

Frances Harper Junior High Parent Teacher Organization
Meeting Agenda – November 14th
7:00pm - 8:30pm

[Zoom Link](#)

I. Call to Order (Deb Greenway) Start at 705

II. Principal's Report (Jennifer Mullin)

- Sent detailed emails to parents today. Because of translation, the messages needed to be split into two emails.
- Staff loved the luncheon today. Choices for food have been great all year and PTO has received lots of positive feedback.
- Fields Update
 - Fields are scheduled to be completed by January (pending weather).
 - The construction group has kept Ms. Mullin in the loop, meeting every Tuesday at 10am.
 - They have been thoughtful with how they are working with school site.
 - There will be a different crew working on the high jump, long jump, and shot put. This part is due to be done by February, in time for track season.
- Thank you to all families that have participated in the fundraisers so far
- Former Vice Principal, Nicholas Papagiannopoulos took another job in Sacramento. Principal Mullin is working with the district to fill position. Staff work together well and have been supportive through the change.
- Harper Hearts – email went out today and the timeline will be communicated to Deb to arrange help with wrapping etc.

III. Counselor's Report – nothing to report this meeting

IV. Teacher's Report (Ken McKim)

- Season of giving thanks! Thank you to our PTO! to our community members! I hear weekly, often daily expressions of gratitude for our intrepid Jenn Mullin! Also for our counselors, office staff, paraeducators, psychologists, resource specialists, full-inclusion folks, teachers, custodians, nutrition folks, and more!
- We've made it through October! Students and teachers have been hard at work! Big projects and tests last week and this week. Tannyhill's mythology presentations! Biology has a big biochemistry test this Friday.
- Holidays with friends and family are so near and so important!
- DTA is active –
 - Tree Harper/Friends of Frances Fund Razor VI
 - Trying to beat last year's record high donation total: \$1,300
 - Projects are developing fast with the 6th period Skills class (7th graders).
 - Check out the faculty parking lot: weed removal, new mulch, plants and small trees to be installed soon!
 - Garry Pearson volunteered tractor time over the weekend. I have another tractor volunteer lined up for the ever so important mulching/wood chip aspect of sustainable horticulture.
- Teacher Quotes:
 - We received a grant for personal hygiene supplies for 20 classrooms with lots of backup! They've been organized and given to all of the teachers! We've had great feedback from teachers and students so far (not a lot but some!) Thank you! Jen Fung Math, AVID

- Thank you all so much for your continued support of our Harper school community, I am so thrilled to have some new reading materials for my Spanish learners and this would not be possible without your generous donations of time and resources. The staff, students, and everyone at Harper greatly appreciates you all! Kyle Policar Spanish
- The Art Room was so happy to receive funds for “The Tiniest Art Show in the World!” In fact, the 9th graders have already started their paintings! They are free to do whatever they want on these tiny canvases; we are treating this just as if they were professional artists invited to show their work in a Spring show. The only limit is the size of their canvas! I am still eagerly waiting to hear about the possibility that they will be able to put their work up for sale just like at a “real” art show. 7th and 8th graders are working on building armatures and small sculptures from air dry clay. Cluster kids have only been in the art room for 2 weeks and are still learning the swing of things. Very soon they will work on sneaker design and making a prize ribbon to recognize their favorite place, person or thing on the Harper campus! The Art Room is looking for a few donations that you may have and not use anymore: the game, Jenga; glitter (especially silver or gold); a couple kitchen timers; and old hair dryers that still work. Thank you! Carrie Ziser Art
- Thank you so much for your support of science, this year and all past years! We are so grateful for the help you provide in getting hands-on science in front of our students. With your help, every Harper 7th grader and Biology student will be getting a dissection experience this year that will fuel the excitement and interest of our future doctors, nurses, and scientists. Hands-on lab experiments, dissections, modelling, and investigations are what is keeping our Harper future scientists engaged and invested in learning - learning that will benefit them and the community we live in for years to come. Thank you for your help and kindness. The Science team. Sarah Huminski Science
- I cannot thank you enough for funding the "Wobble Chairs" for my Special Education classroom. The first day they arrived, a student ran into my classroom with a huge smile on his face because he heard that they had arrived. The wobble chairs have allowed my students to safely move while working on assignments and fulfill their sensory needs. Thank you! Abbi Furlow Special Ed
- Please tell PTO about having Naloxone/Narcan on all DJUSD campuses. Currently only nurses can give it but we are working on training staff in the near future. We’re still putting together the training module. Also, the nurse’s office thanks PTO for the granola bars and chocolate protein shakes as students really like them. It helps the kids carry on with their day not being hungry! Karla Mahoney Nurse

V. Review Staff grant applications (Tarri Swanson)

- Signup Genius filled up quickly. Still working on collecting final items. Over 200 items on sign up genius were filled. Missing a few and reaching out to the people who signed up to donate to arrange delivery.
- Most reimbursements to teachers have been made.
- Ms. Mullin and Tarri will be communicating to complete communication on all teacher grants.
- Math department Kuda software was not needed as expected. Funds were switched to add discrete self care items. Very much appreciated by staff and students.
- Ashley working with counselors on the cabinet.

VI. Fundraising Report (Ashley Burgdorf)

- Chipotle is the most generous with the portion of donation with 33% of purchase price going to donation.
- Panda final result was \$156.66
- Dine outs for the year brought in \$772 so far.
- Total amount fundraised through donations, membership etc. has been \$11,327.83
- Looking to add a December dine out night. January will be Blaze Pizza.

VII. Treasurer's Report (Ian Pund)

- \$10,700 brought in this year, spent \$6300 so far. Doing great on contributions.

VIII. Hospitality Report (Julia Munsch)

- 2 more lunches to do for the year. -teacher appreciation week and the end of year...
- Would like to move the coffee cart to Valentine's Day because it is funded through sign up genius and we have already asked parents for a lot.
- Ms. Mullin can get help from leadership class to help with holiday coffee cart
- Small gestures mean a lot to staff

IX. Miscellaneous

Enrichment Science Events (Mr. McKim)

- The school used to do a trip to the SF Exploratorium via bus. When considering whether to resume after COVID, staff reflected that the students were actually on the road for more time than they were in the museum and looked for alternatives.
- Two alternatives identified – Planetarium in the MPR and Raptor Center visit on campus.
- PTO is willing to help. Is it also possible to ask for science student donations?
- Ms. Mullin will check the rules for asking for donations for this sort of thing.
- Once Ms. Mullin confirms, PTO can help with the deposit if needed.
Question was asked "How will raptor be differentiated from the students who experienced this field trip in elementary school?"
 - It will be more detailed and more connected to what the students are learning currently.

X. Approval of September Minutes (Deb Greenway)

Mr. McKim motioned to approve minutes. Tarri Seconded the motion. Motion carried

XI. Adjournment

No meeting in December. Next meeting is on Jan 9th.