

Frances Harper Junior High Parent Teacher Organization  
Meeting Minutes – September 12<sup>th</sup>  
7:00pm - 8:30pm

I. Call to Order (Deb Greenway)

Attendees Erin O'Donnell, Debra Greenway, Ken McKim, Ian Pund, Irma Nevarez, Jeleesa Jackson, Jenny Sindel, Julia Munsch, Melanie Meis, Rachel Villalon, Tarri Swanson, Illeana Sicairos, Nick Gallaudet, Tori Peterson, Amy Cahill, Leesa Jackson, Ileana Sicairos, Tarri Swanson

II. Principal's Report (Jennifer Mullin)

- School is preparing for back-to-school night – Wednesday at 6pm.
- Principal Mullin working on a plan for tech accessibility to make chrome book and chargers more accessible.
- Principal Mullin will talk as a staff this week regarding data on i-ready scores and demographic data to report out next month.

III. Counselor's Report

- Jen Mullin giving report. Lizette Torres at a conference with district office this week.
- Schedule changes complete. 98 requests received.
- Counselors will begin contacting families of 504 for end Sept/ early Oct.
- Counseling team is working on logistics related to care closet for students, accessibility for shampoo, soap, deodorant, available in PE and the counseling office for students who need. Looking for a donation's of baskets and toiletry items.
- Held welcome lunch for new 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade students with pizzas. There were many new students in attendance.
- Working on Backpack cleanout program to clean out backpacks and get new supplies as needed, for students that are not able to purchase for themselves.
- Dialectical behavioral therapy – classroom cleaned out. The program is focused on harm reduction, making positive choices. It was used for substance us in the past but has changed to making positive choices in times of stress or trauma, very supportive group. Those in it asked to do it again.
- Ms. Torres meet with 7<sup>th</sup> graders to help them understand the counseling resources available.

IV. Teacher's Report (Ken McKim)

- Huge thank for your what the PTO has done for 7th grade skills class, within less than 24 hrs, sign up genius up and donations are coming in.
- Teachers were excited to be back in full in person and feel supported by admin and parents.
- Teachers are happy that admin is providing structure, limiting lunch space, littering less, talking more, tardiness is improved and phone use more controlled.
- Social emotional learning still behind from COVID 1 -2 years, teachers working thought
- PTO supportive of science through grants and material goods. PTO donates funds for specific science.
- For science experiences they are considering hot air balloon for 8th grade, mobile planetarium 7th & 8th, raptor center. Experiences would allow for multiple exposures of different science topics.
- Won't be going to Exploratorium. The disadvantages of going are missing a full day of school, very high cost, experience time vs travel time is about equal. It might be better to do other things on campus.
- Excitement in science department. For the first time in decade, science teachers will be going to a CASE (California Association of Science Educators) conference in Palm Springs.
- Tree Harper, Friends of Frances, the 7th grade skills class, are all good programs connecting children with environment and food and forestry.
- 7th graders in the cluster will have a quarter with Mr. McKim, learning on campus stewardship, physics of tools, biology of animals and plants on campus. The kids and Mr. McKim are having a great time.
- Friends of Francis is a community organized work party, open to anyone in community. Last Saturday was good

turnout, 25 hours' worth of volunteers to maintain previous projects put into place.

- Extensive educational garden, run by volunteer Garry Pearson, Cate Maguire. The garden focuses on ag practices, producing food and sharing with staff and students. Open to visiting for special ed kids and others who may have interest. It can also be used as a training garden for elementary teachers to see what will grow and what works with kids
  - Mr. McKim challenged the staff to add 2 days of outside learning to their calendar and use the Harper outdoor classrooms with shade and seats. This will help kids see school as place of learning inside and outside.

#### V. Fundraising Report (Ashely Burgdorf)

- Tarri gave report
- \$6k in direct donations for membership received so far this year
- \$100 from Nugget
- \$475 from Pura Vida
- \$220 from Jamba
- 78 PTO members so far. This is an exciting number, please encourage friends to joining.
- \$8,138 of total income this year when we include everything.
- All of donations and membership cost goes 100% to students and campus health
- Teacher grants forms are going out this week by google form
- Upped money in budget for grants because there is a good effective need
- Don't pay staff or infrastructure needs
- If we do not deplete funds, will be left open
- Should PTO help with sports uniforms? Trying to get dollar amount before asking for donations
- Caines's restaurant night tomorrow

#### VI. Treasurer's Report (Ian Pund)

- Increased general grants and hospitality.
- 1800 for helping hands can be taken out and re-allocated.
- This is a dynamic budget, can be adjusted over time and we can always call for a vote on new expenditures
- We are further along in membership than usual, but
- Julia moved to approve the budget. Ken 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Passed with no opposed no abstentions


#### VII. Hospitality Report (Julia Munsch)

- Conducted survey of staff likes dislikes, food preferences, tied between sandwiches and Mexican,
- Working on recording dietary restrictions
- Thanks to Ashely, got Bday list, and will send Bday cards this year.
- Support of staff –Wednesday pizza and salad for staff that will be sticking around for back to school night,

#### VIII. Miscellaneous

- a. Greg Bucker – Music Program update
  - o Substantial change based on lower enrollment and lack of staff in music departments.
  - o School centered program + whole school district
  - o We don't have gen music program in elementary. 4<sup>th</sup> grade program changed to universal program full kids quitting more often
  - o PTO can be a support for accessible music ed
  - o Smallest 7<sup>th</sup> grade enrollment in music ever: 11 band, 14 in choir, 16 in band, same around town
  - o DOSMA – booster club, win-win support,
  - o Q: what instruments are supported? Can guitar be added?
  - o A: JH numbers are so low, can't add classes, when numbers are better, we may be able to add more. The right place to do that is HS, possibility of doing clubs at Harper, more informal, to help push at

the HS. Concern at HS is that the load is already significant but that the 7<sup>th</sup> grader may have more mental physical capacity

- How can we support a guitar/ ukulele club? ukulele may be easier, easily create a club, but may need help with instruments?
- Logistically for club – club faire coming up from leadership, kids will be taught how to do this? Brucker glad to be the advisor 

b. Nick Gallaudet – Leadership update

- Working with Dustin Greenler and Briana Sanchez to bring fun activities to campus
- Great crop of kids
- The dance is coming the web leaders are putting on the dance, activities team are new, changed by-laws.
- Nick working to make the class more equitable, changed the by-laws to make class and amount of input more inclusive.
- 4<sup>th</sup> period reps anticipating and bringing input from student body. Parent support of chaperoning and donating snacks is super
- ASB accounting a learning process, different than other things. Can only take from students/ and spent on students
- ASB donations are appreciated goes directly to students, clubs, all students,
- Field trip 29 students and 3 adults, October, Area A leadership conference

IX. Approval of May Minutes (Deb Greenway)

Ken motion – Irma 2<sup>nd</sup> – favor – no opposed.

X. Adjournment

Topic: Harper PTO Meeting

Time: Sep 12, 2022 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83663451372>

Meeting ID: 836 6345 1372