after school is dismissed. The locker room will be attended, PE teachers will stay later, and an afternoon campus aide will make sure students leave. Students are encouraged to use hall lockers and team lockers. Track students should only bring track gear to the track and leave personal items in hall or team lockers.

B. Open Forum:

Geri Nicholas, Outreach Coordinator: In its 13th year, Outreach helps empower students with funding for Conflict Resolution, Tobacco Education, Community Service, and the Student Support Fund. The Student Support Fund helps fund such items as PE uniforms, bus passes, and lunch money. 400 students last year were partially or fully funded for grad night and the fashion show. This fund has directly impacted the environment at M-A. Geri is looking into how to keep the fund viable and she appreciates the direct funding the PTA has given each year.

Betsy Bowersox: Challenge Day is on October 29th and 30th. 100 volunteers are needed as small group leaders. Honesty, teasing and bullying are just some of the topics covered.

Nancy Sterling, co-chair of the Fashion Show: Volunteers needed for treasurer, ticket sellers, chair for the luncheon, DVD sales and tech crew.

Motion to approve Patty Burch as parliamentarian was made by Judy Hood/Leslie Murveit/Unanimous

C. Treasurer's Report:

Proposed Budget, Marilyn Loftness: The PTA has three primary sources of income: Escrip \$27,000, Direct Donation \$50,000, and the Fashion Show \$20,000. Big expense items: \$10,800 for Challenge Day was just paid by the PTA for this year and \$10,800 needs to be paid for next year, in spring of 2008. The SDMSC projects were rolled over as expenses for this year. So, \$91,300 is proposed as income with \$172,732 as expenses. ***Motion to approve the proposed budget was made by Denise Bullwinkle/Becky Jackson/Unanimous.***

Treasurer, Molly Eason: Just under \$46,000 from 750 members has been received so far in the membership drive.

D. Committee Reports:

Calendar/Directory, Cindy Butler: A smaller and less expensive calendar/directory has been developed. Order forms for second copies will be sent to students by the end of September.

Freshman Family Welcome, Patty Burch: 6-7pm, Friday on the girls' soccer field, dinner for approx. 500.

Administrative Support, Lisa Dettmer: for the principal and VP's. Helps with arena check in, schedule distribution, emails, proctors for exams or any help IVP Steve Lippi needs.

Computer Refurbishment, Sue Kayton: Needs help delivering refurbished computers to families in need.

Parent Education, Denise Bullwinkel and Janet Perez: A Summit Group, including Charlene Margot and Darcy Prime, will meet with Matthew Zito to discuss the outcome of the SOS survey conducted by Stanford. The survey should give an indication where students need help.

E. Upcoming PTA dates to remember:

- Fri, Sept 7, Freshmen Family Welcome Potluck, 5-7 pm, M-A campus
- Thurs, Sept 20, Back to School Night, 6:30 pm, Pride Hall
- Wed, Sept 26, Parent Education Series, "New Parent Orientation to M-A" with Principal Matthew Zito, 10:00-11:20 am and 6:00-7:20 pm, Library
- Wed, Oct 3, 8:30 am, Room F-15, Next PTA General Meeting
- Sat, Nov 10, Fashion Show, three performances in the new Gym

Meeting adjourned at 10:41am. David Jones/Patty Burch/Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,
Pam Songer
M-A PTA Secretary

