

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

[Zoom Link](#)

- I. Call to Order (Deb Greenway)
- II. Principal's Report (Jennifer Mullin)
  - Fields Update – going to the board maintenance and operation team meeting on 10/20. Will have more details after the meeting.
  - A few events are coming up for students: Dance & Rally coming up. Halloween theme. No full mask or full-face paint. The rally is an alternative event, with a choose your own adventure.
  - A speaker, the grandson of Cesar Chavez Speech gave a very impactful speech this week. The speaker was arranged Brianna Sanchez. If we have the opportunity to have him next year, the format may be rearranged to enable easier access for students. The number of migrant students from Capito is increasing every year and some of the messages from the speech informed Ms. Mullin on how to better support them.
- III. Counselor's Report (Mullin)
  - Doing 504 meetings occurring now, mostly for 7<sup>th</sup> graders or transfers.
  - Recently hosted an event for kids with Mexican hot chocolate and pastries from Latin America. Very well received
  - There was a district meeting today and the counselors met with communicate.
- IV. Teacher's Report (Ken McKim)

Gold Star to Tarri Swanson! Stretching PTO donations! Doing homework on specific grant requests! Effective! And her son was elected as Tree Harper's Treasurer!

**Teacher's Report:**

Teachers are now "in the groove" which means a lot of grade intervention is occurring. Questions of class composition and student character mysteries are largely resolved. Special Ed assessments are coming in and lesson adjustments are being made.

Teachers love the PTO grants,  
devour the delicious PTO meals,  
and relish the knowledge that parent support is part of our Harper culture.

**Science News:**

CASE conference in Palm Springs: first conference for our department in more than a decade! Leave Thu afternoon, return Sun evening.

Science classes going well! Students appropriately challenged. Teachers excited about hands-on activities – Huminski with a Tandem Grant: choice chambers for roly-polies – caught in The Garden at Harper.

Ms. Bay's Biology students doing biochemistry already! Her 8<sup>th</sup> graders have made slime! McKim's Biology students doing Species Of Interest reports (year-long) edited by UC Davis interns. McKim's 8<sup>th</sup> graders about to do several Bunsen burner labs.

**Outdoor Classroom Development, Campus Beautification and Sustainability News:**

Compost enthusiasm! Elena Sturgeon, Harper paraeducator with plans to attain a teaching credential, is getting staff and faculty and students to commit to helping start a fledgling composting practice. Ken McKim's 6<sup>th</sup> period Skills class 7<sup>th</sup> graders have helped clear an area near the garden.

Green Rocks! Harper is innovative regarding resources for our landscape. DSHS Ag building renovation left several large landscape boulders made of California's state rock serpentine. Garry Pearson and Ken McKim arranged to get them to Harper. See 3 of 4 already placed in our east parking lot islands.

Large Shadehouse footprint nearly ready. A DSHS hand-me-down, this large structure is to be erected between the L wing and the garden sheds. It is large enough, and blocks enough harsh sunlight, to allow a full class of over 30 students to hold class outside.

Napa Recycling is set to deliver another 20 yards of free, high-quality compost for use by Tree Harper, Friends of Frances, Harper Biology students, and The Garden at Harper volunteers and elementary garden coordinators.

Garden Coordinator's Meeting 10:00am on Sunday Oct 23: Ken McKim to speak briefly about working with DJUSD Maintenance & Operations for DJUSD and CSEA union approvals for campus beautification projects.

### Testimonial Quotes:

Meals are wonderful and make us feel seen and appreciated.

I appreciate not having to buy my own supplies at the grocery store in order to do kitchen science



- Julie Shelton – Science 7, AVID, Bridge

They are AWESOME for the meals and grants, and I don't even eat them nor applied this year. (Hoping for full funding for Kyle for Spanish.) I still completely appreciate everything that they do.

- Kelly Ridgeway – Spanish

The art room is bustling with activity. Cluster kids are busy with stop motion animation productions; 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders are putting the final touches on their wool felted creations and 9<sup>th</sup> graders are in the thick of learning about color theory and acrylic paint. Color theory is my favorite thing to teach in Art 1 because no matter what my students pursue later in life, color will be a part of it. Whether it is how you dress each day, how you choose to paint the walls of your home or what colors you choose for a product you make, or a restaurant you own, **color is a vital part of our lives!**

Thanks for being such an amazing PTO. Your work is appreciated and noticed.

- Carrie Ziser - Art

FYI, the Harper garden gardeners all appreciate the student visits and supporting the academic instruction at Harper!!

- Garry Pearson – DJUSD CTE Grant Coordinator (Career Tech Ed - \$15million and counting! – close colleague of Mr. McKim's)

### V. Review Staff grant applications (Tarri Swanson)

- Kuta Software Renewal for Ms. Fung, Math Department. \$832. Benefits 586 math students. Approved
- Drawing Tablet for Mr. Chen, Math Department. \$324.70. Benefits 160 students. Approved.

- Welcome pots and plants for Outdoor Classroom development. \$300. Benefits for the whole school. Approved.
- Flexible spending for the science department in the form of gift cards to Ace, Nugget, Safeway, Target, and Amazon. Mr. McKim. Benefits 540 science students. Approved to be funded via Signup Genius.
- Fetal Pig Assistance \$915.01 for pigs + additional for gloves and other supplies. The cost for pigs is approved from the general budget. Gloves and other supplies will be funded through sign-up genius.
- Nutrition for students – protein shakes needed - funded through sign up genius
- Nurse supplies – 10 packs of Coban first aid wrap and granola bars. – Approved for Coban, granola bars funded through sign up genius.
- Novels for silent reading for Ms. Polk in English department. \$250. Approved.
- Care Closet – locking cabinet needed to store self-care items for students in need. \$501.49. Up to \$501.49 approved, Ashely Burgdorf will assist to see if a better price can be found. Items for care closet funded though sign-up genius.
- Sensory Classroom – Ms. Furlow, Special Ed. 5 wobble chairs. \$410.95. Benefits 30 special ed students. Approved.
- Spanish Class Library – Mr. Policar – Spanish department - sets of leveled readers and novels for Spanish students. \$600. Approved
- Tiniest Art Show – Ms. Ziser. Art supplies to benefit all art students. \$350. Approved.
- Classroom books – Ms. Wu – English Department. \$800. Benefits \$150 students. Approved.
- Field Trip to UCD – Ms. Herrick-Jasper. Lunch at UCD to expose ELD students to the college atmosphere. \$650. Benefits 55 students. Approved.
- Hands on Frogs - Ms. Huminski – Science department. \$425 for frogs + more for gloves. Benefits 180 science students. Approved funding for frogs. Gloves will be provided through a sign-up genius.

VI. Fundraising Report (Ashely Burgdorf)

- Chipotle fundraiser tomorrow
- 89 members to date.
- Paypal is taking a big cut on donations. Will remove from website and encourage venmo or checks.
- Next dine-out – 11/8 – 10am-10pm

VII. Treasurer's Report (Ian Pund)

- No new business to report.

VIII. Hospitality Report (Julia Munsch)

- Giving thanks meal for all staff planned for the Monday before Thanksgiving.
- Holiday coffee cart to discuss at next meeting.
- Birthday cards, Elizabeth is helping. Adding new staff to the list.

IX. Miscellaneous

- Friends of Francis – service hours available – oct 22<sup>nd</sup>
- Davis parent university talk – register for a ticket – free – in person

X. Approval of September Minutes (Deb Greenway)

Ian motion, Tarri 2<sup>nd</sup>.

XI. Adjournment

8:42pm

Next meeting Nov 14<sup>th</sup>.