

MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 12 MEETING

I. Opening

- A. Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Brad Buffett, president.
- B. Pledge of Allegiance.
- C. Introduction of board members.

II. Board Reports

- A. Mike Davis (1st V.P., Programs):
 1. Clean and Green Events:
 - a) A Mira Mesa Community Cleanup will be held November 2 in the area of Reagan Road and Camino Ruiz.
 - b) A toxic waste disposal event will be held in early Spring.
 2. HEROES will be doing a house cleanup on September 17 as a follow-up to a previous yard cleanup for the same family. The family was recommended by the County Nurse. If you know of anyone who might need HEROES's help, please contact Mike.
 3. Want to help rehab Fire Station 38; waiting for information and requirements from city.
 4. If anyone has a request or ideas for MMTC meeting programs, please contact Mike.
- B. Chuck Sweet (Treasurer): MMTC Checking: \$2045.58; Savings: \$2606.50; CD: \$11,061.11; Street Fair: \$24,601.72 (minus recent checks).
- C. Steve Barrera (Newsletter Editor): Deadline for *Newsletter* submissions is Sept. 16.
- D. John Daley (Parliamentarian): Currently selecting members of the Nominating Committee to identify candidates for the 2006 Board. Volunteers or those who know of possible committee members or board candidates, please contact John.
- E. Arlette Ballew (Secretary):
 1. Requested approval of minutes of August 1 meeting.
 2. Orlando Vernachia noted that he had nominated himself for the MMMAD committee at the August meeting. Parliamentarian John Daley responded that the MMMAD committee had presented a slate of nominees to the MMTC and that it was the slate that was voted on *as presented*. Orlando then questioned this re. the minutes, and Arlette responded that John was correct. Orlando noted that he did not have Internet service to enable him to check the minutes on the MMTC website and moved that the full minutes be reinstated in the *Newsletter*, rather than the abridged "Highlights" version. The floor was opened to a second to the motion, but none was forthcoming, so the motion was not carried.
 3. Motion to approve the minutes (Vernachia/Stevens) carried unanimously.
- F. Brad Buffett (President): Announced agenda for meeting.

III. Reports from Government Representatives

- A. City Councilman Brian Maienschein (Khoa Nguyen):
 1. The city will receive Proposition 42 funds to repair sidewalks. Call Khoa by Sept. 14.

2. Breen Park Opening ceremonies tentatively set for October 19 at 5 p.m. Waiting for confirmation from Mayor's office.
3. Introduced Brian Hughes, an intern working with the council office. He was raised in Mira Mesa and is a graduate of MMHS.
4. Question re. chaos downtown. Answer: Best information is what's in the newspaper.

B. Acting Mayor Toni Atkins (Genevieve De Perio):

1. Feel free to call acting mayor with any issues.
2. Wants to help restore financial stability of city. Need to fill positions for retirement board. Wants to get majority of board members to waive client privileges.
3. Making transition from city-manager to strong-mayor form of government. Formed citizens advisory committee with someone from each council district to advise on the transition. Information at www.sandiego.gov/mayortransition.
4. Because of help we got from Cedar fires, mayor wanted to respond to disasters in Louisiana and Mississippi. Was at airport to welcome the people that David Perez flew in. 750-1000 evacuees in San Diego now, and some San Diegans are helping with search and rescue efforts. City employees held a blood drive and gave 38 pints.

C. County Supervisor Ron Roberts (Natalie Clark)—by message:

1. County has purchased 2 helicopters.
2. Sigma Communications putting in a reverse 911 program to notify people of evacuations, emergencies, etc.

D. Army National Guard (SPC Roderick M. Gabriel, Career Counselor working in Mira Mesa): Some young people lack direction to get through high school and college. The National Guard teaches life skills and has a scholarship program. SPC Gabriel is from Mira Mesa and has served in Iraq and Kosevo. He is one of only 4-5 NG career counselors in San Diego and is available at almost any time. Phone: 858-573-7029; Cell: 858-583-7074; E-mail: Roderick.Gabriel@ca.ngb.army.mil.

E. Mira Mesa-Scripps Police Storefront (Officer Steve Higuera):

1. Storefront is liaison between police and community, located in Epicentre (Teen Center) building at 8450 Mira Mesa Blvd. Feel free to call at 858-538-8120.
2. Had a good school-opening week, even with traffic in front of the schools.
3. Have had a series of bank robberies in Mira Mesa. Robbers armed with assault rifles. A civilian got the license number of the car one group of them left in, and the police have arrested 4 of them. Another group (3 African-American males) is still active in the area.
4. Have been a couple of gang incidents, with 2 groups (one Vietnamese from East San Diego and one Filipino from Mira Mesa) feuding and shooting at one another. Police are identifying individuals and have raided a few houses.
5. Storefront staffing issues are okay until the next budget year. Police Dept. is losing about 10 officers per month from retirements and is trying to hire new academy grads to keep up. S.D. police pay is lower than that of other cities in the area (e.g., Chula Vista pays \$20,000-\$30,000 per year more than S.D.), and

pension-system deductions are up. Many officers live in cities such as Murietta, Temecula, and San Marcos because they cannot afford to live in S.D.

6. Joe Frichtel: Car was burglarized recently and discovered that someone stole over 100 personal checks from another person's car. Steve: Don't leave things in your car where people can see them; that's an invitation to theft. Never keep anything valuable where it can be seen, even sunglasses and CDs. Car break-ins are the #1 crime all over. It is difficult to catch the perpetrators because they're so quick.

F. Bob Garber, member of the 23-person Citizen's Review Board on Police Practices: Board appointed by the City Manager; reviews any complaints against officers. Asks whether it is caused by practices (more training needed) or policies. Want communities to know about it; always looking for volunteers (20 hours/month). Includes a lot of exciting and informative training. Call Bob at Miramar College at 619-388-7432.

IV. Main Program: Mira Mesa Educators

A. Mitz Lee, San Diego Unified School Board (represents Mira Mesa):

1. School board: Has hired a new superintendent, Dr. Carl A. Cohn, who officially reports October 3 but is already attending board meetings. There are 2 new schools in S.D., and all school openings went smoothly.
2. Enjoyed the MM 4th of July parade and hope there will be no snags from the school board regarding the fireworks next year.
3. School district has started charging Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts for use of facilities. Mitz is for letting them use the facilities for free, but district may have to change policy because of lawsuit by another entity.
4. Congratulations to all schools in MM for making tremendous progress—up 38-46 points on academic performance tests. All kids now have to be proficient at grade level under new Federal standards; no more social promotions.
5. No administration building (offices) in Wangenheim Middle School; construction is starting next week. Counselor now housed in media center.
6. Julio Ramos, School District Project Manager, about Jonas Salk Elementary: Had to move hard courts and soccer fields to preserve vernal pools in order to appease U.S. Dept. of Fish and Wildlife. Question: Why didn't you recognize vernal pools in the beginning? Answer: There was no objection on the original report because the pools grew in the interim, as a result of rain.

B. Elementary School Representatives

1. Mason (Penny Simmons, Principal): Her 4th year there. Enrollment down (to 885), the trend all over the district. Scores jumped 11 points. Thirty-two percent of students are second-language speakers. Received academic achievement award for Title I schools. Forty-one classrooms, with 2 special education. Applied for early mental-health intervention grant. Installed solar panels on roof; 5th graders will monitor as a science project. Kindergarten building may open soon, after 3½ years.
2. Walker (Dawn Andrews, Vice Principal): Also has lower enrollment as rentals are converted to condominiums in area and people move. Fifty-six percent of students at poverty level last year. In partnership with Miramar College, trains parents in English language (day and night classes). Has a 6-to-6 program and a children's developmental center. 2nd speaker: PTA parent: Also on SD Unified Council for PTA. General meeting Monday, Sept. 26, at Wangenheim at 6 p.m. New superintendent Carl Cohn will be there.

3. Sandburg (Laurie Hinzman, Principal): Her 2nd year there. Have 20 fewer students this year, with 680 total. K-3 classes are between 18-23 students. Able to bring in extra teacher to reduce 4th and 5th grade classes to about 25. Scores going up. A lot of students at basic level, which isn't grade level. Working to get them up to proficient level. Great art and band programs in addition to basics. Principal chats with parents once a month, open to community. Issue with how many people are on campus without signing in, especially people waiting for their children. Would be a problem in case of emergency. Setting up a parent-waiting area.
4. Hickman (Dr. Dianette Mitchell-Ricks, Principal): Also have a problem with people in quad area. Family-oriented school. Jumped 28 points in math, and other gains. Instrumental and choral music programs. Writing is focus this year. Parents are active. Staff does fund raising to provide social studies field trips for 5th grade. Invitation to visit once a month to parents and others.
5. Ericson (Linette da Rosa, Principal): Her 8th year there. Enrollment dropping by 50-60 students per year. Most families are leaving for economic reasons. A Title I school. Made 34 points in API in past year. Forty-three percent of students are on free lunch program; lots of second-language students. After-school tutoring clubs (e.g., language, math). Book talks for parents. Have grant that Penny is applying for; K-3 support students and families. City-funded 6-to-6 program is now gone. Received S.D. Foundation Sciences Grant. Mike, John, and Barbara from MMTC Board all work with school. Received many computers from Mike. Also have Principal's Chat with 30-minutes talk and tour of campus (incl. kid's classroom). Having "Circle of Friends" to keep students off the street after school.
6. Good Shepherd School (Sid Barin, of PTG): Has a strong volunteer program that lets parents and students give back to the community (including participation in the MM Street Fair). Having Oktoberfest the same weekend. Wants to get a school-crossing warning put up on Camino Ruiz.
7. Christ the Cornerstone School (Judy Smith, Principal): Have 140 students in preschool and day school. Many students have parents struggling to pay tuition. Classes sized from 11 to 25 students (grades 3 and 4 combined). Separate PE, computer, and music teachers. Preschool kids learn to read by kindergarten. Day care to 6 p.m. program. Many after-school activities.
8. Brad Buffett asked about PTAs: Mason: Allows us to do things we don't have budget money for. Sandburg: Ditto; PTA does all special events at school. Hickman: Ditto. Help in classrooms, fund raising. Brad invited all to participate in MM Street Fair.
9. John Daley: trying to create a council of PTA presidents in MM. Christ the Cornerstone: Have anti-bullying campaign; maybe other schools could join in.
10. Joe Frichtel: Any problems with parks next to schools? Mason: Close gate to park during school day and reopen when school lets out. Ericson: RSVP has come out to check speeders on Westonhill; thank you to them.

C. Middle School and High School Representatives

7. Challenger Middle (Lamont Jackson, Principal): Glad to be back in MM community. Have 1216 students; enrollment increasing. Wants to focus on standards. Just reached 80% in scores. Have 45% of students at basic levels; need to help them to reach proficiency, especially Hispanic and African-American students. Goal to provide safe environment on campus. Morning traffic on Parkdale is horrendous. Trying to get 2 left turns installed. Working with police. Have strong PTSA and volunteers. Mike Davis donated computers to school.
8. Wangenheim Middle (Robert Grano, Principal): His 5th year at the MMTC Sept. meeting. School grew more points (48) than any other middle school in S.D. At 797

index now. Title I school (highest percentage of all middle schools in S.D.). One of 3 schools in S.D. to reach Adequate Yearly Progress (others were in Scripps Ranch and La Jolla). Goal is to maintain gains. Premier school for elective program (wood, metal, and photo shops; drama; chorus; bands; art; and home economics (but HE room out of commission for 2 years). Great PTSA. Question: Traffic problems? Answer: Less than Challenger, but problem with parents who park on other side of Black Mountain Road and tell kids to cross the street.

9. Scripps Ranch High (Donna Campbell, Principal): Her first year and a new team. One of 2 comprehensive high schools in S.D. to have reached 800. Staff devotes a lot of time to professional growth. Fridays have late start for staff. One output of this is that writing is a focus even in science and art classes. Weeds on grounds cleaned out by community volunteers on Labor Day weekend. Athletic program off to a good start (football, hockey, etc.).

10. Mira Mesa High (Jeff Olivero, Principal): Up 22 points. Made AYP Federal evaluation indicators. There are other indicators; also look at how many go to higher education. Focus on 1) maximizing time we have with students; 2) to get kids into colleges and professions they want to go to; 3) social ramifications (to have kids come back to support the community they live in). Air Force ROTC helps with MM Street Fair and Good Shepherd's Oktoberfest. Less parent involvement in PTSA in high school but growing MMHS Foundation. Holding parking lot rummage sale on Sat., October 8. Can rent a space.

11. Charter School of San Diego (Barbara Peluso): Students come for a year or so to make up credits and then can return to regular school or stay. Seventeen sites across S.D. with 1,200 students in all. Twenty students to a teacher and TA. Students come and go. Barbara is also on SDUSD PTA Council. Joe Frichtel: Major park development coming in next 2 years to get pedestrian walkway from the Senior Center to MMHS. Need support with city. 20,000+ kids in Mira Mesa.

D. Miramar College

1. Dr. Patricia Hsieh, the new President of Miramar College said that it started out training public-safety officers and now is a comprehensive college. Student enrollment has grown over 40%. Have a great foundation on campus. Will hold an "Evening with the Experts" to present developmental master plan for the college. Jeff Stevens was a member of the committee that developed it. Continuing education program on campus. Have job placement office. Contact Bob Garber. Question re. graffiti at entrance to college. College cleaned it up very soon.

2. Board members stated that MC is tremendous asset to community and offered MMTC support to any educational institution in our community.

IV. Old Business

A. Voters' Forum (Brad Buffett): Tried hard to set up a joint Scripps Ranch-Mira Mesa Voters' Forum at Miramar College. Timing is a problem because of candidates' schedules. Possibly October 24 or 25. Will know within the week and will post on website and in *Newsletter*.

B. Banner District (Steve Barrera): MMTC Board formed a committee to investigate how we might raise funds and/or find sponsors to pay for it in the long term.

C. Donations for Troops (Steve Barrera): Thanks to all who donated. First batch going out this week.

V. Community Group Reports

A. RSVP (Jim Brown):

1. Has speed-control monitors that can be set up in front of schools. Call 858-538-8120 to request.
 2. If a car is parked in the same place for over 72 hours, they will mark it. Three days later, it will be towed. Call RSVP to request.
 3. If you see someone creating graffiti, call 911.
- B. Recreation Council (Joe Frichtel): Please report vandalism or graffiti in parks. Get a description of the person(s) and car(s). Please call the police and report it at the time, if possible.
- C. Los Penasquitos Canyon Preserve Citizens Advisory Committee (Pam Stevens): Considering issues of encroachment on Penasquitos side and plan for trail to link Camino Ruiz Park to the preserve.
- D. Mira Mesa High School Foundation (Pam Stevens):
1. Parking lot sale on Sat., Oct. 8, from 8 a.m. to noon. Booths available.
 2. First "Taste of Mira Mesa" event to be held the first week in February (maybe Tues., Feb. 7). Trying to get restaurants to participate. Meeting on Thursday, October 13. Call Pam for information.
- E. Monster Manor (Brad Buffett): Now being set up. Volunteers are needed.
- F. Halloween Committee (Chuck Sweet): Event held on Friday this year because Monday is a school night. Will be near Recreation Center between fields 1 and 2, from 4 to 8 p.m. Volunteers and prizes are needed.
- G. Water District (Brad Buffett): San Vicente Pipeline being installed from Mercy Road at I-15 to Lakeside (San Vicente Reservoir Dam). Starting in June; will take 4 years.

V. Open Forum

Dmitri Potemkin, with The Art of Living Foundation. Located in 142 countries, in its 25th year, the foundation teaches how to handle negative emotions and peer pressure and manage stress, which affects other things in life. Courses for adults and youth include discussion, games and exercises, breathing techniques, meditation, and yoga. Emphasis on youth this year. Youth course includes designing service projects. Los Angeles High Schools made the courses a penalty for truancy. Service counselors volunteered after 9/11, for Tsunami relief in Asia, and in Houston recently. Courses are conducted in various locations. Contact www.artofliving.org.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Arlette C. Ballew