



**MENLO PARK-ATHERTON  
EDUCATION  
FOUNDATION**

**Press Release**

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**Education Foundation Grants \$2.2 Million  
to Menlo Park City School District**

The Menlo Park-Atherton Education Foundation (MPAEF) increased its school funding support by making an historic grant of \$2.2 million to the Menlo Park City School District. This record amount is a 10% increase over last year's grant. Outgoing MPAEF Co-Presidents Mark Box and Steve Hoffmann presented the grant at the special School Board meeting on June 9, 2008. The unrestricted grant will help Menlo Park City Schools bridge the gap between available funding and what's required to deliver high quality public education for all.

Foundation funds are employed in support of local school objectives, supporting qualified and inspired teachers and staff, comprehensive educational program like elementary hands-on science, music and libraries, and best instructional practices such as Jeanie Ritchie innovation grants and advanced instructional technology. In consideration of the steady growth in enrollment, the Foundation Board earmarked \$200,000 of the grant to help offset these increased costs to the school district. Of the \$2.2 million grant, \$100,000 was drawn from income on the Foundation's Excellence in Teaching Endowment. This special purpose endowment, one of the first in California, will support continuing professional development for teachers in perpetuity.

This year's grant, the largest in the 26-year history, represents a 10% increase over the foundation's grant to the school district a year ago. The MPAEF raised the funds primarily through its Annual Giving campaign, with the participation of more than 1000 families in the district, and through its annual auction, held in May.

Menlo Park City School District Superintendent Ken Ranella said, "With the MPAEF's support, the district can continue to excel in providing quality education to all our students. This grant represents 7.5% of the district's operating budget, and we simply could not maintain the excellence of our schools without the support of the many families who contribute to the Foundation."

The Menlo Park-Atherton Education Foundation is a public charity dedicated to raising funds to bridge the gap in funding for public education in the Menlo Park District. The District educates 2350 students at its four schools: Laurel, Encinal, Oak Knoll and Hillview Middle School. More information about the MPAEF is available at [www.mpaef.org](http://www.mpaef.org).

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*Photo Caption:* (l. to r.) Menlo Park City School District Superintendent Ken Ranella and School Board President Terry Thygesen are all smiles as they accept the big \$2 million check from Menlo Park Atherton Education Foundation Co-Presidents Maria Hilton and Ted Schlein. The community-based organization, which supports the public schools in the district, made its largest grant ever at the School Board meeting on Tuesday evening, June 19, 2007.

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