

Frances Harper Junior High Parent Teacher Organization

General Meeting
September 13, 2021

The meeting was called to order by Debra Greenway at 7:03 PM

Introductions of Attending: Debra Greenway, Lisa Paradis, Ken McKim, Merissa Leamy, Jennifer Mullin, Ian Pund, Tarri Swanson, Misaki Curtis, Jenny Sindel, Ashley Burgdoff, Brian Gleason, Kate Logvy, Irma Nevarez, Azalea Sanchez, Heather Taylor, Erin O'Donnell, Yullianna H.

President's Report – Deb Greenway

1. Welcomed everybody to the meeting and started introductions.

Principal's Report – Jennifer Mullin

1. Back to School is tomorrow 9/14/21 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm
 - a. Links will be sent out soon. Parents should ask their children for their schedules so they know what class to go to.
2. It's great to have everyone back on campus. The level of energy is amazing, even with the continued battle against COVID.
3. Concrete tables that used to be by the cafeteria were moved to various different locations around campus by the previous vice principal
4. Thanks to Mr. McKim and Friends of Frances, the students get to sit and have lunch in the shade. The different grades have fallen into designated spots where they congregate.
5. The new Vice Principal Nick Papagiannopoulos (Mr. Papas) has already started building great relationships with the students. He's doing a great job getting to know them.
6. Participated in Friends of Frances on Saturday. Beautification of the campus. It's a great way to connect with kids and staff that's not academic.
7. COVID Precautions – We have all the COVID precautions in place. Nick, Vice Principal has gone to all the meetings.
 - a. Other schools are struggling with children keeping their masks on and pulling them down below their chin.
 - b. Harper is not having any issues. Proud at how well the children are doing with their masks.
 - c. Contact tracing is focused on the times that the kids don't have masks on
8. Safety Week this week
 - a. Fire alarm drill this week
 - b. Not having a lock down drill
 - c. Fire drills and shelter in place drills this week
 - d. Presentations today (Monday) and tomorrow (Tuesday)
9. I Ready Assessments

Frances Harper Junior High Parent Teacher Organization

General Meeting
September 13, 2021

- a. Math and English Concepts 3 times a year
- b. Not used towards grades. Just look at strengths and areas where they need to grow.

Heather Taylor – Athletic Department

1. Thanked PTO for funding items in the past
2. Here to discuss the Harper Fields Saga. Shared a slide show displaying the poor condition of the fields
 - a. The fields are a mess. They have been plowed through and under watered. The squirrels have been deteriorating the fields for the past 7 years.
 - b. I have been cleared to teach PE on the “good” field, but don’t feel comfortable taking the students out on the field with uneven squirrel holes.
 - i. Have spent hours and hours over the past few years spraying and flagging the holes for the safety
 - c. 13 years ago, we were able to utilize all 3 fields. Now they are a huge safety issue. We have done what we can.
 - d. The empty surrounding fields are either privately owned or owned by the district. The district is not maintaining their fields.
 - e. 2018 Measure M was past and Harper has not received any of the money
 - f. Field conditions may affect spring sports
 - g. Spoke with the director and the south field was supposed to be ready in August and it’s still not ready
 - i. It was plowed in July and left as is
 - ii. Continue to see some movement and then nothing
3. Ideas
 - a. Present at the upcoming board meeting
 - b. Letters can be sent to the board
 - i. Send a template out to families to complete and send in to the board
 - c. Bring up at the superintendents meeting
 - d. Petition
 - e. Send out a request from PTO for support from Harper Families

Frances Harper Junior High Parent Teacher Organization

General Meeting
September 13, 2021

Teacher's Report (Ken McKim):

1. Mrs. Taylor is an example of the innovative teachers we have here at Harper
2. Adding onto the field saga. I'm here on campus at all weird times with supplemental watering and in years past, Harper campus has been heavily used by the community. In recent years the community doesn't appear to be utilizing Harper as much.
3. There is a lot of irrigation issues with the internal campus
 - a. Would be great to have a card to hand out with contact information on who to contact for potential users
4. Friends of Frances – Volunteers, teachers, students, scouts, and community members comprise Harper Jr. High's campus care group titled Friends of Frances. They meet 8 times each school year for work parties from 8 to noon at Harper. Partial attendance is also welcome. All community members and ages are invited.
***Service hours available for scouts, church groups, sororities, fraternities, etc...

Donations: Plant seeds, plants and young trees (certain species), large pots and saucers, used tools

Monetary Donations: direct these to Tree Harper ASB Club via Ken McKim kmckim@djud.net

Gift Card Donations: Davis ACE Hardware, Nugget Market, Home Depot, Lowes

2021-2022 Schedule 8:00 am – 12:00 pm

Fall dates 9/11, 9/25, 10/16, 11/6

Spring dates 2/5, 3/12, 4/9, 4/30

5. Teachers appreciate an electronic version of the PTO grant
6. Science Department gives a huge thank you for years of support from PTO
7. I've become the de facto Teacher's reporter because I attend all of the PTO meetings. I'm happy to hand this role or share it
8. 8th grade not going to the Exploratorium this year because they are requiring vaccinations and not accepting reservations at this time. Didn't want to get the students hopes up
9. Message from Mrs. Herrick- Jasper :

Harper has a record number of English Learners on campus this year with 53 students in the program, and 10 more students awaiting testing and placement. Several students received wonderful scores on the ELPAC and will reclassify this fall. We are currently running 3 classes of for specific English Language Development instruction, taught by me, Becky Honig and Maggie Wu. We are working on identifying English Learner students, getting them tested, placed in appropriate classes, providing

Frances Harper Junior High Parent Teacher Organization

General Meeting
September 13, 2021

bilingual support for them when possible (we have limited bilingual support in Spanish provided by Kathy Romero who works half day, and Elena Sturgeon who also currently works half day). We are also working on replacing teaching materials that were lent out during the pandemic. Next we will focus on reaching out to our English Language Learner families to hold our first ELAC meeting in September and connect families with district and school resources.

Message from Mrs. Fung:

Seems like kids really enjoy the increased seating options around campus. I'm wondering if we could get some shade umbrellas? Kids are doing a great job masking and being responsible with very few reminders!

10. Several new teachers and they are doing well. They are receiving good support from the department, counseling, etc.
11. Teachers are happy to be teaching in the classroom and having to teach both in person and on Zoom.
12. Students anxiety is still present, however the counselors have been doing a great job helping
13. Nick has also been a great help
14. The students will need to relearn personal accountability and self-discipline
15. With the reopening of the school there has been chaos however the teachers and their adjunct duties are making it less chaotic
16. Tree Harper – 40-50 Kids
 - a. Monday and Fridays
 - i. Eat for 10 minutes then learn and discuss projects on Mondays
 - ii. Fridays are the workday. Listen to music and talk with friends while working
 - iii. 1000 hours of labor to maintain the campus
 - iv. 95% survival rate for juvenile trees
 - v. Sustainable gardening. Equipment has been donated, not using fossil fuels, and grow own cuttings
 - vi. Only cost has been for rocks

Counselor's Report (Jennifer Mullin)

1. Adrienne Simon-Carlson is the head counselor and activities director. She has 9th grade students and 8th grade M-Z
2. Jacquie Orozco has 7th grade students and 8th grade A-L
3. There is a counseling intern this year. M, Tu, W all day

VP Fundraising – Tarri Swanson

1. Grants – Apply for a project or activity as well as items

Frances Harper Junior High Parent Teacher Organization

General Meeting
September 13, 2021

2. Online forms send Tarri email directly ptlaswanson@sbcglobal.net
3. October 1st is the deadline. Will then meet with Jennifer and Deb. Approval will be decided at the October PTO Meeting
4. If there are left over funds then teachers can continue to apply until the funds run out
5. Fundraisers –
 - a. Direct donations
 - b. Sign up for Amazon Smile
 - c. Nugget Script Cards
 - i. Remember to change your school to Harper if you have previously assigned your donations to another school
 - d. Participate in restaurant nights
 - i. Application into to Blaze for October fundraiser. Online option for ordering. 20 % back to the school
6. Ways to give to the school
 - a. Educate families for options to donate and support the school
 - b. Paypal is now an option using QR Code
 - c. Working on Venmo option
 - i. If anyone can donate an iPhone 8 or newer to PTO to be used for a Venmo account. Other schools have had success using Venmo for donations from families who may not have donated otherwise.

Treasurer's report –Ian Pund

1. A \$17k budget
2. Budget is in line with last year's budget
3. We under spent last year
4. We have enough money for this year but will need to fundraise to ensure there is enough for next year
5. Motion to approve budget was made by Tarri Swanson. Ashley Burgdoff seconded it. Motion passed unanimously.

Q & A:

1. Why is there less money in the budget in Junior High than in elementary school?
 - a. Less overall cost but more direct kids need. For example planners
 - b. Parents get tired and led participation as students get older
2. Not a lot of request from teachers. Not a need?
 - a. Teachers may not know how to ask or what to ask for
 - b. Don't realize they can ask for large ticket items as well as small
 - c. Tarri and Deb to attend next teacher's staff meeting on Sept 22nd at 3:35 pm to discuss grants and give examples
3. What are we not doing to increase funds?

Frances Harper Junior High Parent Teacher Organization

General Meeting
September 13, 2021

- a. Teachers are “scrappy” and know how to get things funded. They’re resourceful.

Approval of minutes (Deb Greenway): May Minutes stand approved as sent. Ken McKim makes a motion to approve minutes. Tarri Swanson seconded it. Motion passes unanimously.

Next meeting October 11, 2021

Meeting adjourned at 8:27pm