

**MS MSPA Meeting
Summary
Martin Hall
May 8, 2019**

Meeting called to order at 8:50 a.m. by Jennifer Miller

Nominating Committee, Mary Pinkus and Alli Deeter, VPs of Nominating

Co-Presidents elect for 2020-21 are Jennifer Jeffries (US) and Rita Parasnis (MS)

Upon Motion duly made and seconded, the Menlo School Parents Association unanimously voted to approve the above individuals as Co-Presidents elect for the 2020-21 school year.

Than Healy, Head of School

- Thanked Liz and Jenn for the spirit, hard work and energy they have put in to the school year
- He is still in the middle of the hiring process; currently there are Tech Director and CFO searches.

La Vina Lowery, Middle School Director

- WASC report was very positive
 - Some of the commendations included, but are not limited to:
 - Transparency amongst faculty is very good
 - Commended the MS on the report card reviews
 - Commended the MS on the Habits of the Heart and Mind program
- Next year working on aligning MS with US. John Shafer and La Vina will meet with a group of 9th graders and 8th grade teachers.
- Hiring in the MS is complete, except for an open school counselor position.
- MS had the first annual Wellness Week which went well
 - Farm animals were well received
- Student led conferences are coming up; please ask clarifying questions to help guide them through the process.
- 7th grade is getting ready for Donner Summit trip

Cindy Lapolla, Dean of Freshman Transition

9th grade student panel of students who went to Menlo MS

- Memories from 8th grade: DC trip, water balloon fight at the end of the year,
- Best thing so far in the upper school
 - freedom and responsibility
 - ability to choose classes you are interested in
 - getting to know teachers

- Tutorial:
 - It is different in US; longer; more opportunity to meet with a specific teacher
- Biggest adjustment from MS to US
 - different textbook for language from MS to US
 - getting used to having semester finals
 - Requires a lot of organizational and time management skills to prepare
 - following through on tools given to them to organize and manage time
 - With more freedom sometimes comes the attitude of “I will get to it” (procrastination)
 - adjusting to heavier workload and managing it with sports commitment
 - new schedule and workload
- The students panel agreed that coming from the MS they were all much more prepared for the rigor of the US

Q & A

What is it like to have 75 new classmates?

- Friend groups have reformed
- Advice to current 8th graders: go in with an open mind to meet the new people

What is something we as parents can do to support our rising 9th betters

- Not having pressure has helped one student do better
- One student had parents encourage her to try one new thing and she really appreciated it because she was able to find classes she really enjoys
- Listen to your kid when they voice concerns
- Prioritize your child’s happiness helps when the student is overwhelmed
- Don’t stress about grades. You’ll only put more stress on them if they know you are stressing.

Announcements

Faculty Spring Luncheon moved to Tuesday May 14. Help is needed. Please see Zipnotes for the signup.

Anti Tobacco/Vaping Talk: Monday, May 13, 7pm-8:30pm Martin Hall

Key dates

Knight Club: Friday, May 10, 5:30pm

Bye Bye Birdie: May 10 & 11 at 8pm, US Quad

Middle School Spring Concert: Tuesday, May 14, 5:30-7:00 pm, CADC

7th Grade Outdoor Ed: Wednesday May 15-Friday May 17

Middle School Led Conference: Thursday, May 23 NOTE: NO Classes

8th Grade Promotion Ceremony: Tuesday, June 4, 9 am.

Meeting adjourned at 9:33 a.m.