

HARPER PTO Meeting

October 8, 2025

- I. **Approval of Sept.** meeting minutes
- II. **Introductions:** Christa Millstein, Ashley Burgdorf, Andrea Clarak, Lizette Torres, Ken McKim, Katie Sluis
- III. **Principal Report:**
 - Back to school night:
 - lots of positive feedback, although didn't work as well as they hoped
 - aiming for hybrid next year
 - liked kids and the celebratory feel (maybe 30 min next year), then bell-to-bell schedule for parents to go to classrooms.
 - It was confusing because it was traditionally parent only, but students were included. Tried to be creative, but need structure at the beginning of the year. Suggested that teachers provide video if parents aren't going to classrooms.
 - Un-Rally
 - Held Mini field day on assembly schedule
 - Craft room, games on quad, games in gym
 - No phones or backpacks, students play together
 - Fun and time away from tech, students liked it
 - Nov. will be traditional rally
- IV. **Counselor Update:**
 - Lizette Torres (7th and ½ of 9th) and Jackie Orozco (8th and ½ 9th)
 - Counselors went to CSU conference 1 month ago
 - Counselors working on student support meetings and follow ups after progress reports, 504 plan reviews
 - Unique role in that Harper Counselors only have 9th graders, so doing their best to prepare students for DHS
 - **Hosted events:** Jr High 101, Chocolate Con Pan, New Student Lunch, and Wellness Center Opening at Back to School Night: active area, calm area and group meeting area
 - **Coming soon:** Quarter backpack cleanout, Indigenous People's Month
 - **Care Closet:** Provide families in need with items, basic supplies for students (front office and wellness center), has pantry (partnered with STEAC). ***Wishlist on Amazon to donate to Care Closet at end of every bulletin***
 - ?: How to prepare 9th grader for transition to Davis High: conversations on College and Career Readiness
 - ?: Hours of Wellness Center: check in at office and then can head to Wellness Center (8:30-3) for a break. Anything past 15 minutes, student gets counselor check in.

- ? : How can students who are more timid benefit? Building up to students going straight to Wellness Center. Teachers may occasionally give a pass to students to go straight to Wellness Center
- ? : Students well-being affected by use of devices at lunch? Basketball courts closed at lunch? Less students using basketball courts, others are playing games, trying to support students to connect and take care of themselves, teachers try to incorporate paper assignments
- ? Food Pantry: How to pass out to students discreetly? Can families donate directly? Probably better to go through STEAC. Counselors are communicating what students are taking so that is re-stocked.
- ? 504 Accommodations: Breaks as accommodation, can come to counselor, can write to counselor about what is happening and why they need a break, breaks are limited to 10-15 minutes, if they need longer, counselor will do check-in.

V. Teacher Report:

- Q1 grades are in, students are more focused
- Thanks for meals and fundraising to PTO
- Science grateful that their annual requests are part of the PTO budget

VI. Treasurer Report:

- \$17K in bank
- Not many expenses yet
- Insurance due
- Monthly bank statements must be initialized by someone or insurance policy is voided (cannot be signatory on account). Need plan in case we're audited. Current insurer isn't backed by state of CA, but are the lead insurer across the country for PTOs/PTAs.
- Current checkbook has inaccurate address on checks, will order new checks
- Need to modify info on Sec. of State page

VII. Fundraising Report:

- \$635 from Mendocino Farms
- \$263 from Chipotle
- \$11,380 from Give Better (did \$9500 last year) Will do one more push on SUG.

VIII. PTO Grants 25/26:

- Teacher submit grants through Google Form
- Katie, Christa and Ashley meet to review, some may be funded through department budgets, other sources, info from Site Council
- [GRANT REQUEST SLIDES](#)
- 3K budgeted for these, trust that teachers are choosing things that are good for curriculum
 - English: Baker, Reed, Melekody (books)
 - Spanish: Nelson (books)
 - PE: pickleball paddles, flexible to do 1 set vs. 2

- Study Skills/SPED/RSP: kindness project curriculum, supplies and incentives
- Food Science: Mr. B., encouraged to submit for flexible spending (Costco cards work well)
- Science: permanent dissection, flexible spending request
- World Language: tea ceremony set, calligraphy set
- Bridge/ELD: UCD fieldtrip for students: lunch and bowling
- Math: binders
 - TOTAL REQUESTED: \$4,297
- Reviewed line items of proposed approvals, adjustments and suggestions to head to community funded throughout SUG.
- ***Mr. Mckim motions to approve, Teresa seconds motion, vote is unanimous approval***

Misc

- Question about reading room from parent