**Minutes of the Harper Junior High PTO Meeting March 7th, 2017**

**Called to order by Evelyn Hahn at 7:08pm**

**Introductions:** Sarah Edson and Catherine Allday-Davis were new to our meetings and introduced themselves to the group. Both are considering getting more involved for the next school year.

**Attending:** Joanne Brennan, Evelyn Hahn, Kimberly Robben, Rebecca Honig, Kerin Kelleher, Adrianne Simon-Carlson, Jennifer Miller, Ken McKim, Sarah Edson, Catherine Allday-Davis.

**Approval of Minutes:** Becky Honig moved to approve Feb.2017 meeting minutes. Kimberly Robben seconded. Minutes approved.

**Counseling Report:** Ms. Simon-Carlson reported on both the Activities and Counseling

Activities: Ms. Simon-Carlson thanked the PTO for the grant money for the skateboard racks which are now installed and with the sun out, are being used! Thanked PTO also for the banners and the "Put-n-Cups" sign that the leadership class will install near the bike racks in time for Open House. She reported that boys 8th grade basketball won both the league and YCAL tournament this year! 7/8th grade soccer is underway currently and track will begin soon. Parents can find forms online for athletics. The ALL district 9th grade dance will be held at Harper and is coming up soon. The school musical "Hairspray" is in "go-time" now with performances the 16th and 17th. The kids and the director are working hard in these finals days. We now have an online place to purchase Harper items from **the Harper Husky Webstore!** This webpage can be reached via the Harper web page. Families can create an account and use it to buy tickets to musicals, check their payment status for yearbooks, school pictures etc. More info on this exciting new option will be in the Community section of the Harper Daily Bulletin. There were many great activities on campus during Kindness Week in February at lunch and during school hours. Many of the activities tried to bring groups together, and some targeted English Language Learners and Special Ed. Students who sometimes feel less included on campus. Teachers received deliveries of Hot Cocoa too!

Counseling: 9th graders have completed their 4 year plans, career exploration and personality analysis and are finishing their program planning for next year. Counselors will visit incoming 8th and 9th grade classes this week and their planners will be due March 24th with parent signatures. Counselors will soon visit incoming 7th grade classes at the elementary schools and they have an information night from 6-6:35 during Open House on March 23rd.

**It was decided at the meeting that Becky Honig would present the PTO quick speech to incoming 7th grade parents during Ms. Simon-Carlson's presentation. Joanne gave her the script from last year**. Kerin and Adrianne reported that there are many ways that parents are informed about these information nights, including the Davis Enterprise.

**Treasurer's Report:** Kimberly submitted the accounting statement (attached). 8th grade field trip money all came in this year! Kimberly is forecasting a PTO surplus of approximately $2800 at the end of the school year. She opened a discussion of what we want to do with the money. Two suggestions were made at the time:

1. Roll the money over to the next year for use in granting next year.

2. Kerin suggested buy some purple outdoor chairs for use by faculty during their spring meetings. She has a goal of creating "community" at Harper and these sort of outdoor meetings are great. Additionally, Mr. McKim is getting the garden cleaned up and the chairs could have a dual purpose as outdoor classroom chairs AND faculty chairs. Catherine found a site for Ace purple chairs for $19.99. See: https://m.acehardware.com/product/index.jsp?productId=81344026&KPID=23074537&cid=CAPLA:G:Shopping\_-\_Outdoor\_Furniture\_Sets&pla=pla\_23074537&k\_clickid=7b3237ac-2400-4401-9f11-40ed0c3e830e

**\*\*\*PTO needs to discuss this option and be ready to vote on the use of surplus money at the April meeting. Chairs would only by $600-700 so we would still have surplus**. Additionally, we should check with ACE to see if they would order chairs for IN-STORE pick up??? Or perhaps someone with Amazon Prime can see if they have similar chairs for free delivery to the school if we decide on this option.

\*\*\*Sarah commented on the need for community building within the grade levels. Adrianne, and the teachers all responded with examples of grade level identity activities and changes at Harper. They explained how each grade level has identities that change from year to year (who goes to dances, what is "cool"). Leadership is doing an 8th grade waffle day. Kendamas are very popular right now.

**Principals' Report:**

1. Career Day was huge success with good variety and impressive presentations.

2. 8th Grade field trip to the Exploratorium was awesome but not without some "day of" glitches and challenges, which were all handled.

3. Many parent nights are coming up: Incoming 8th and 9th grade info nights are Thursday the 9th from 6:45-8:00pm. Incoming 7th grade info night is March 23rd from 6:00-6:35pm before Open House which is 6:45-8:00pm, but some classrooms may open earlier for parents' convenience!

**\*\*\*Kerin will connect with Annemarie regarding the food trucks for that night. Annemarie has been working on getting food trucks for Open House.**

4. Avid College Night for the whole district will be at Harper on 3/14 with Jen Fung coordinating.

5. Parent Engagement Night will be 4/11 at Harper. This is an LCAP requirement for community engagement and there will be a variety of topics and the new Superintendent will speak as well.

6. Summer school will be at the Harper Site with our own Jennifer Mullin in charge.

7. Kerin has updated her Chalk Talk column for the parents and the community.

8. Testing week begins 4/24 and will be a serious and tiring week for 7th and 8th graders. Science testing will follow on May 1-2.

9. Dashboard results will be available next week with individual school data posted. Dashboard replaces the old API number scores for schools and is the newer way that the state will evaluate schools. Dashboard looks at growth over time in many different areas and provides a summary chart for review.

**Fundraising Report:** Annemarie could not make the meeting, but Joanne reported that Annemarie returned boxtops for the March 1st deadline and we earned $105!

**New Business**

1. PTO Nominating Slate: Joanne reported that it has been slow going. Some names have been put forward and many personal contacts have been made. As of March 7th, Annemarie was in discussions with a parent about the VP of fundraising job. Joanne connected Evey and a parent who will consider being President. There are a few parents who will help Jackie in Hospitality with an eye to take over should Jackie wish to retire. Callie and Jennifer Miller are running for Site Council. If Jennifer vacates her Board position as Historian, Joanne thinks she has someone to fill that job. Joanne will send more personal emails to people this week and see if she can fine a Listserve and Directory person.

2. Freshman Trip to 6 Flags: District set cost at $55 per student and Adrianne will ask PTO to send the donation "request" letter to the parents**. She will get the letter to Evelyn to sign on behalf of PTO.**

3. Day on the Green: Adrianne reported that Leadership will be planning this and that she has already been in contact with Merissa as the PTO parent volunteer.

4. Freshman Celebration: Tuesday June 6th and Lori Stolp and Joanne Brennan will coordinate the refreshments for the 9th grade families again this year.

5. Finals week testing will be block scheduling May 31st, June 1 & 2

6. April 14th the 7th grade class will experience "Renaissance Day" on campus.

7. Mr. McKim reported on the 8th grade Science trip with pictures, anecdotes and video clips! He will update his informational binder with new things learned from this year's trip! 198 kids and 23 adults enjoyed the beautiful day and views in SF and the kids enjoyed mingling, learning, and even some group projects at the Exploratorium. The experience gives teachers reference points for later class lectures to help aid in long term memory of concepts and ideas. Mrs. Blackwell's Earth Sciences field trip to Tahoe is coming up soon as well.

**Next Meetings: Dates changed. PTO will meet APRIL 4TH AT 7:00PM AND MAY 2ND AT 7:00PM.**

**Meeting adjourned: 8:30pm.**