

Palo Alto High School Site Council
Monday, November 17, 2008

ITEM 1 CALL TO ORDER

Lorraine Brown called the meeting to order at 3:30 P.M. in Portable 3. Members present were, Ning Xu, Cherie Sopkin, Lorraine Brown, Elspeth Farmer, Carla Guerard, Kenyon Scott, David Rapaport, Kathie Laurence, David Cohen, Julia Sing, Arlene Leslie Lucas Matze, Kevin Ward, Jasmaer Sandhu, Mary Dimit- PTSA, Principal Jacquie McEvoy and Coordinator Edie Miller. Not present: Alex Freeman. Also present: Christina Owen, students- Erik, Becky, Emily and George and Voice Reporter Anna

ITEM 2 APPROVALS OF MINUTES

The minutes of October 27 2008 were approved

ITEM 3 OPEN FORUMS

1. David Rapaport said there is concern because some teachers are giving tests on the last day to drop classes. This causes confusion. He believes a policy is needed to prohibit giving tests on this date.

ITEM 4 CAMP EVERYTOWN

Four students came to report on CAMP EVERYTOWN. Both Emily and George (and Kevin- SC member) had been this year. Becky is Senior Class President and Erik is Student Body President. Emily explained that the experience was one of the most meaningful of her life and she really wants Paly to continue of send students. She recognizes that it is expensive but hopes money can be found. She and George explained the different activities, which were part of the camp experience. Becky said she did not get to go but could feel the enthusiasm emanating from those who did and that this is good for Paly. Emily said she made lots of new friends and mentioned learning to trust people often. Member asked the students how they plan to share their experiences with Paly. Emily said she is starting an open Facebook page. Kevin hopes to create a bridge between EPA and PA elementary kids. They all plan to be involved with NOT IN MY SCHOOL week in the spring. There have been two meetings/reunions thus far. Another member asked about fundraising and community outreach. These appeared to be new ideas and the students seemed interested.

ITEM 5 DANCE BEHAVIOR

Christina Owen is a parent and a staff member. She and Mary Dimit, PTSA liaison to SC, have chaperoned many dances. They are concerned that some students are dancing in a very inappropriate manner. Christina passed out a handout with references to existing rules in the handbook, suggestions for chaperones and suggestions for better dance set up. She said the policies are vague and confusing. A clear policy is needed so all students are informed and all chaperones and enforce the rules evenly. The students (same as above) participated in the discussion. Erik said they are almost finished with the short video that shows acceptable behavior for Paly dances. When this is available, it will be shown on IN FOCUS and to chaperones before the dances. David R. asked if rules at dances are consistent with rules for student behavior during the school day. Some did seem to think that there are occasions when students are overly affectionate during the school day. Jacquie pointed out that some of the behaviors cross the line to sexual harassment of those just attending. Paly does need more chaperones at dances. Teachers need to be encouraged to come (perhaps pay a stipend?) because students know them and follow directions from them. Kenyon summed up the issues saying that the behavior involves a minority of the students and there is inconsistent enforcement based on vague policy. Kevin said he had tried to preview the song list before the last dance but the DJ cancelled and

they had a last minute substitute. Becky said she recognizes that the DJ sets a tone to the dance and she is pleased with the DJ who will work at the next dance. Site Council will work to keep the lines of contact open and hold further discussions if needed.

ITEM 6 LINKCREW

Jacque reviewed her proposal for immediate funding for starting a Linkcrew program in fall 2009. This is a national program that will train two teachers to be coordinators of a strong transition program for 9th graders. Gunn and other schools have successfully used this program for several years. It is designed to get ninth graders working closely with upperclassmen, which should improve the whole school climate. Upperclassmen would take a class similar to Leadership. TEAM could fit its activities in under the whole school plan. This program would be in addition to Camp Everytown. Jacque is requesting \$10,390 so the teachers can attend trainings this school year. It was and seconded that Site Council fund this request. There was discussion. It passed UNANIMOUSLY.

ITEM 7 REPORTS

PTSA- funding has brought in \$165,000 so far this year. There are 1500 paid members. There was the kickoff at Blue Chalk Café on Nov. 15. for another drive to raise \$200,000 for LCD projectors for each classroom. \$12,500 was granted in Viking grants. \$3500 was granted in fast track grants. PiE gave \$300,000 to Paly. There are parent education programs coming up. Including Safe and Healthy Children and Raising Ethical Teenagers. Cathy Kirkman is the Diversity Chair on PTSA. Turkey Trot will be held On Friday, Nov. 21 at noontime.

STUDENT COUNCIL- There will be a dance put on by the New World Citizens Club. The Dance video is almost ready. Each student in Leadership is working on a semester project.

ITEM 8 PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Jacque reported that an architecture firm (DMG) has been selected. Jacque handed out copies of the plans for the renovations to the playing fields. This work can start sooner. One goal is to provide for multiple uses of the renovated areas including enough stands to hold the entire school. The city gets revenue from the rentals of the fields so Jacque plans to talk with them about future arrangements. The "outdoor architect" will take the plans to the Board in late January or February. HE will bring them to Sc and the Alumni as well. The Paly steering committee includes 9 staff and parent Stu Berman.

ITEM 8 FUTURE MEETING AGENDA and ADJOURNMENT

1. Update on the greening of Paly
2. Project Updates

Kevin moved for adjournment and Jasmaer seconded. It passed. Meeting adjourned at 5:25 PM. Next meeting- December 8, 2008.