# MCHS Academic Boosters Club Agenda 

 March 11, 2022Noon Join Zoom Meeting http://bit.ly/ABCzoommtg

Meeting ID: 8745067243
Passcode: AjBAz8
Attachment
I. Call to order
II. Approval of minutes from February 11 meeting

A
III. Business and Finance
A. February Treasurer's Report B
B. 2021-2022 Budget Overview
C. Snack booth at Trails Day June 4
IV. Programs
A. Valedictorian Dinner planning
B. On the Right Track

D
C. Personal Best Awards proposal

E
D. Career Lunch Draft Survey and Relaunch Discussion

F
V. Misc
A. Succession Planning/recruiting new members
B. Update on School weekly newsletter

H
VI. Open Forum
VII. Set Date,Time, and Location for Next Meeting
VIII. Adjourn

MCHS Academic Boosters Club
Meeting Minutes
February 11, 2022
Zoom
Board members present: Jill Harry (chair/secretary), Ruth Smiley (vice chair), Leigh Westerlund (treasurer), Tara Schiff, Lordelyn Del Rosario

Public present: Collette Cole
I. Call to order

Jill called the meeting to order at 12:05 PM.
II. Approval of minutes from January 7 meeting

Ruth moved to approve the minutes. Tara seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.
III. Business and Finance
A. January Treasurer's Report

On December 31, 2021, ABC had a beginning balance of $\$ 24,833.82$. We had deposits totaling $7,726.62$ from Season of Giving campaigns and our Anonymous Donor. There were no withdrawals. The ending balance on January 31, 2022 was $\$ 32,560.44$. Jill moved to approve the Treasurer's Report. Tara seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.
B. 2021-2022 Budget Overview
$A B C$ has a strong income for the school year and less expenses than anticipated to date.
C. Spring Fundraiser discussion

It was decided it would be best to postpone having an in person fundraiser. We will reassess in the Fall.
D. Snack booth at Trails Day June 4

The organizers are expecting about 300 people between 9 AM - 4 PM. We are welcome to set up a table and pop up for the entire event or part of it. In addition to snacks and coconut water, we will have a tip jar and will bring the square device for potential donations. Jill will check with the organizers about where exactly the event is being held, who the audience is, and the purpose so we can decide what type of snacks/treat it might be best to bring.
IV. Programs
A. Career Lunch

The group decided that since it is getting late in the school year, it would be best to relaunch Career Lunches next year. We can re-brand the event, survey students to see what speaker professions they might be interested in, and do some promotions around it. There was discussion about how to possibly incentive students. The idea of soliciting questions from students at the time they sign up for the lunch in the counseling office. Tara will send the old survey to Jill. Jill will work with Tara and Collette on working on a new survey for students to fill out.
B. On the Right Track

Tara explained that this event is meant to prepare seniors with life skills like how to open a bank account, balance a checkbook, buy a car, etc. Calaveras County has set it up like the game of life where students spin a wheel and move to a task depending on their spin. It gets them thinking about how they will provide for themselves and potential future family. It includes mock interviews. Tara believes Calaveras has done this as a half day event. The woman who created did trademark the event but now has ties with Mariposa so may be willing to share her materials. There are 93 seniors this year. Tara believes she would be able to get gift bags for the seniors from a source like the Chamber. The big question is whether we have
enough time to set this up for May of this year (exact date TBD based on MCHS testing schedule for freshman through juniors). Tara will check in with her contact and email information tot the board when she gets it so we can get started if necessary before our next meeting.
C. Personal Best Awards proposal

Collette let Jill know that in order to move forward with Personal Best Awards this year, the counselors suggested ABC come up with a proposal that they can run by Celeste for approval. Jill noted this has been in our plans for a number of years but due to time limitations of high school staff, it hasn't happened. Jill suggested ABC take back responsibility for it from MCHS. We could set it up like a scholarship like so many other outside agencies do, update the application accordingly, make it clear that this is not for high achieving students who already get a lot of awards and recognition, but rather for students who may have been struggling but have made significant strides in their academic goals this school year by perhaps raising an entire letter grade from failing to passing, successfully completing credit recovery, or something similar. We talked about not offering a cash prize before because then all students might be tempted to apply, but maybe if we make it very explicit about who this award is for, we can offer cash. Or we could offer a choice of cash, cell phone minutes, gas card, or whatever students might want. Collette and counselors would help us advertise this to students. ABC would have a committee to read the applications. We would want to do this blindly - not knowing who submitted them. We would have a matrix to score them. We would be looking at the content of what they have done - not looking for a perfect essay with perfect sentences. One winner per grade level. All agreed this sounded like a good plan and were favorable to Jill's suggested changes on the application MCHS used for this award years ago, last time in 2009. Jill will put a proposal together for Collette.
D. Valedictorian Dinner planning

Collette let us know that there are potentially 20 students who could be named valedictorians this year. Looking at getting a number for the event:

Students + their guests $=80$
Speaker, speaker guest, MC, principal $=4$
Helpers = 7 last time, more like 10-11 people would be needed for this number of guests (included for the calculation of space needs, not part of the actual dinner count).

Ruth will check with Sierra Tel to see if its sponsor program is running this year. There was a discussion of potential other sponsors, but it was inconclusive.

There was a discussion of how we might be able to cut costs without cutting quality of event. We will move away from the commemorative brochures and back to the one sheet program which will save a few hundred dollars. We will still give gift cards, but maybe we don't need to give plants. Other ideas were discussed, but it was also pointed out that the biggest cost is food. Last year's food cost was large ( $\$ 30 /$ person) with not huge, but unexpected alcohol costs (around $\$ 80$ ). It would be good if we could keep the food cost to about $\$ 20-22$ per person.

There was a discussion around food costs and potential venues. Naoko mentioned that maybe the new owner of Savoury's would be willing. Building A at the Fairgrounds was mentioned. But given Covid unknowns, people voiced preference to keep it outside again this year. The conclusion was that Ruth will check with The Grove House as our first choice since it is outside, a large space, maybe the chef could provide the protein and starch, and maybe they would allow us to bring the salad, rolls, and cake ourselves which would greatly cut down on cost.

Ruth noted that she will be able to do the majority of getting ready and set up for this event. We may need more helpers the night of given the numbers of guests.

## V. Succession Planning/recruiting new members

The group discussed ways to find new members for next year who might be able to take on leadership roles the following year. Everyone was encouraged to think of who might be a good 20220311 ABC Meeting Packet
fit. Jill will reach out to elementary school middle school teachers and principals about active parents. This will be an ongoing discussion.
VI. Open Forum

There was discussion about the weekly bulletin. In past years, the bulletin put together by the Leadership class has been very useful to parents in keeping informed about what is going on at school. This year, it contains much less information. Some of us don't even open it anymore because we are not finding it useful. Collette will convey this feedback and see if anything can be done to improve the bulletin.
VII. Set Date,Time, and Location for Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be Friday, March 11, noon, via Zoom.
VIII. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 PM.

| ABC Treasurer's Report for | Feb-22 |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Beginning balance | 1/31/22 | \$ | 32,560.44 |  |  |  |
| Ending balance | 2/28/22 | \$ | 32,404.44 |  |  |  |
| Total deposits |  | \$ | - |  |  |  |
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| Total withdrawals |  |  | (\$156.00) |  |  |  |
| 617 | 2/13/22 |  | (\$156.00) | USPS annual | PO box fee |  |
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## Snack Booth at Trail Days

Trail Days is happening June 4, 9 AM - 4 PM at the Arts Park. The event highlights the opportunities all the trails in Mariposa County have to offer for recreation. In the morning, groups will be talking about different things to do and how to be prepared to enjoy hiking and biking in the county.

Organizers are expecting about 300 people, from small kids to their grandparents.

For our booth: Healthy snacks are wonderful, so are baked goods. And coconut water.

There will be speakers from 9:00 to 12:00. There will be tables of all the presenters; SFC, Forest Service, BLS, YNP, CALFire, Upper Watershed Council, Mariposa Hiking Group, Mariposa Bikes, etc.

In the afternoon there will be poetry reading of poems written by kids and some from those incarcerated in the local jail. All the poems will be about hiking and the outdoors. There will also likely be music. The Arts Council is putting the poetry and music section together.


## Number of valedictorians throughout the years.

This is interesting and helps us with planning future dinners.
Collette is going to get us the number of potential vals for 2023 to help with our future planning.

2022-93 total student, 15 potential vals (this is an updated number) $=16 \%$
2021-87 students, 12 vals = 13.7\%
2020-102 students, 11 vals $=10.7 \%$
2019-122 students, 12 vals = 10\%
2018-87 students, 5 vals = 5.7\%
2017-111 students, 8 vals $=7 \%$
2016-140 students, 6 vals $=4 \%$ (wow, kudos to this small group)
2015-? students, 15 vals
2014-145 students, 14 vals
2013-125? students, 11 vals
Feb 24 additional info from Collette:
Celeste does not believe the switch from AP to Dual Enrollment classes affected the Valedictorian count. There seems to be no rhyme or reason, other than some graduating classes are just higher achievers than others; based on what I hear from any counselors or staff.


In this training, students will be playing a life size board game that takes the game in a different direction. The instructions of the game can be altered to reflect different social classes and different policies and practices reflecting those circumstances.

This life-like simulation immerses the student in fast paced hands-on learning where they are faced with difficult real world decisions. Life is full of surprises and most have consequences both good and bad. Learning to choose wisely is the key to this activity.

The "On the Right Track" program has a number of fun activities built into the day. Business/industry volunteers will have an opportunity to work with students along the way introducing a number of topics in a non-traditional way while fostering confidence to work through the challenges and obstacles that "Life" will present along the way.

This program is for both juniors and seniors. The students will be presented with scenarios that will require them to make decisions/choices on how to seek services/solutions. This program serves as a catalyst for conversations about community structures, social inequalities and how people can work together to make positive changes within communities. Students will be challenged to go out into our community and learn what organizations/services are available to meet their needs and set them up for success as a productive member of society.

Through the collaboration of our community partners, we will provide a fun filled learning experience designed to keep our youth "On the Right Track" as they transition into the next phase of life. This event will offer an opportunity for our schools, business communities, county offices and residents to come together to prepare our next generation to successfully navigate through many situations. Situations they will encounter during their lifetime, but ones that are not taught as part of the standard curriculum.

February 15,2022 <APPROVED>

Celeste Azevedo, Principal
Mariposa County High School
PO Box 127
Mariposa, CA 95338

## Dear Celeste:

For the past few years, ABC has offered to fund Personal Best Awards administered by MCHS. We recognize that MCHS staff has not had time to pursue this. ABC is therefore suggesting that we take over responsibility for administering the award just as many outside agencies set up scholarships for graduating seniors.

We would need Collette Cole and the Counseling Office's help in making students aware of the availability of the award and in collecting applications. As you'll see from the attached draft application, we suggest that ABC receive these applications in a way that would allow us to not know who submitted them. ABC would form a committee to read and score the applications based on significant academic progress (rather than on the writing ability of the students - this isn't a writing contest).

We are suggesting one winner per grade level and a prize of $\$ 250$ cash.

We are open to suggestions regarding the application itself, its timing, and the cash prize.
Let us know what you think.

Sincerely,

Jill Harry
Chair

## MCHS Academic Boosters Club <br> Personal Best Scholarship 2022

This annual scholarship is open to all Mariposa County High School students in grades 9-12 who have achieved significant academic growth during the school year, whether it be raising a failing grade to a passing grade, complete a credit recovery program, working with a teacher or tutor to bring up a grade by one full letter, or some other similar significant achievement toward a personal academic goal. Applicants must submit all of the following:

- an application,
- an essay explaining how you feel you have achieved your personal best,*
- two recommendation letters, one from a teacher and the second from either a teacher or an MCHS staff tutor. One teacher must be from a core academic subject (English, Math, Science, History).

All applications must be received by the Counseling Office no later than 3pm Thursday, April 28, 2022.

There will be four awards, one per grade level, given annually to students who clearly demonstrate the achievement of their personal academic best during the school year. A student may only receive the award once during their education at Mariposa County High School.

The award is $\$ 250$.

Name $\qquad$

Address: $\qquad$

[^0]Current grade level: $\qquad$

Please respond completely to the following questions.
Answers should be typed, double-spaced, and attached to the application page. (Include the questions on your typed pages.)

1. What academic goals did you set for yourself this year and how did you achieve them?
2. What do you hope to have accomplished ten years from now?
3. Describe some of your hobbies, interests, responsibilities and extracurricular activities you have been involved in while attending MCHS.

Essay (Minimum of 150 words):

Explain how you have grown as a student this year. What academic challenges did you face and how have you overcome them?
$\qquad$

## Career Lunch Survey

The MCHS Academic Boosters Club looks forward to offering Career Lunches to MCHS students once again in the 2021-2022 school year.

Career Lunches feature delicious free lunches for you to enjoy during school lunch time while listening to speakers share information about their professions, the path they took to get there, and they also answer your questions.

To make sure we deliver the kind of program of interest to you, please answer the following questions:

1. Is lunch time the best time for speaking events? If not, what time would be better? (Other options: before school M-Th, before school late start Fridays, after school)
2. What careers interest you?

List all careers that interest you regardless of education level needed.
3. Would you be interested in hearing from academic institutions?
4. What local restaurants would you like us to bring in meals from?
5. Besides featuring speakers with careers you are interested in and providing you with a free meal, is there anything else (within reasonable limits) that would entice you to attend?
6. Do you foresee any obstacles to attending a speaking event? If so, what?
7. How likely are you to attend such an event?
(Please respond either None, Some, Many, All)

## Question from Collette:

Celeste has directed me to do a survey related to the CTE Pathways to learn what fields students are interested in. The survey related to CTE Pathways was intended to possibly assist with the AAUW helping us to coordinate the possibilities of internships, summer or school year jobs, job shadowing, etc... It seems that I may be able to create one survey to encompass both of these needs? I'm attaching the CTE Pathways "cheat sheet" for your reference, as Celeste suggested offering choices to select from since students often don't have a clue about the variety of options that may be possible. Any thoughts?

## Succession Planning/Recruiting New Members

From January minutes:
Jill noted that we should start thinking about recruiting members for future years. She and Tara will have one more year after this one; Leigh and Ruth will have one more after that. Rather than sending out a general call for members, Jill asked those present to think about who they know from the elementary schools with kids soon coming to the high school who have been active in parent-teacher groups or who they've worked with on other things and they think might be a good fit for ABC.

From Feb minutes:
The group discussed ways to find new members for next year who might be able to take on leadership roles the following year. Everyone was encouraged to think of who might be a good fit. Jill will reach out to elementary school middle school teachers and principals about active parents. This will be an ongoing discussion.

Suggestion from Naoko:
New members--in addition to principals and middle school teachers, I think vice principals/TOSAs are a good resource, especially for MES parents... Mary Lee knows everyone! Some parents who are active are not easy to work with, unfortunately.

## School Newsletter updates: (Including for discussion of further suggestions/updates)

## From Naoko:

Thank you, Collette and Jill! Art Club has certainly been active--they painted a mural (although apparently the sponsor of the project was not happy with it and the Club is now repainting large portions of it). And I'm sure you know about the Drama Club. I heard Drama Club had a hard time recruiting enough actors, possibly due to lack of publicity. Dance and Choir have certainly not been active (and for covid reasons, that's understandable).

I wonder if the ASB students are being invited to contribute/find content to add, by checking in with teachers and fellow students. It saves the staff from the additional work, and gets ASB students to be in a bit more ownership of the newsletter. Naoko

## From Leigh:

Thank you for looking into this. I woke up thinking about this as I almost missed the meeting to discuss an opportunity to go to France last night, because it's not in the newsletter. I know they are having SAGA meetings. I know they are doing a play and there were tryouts for that. There is an SAT coming up. I'm pretty sure they are still having French club and Spanish club meetings. CSF applications were due recently. There was a spirit week in which kids were supposed to get dressed up.None of which was in the newsletter.

Ironically it turns out that the kid I have at MCHS now, is the one for which I would really benefit from seeing this information. Even with Beck it was good to be able to confirm that he remembered a meeting or submitted an application.

I have heard that juniors and seniors are getting information somehow that used to be in the newsletter, so somehow this information is getting circulated. I suspect that the information is in the morning announcements (if they still do that).

At least for me, the newsletter was a way in which I, as a parent, could be informed and help to support the school by encouraging my kids to try new things and/or do what they needed to do to fully participate in the opportunities provided.

I know things are crazy, but I also know there is a class dedicated to ASB, and much of this information is still getting circulated somehow...

Sorry for the long email. I appreciate everything that everyone is doing at the school. I just wish I was more informed.
Leigh

From Jill
Hi Collette,

Given all the additional info from Leigh and Naoko, is there anything else that can be done as a follow up to this? Could you talk to Celeste about it when you meet with her next Friday and see what she suggests?

## From Collette (Feb 17):

So I did copy and paste the email comments for Mrs. Ramsey and have had conversations with all of us here in the counseling office this morning and recognized... "What I didn't Know, Till Now I Know" and am embarrassed to state that I presumed our ASB handled all things newsletter related and did not realize everything we here in the counseling office could be submitting for newsletter information. I have been using our MCHS website link: (https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/ 1FAlpQLSe6CGDf814sItr1Y08Znw7ZhhHd051NJrifHirWWC5HzgD6WA/viewform) to have information read on the morning announcements and before now there was not a way to distinguish if it was for the "bulletin" (which is the morning announcement) or the newsletter or both (which is now an option to select).

Thank you to everyone for the feedback and suggestions! I am being proactive along with Mrs. Ramsey and definitely am sensing the newsletter is going to hopefully become a more valuable source of information for parents. Personally, I really liked the idea of having students be more invested to solicit and report the information! I will keep you posted about any additional information I receive and I do hope that any of you will keep me posted about what your observations are of the future newsletters. Wishing you all a nice day!

Follow-up: ABC can also use the website link for requesting information to be advertised in the bulletin and/or newsletter.

From Jill:
Thanks re info on using the link to promote upcoming ABC student related events. It would also be good to make other orgs who do things with MCHS students aware of this. I'm thinking

- Grizzly Boosters
- Soroptimists
- Rotary
- Arts Council
- ????

I'm sure there are other local orgs who do things related to the high school students that aren't immediately coming to mind.

From Naoko:
Ethos and Safe Family popped up in my mind.


[^0]:    * Note: Application will be judged for the substance of content rather than for writing skills. This is not a writing contest but rather a search to acknowledge and commend students who have achieved significant academic growth.

