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

**Called to order by Joanne Brennan at 7:03pm**

**Attending:** Joanne Brennan, Patti Latham, Becky Honig, Denise Johnson, Kimberly Robben, Ken McKim, Annemarie Zurborg, Jackie Legg, Tracey Soeth, Merissa Leamy, Fennifer Fung, Valerie Bennamer.

**Approval of Minutes**: Becky Honig moved to approve the minutes of the January meeting. Denise Johnson seconded. Minutes were approved unanimously.

**Departmental Reports**

1. Math: Patty Latham- Math Dept. is in a transitional time doing teacher training on Big Ideas Math Group which includes more tech training and online access for students to books at home and test practice options. Math Dept. may request PTO help next year for calculators and other supplies for a proposed Support Class. The goal is to eliminate Math Course 1, but the details have not been worked out. The class would focus on pre-teaching, re-teaching to get students up to the appropriate math level. Ideally it would be aimed at individual needs as well as group needs. No F.T.E. change will happen.

Merissa Leamy asked how the Math Dept. makes sure kids make the jump from year to year especially from Course 3 in 8th grade to Integrated 1. Ms. Latham said it is a departmental practice that teachers recognize students who need extra support and recommend homework help or homework club or tutoring to those individuals. She also said that Course 3 goes more slowly through the materials.

Some questions asked were geared for Kerin so Joanne recommended that parents contact Kerin directly with those questions.

2. AVID: Jennifer Fung presented on the AVID program. See included hand-out. Becky Honig and Tracey Soeth reported great success stories from former AVID students and in the Freshman Showcase presentations. Ms. Fung reported that the AVID class would meet A-G elective requirements starting next year.



**Principal's Report**: Kerin had a meeting conflict and could not attend PTO, but gave her report to Joanne to present. Subject items & comments added to Kerin's original report along with action items and decisions are in all caps and in bold.

1. We had a school wide assembly last week featuring Tyler Durman, a motivational speaker. He presented at each of the three junior high schools. Students seemed very engaged. **JOANNE BRENNAN AND MERISSA LEAMY AGREED WHOLEHEARTEDLY!**
2. Rehearsals have started for the musical, “Hairspray”. We could use a parent volunteer or two to help. We hope to have two performances----March 16 and 17. Janie Knudsen is the director. She is the mom of our triplets in 9th grade.
3. Our roofs are leaking! Our district has been responding quickly with patching and bids for new roofs on several buildings. Help is on the way. The whole school painting project continues and things are looking much more spruced up.
4. **The drop off and pick up situation:** This rainy season has been very challenging out there. As all of us know, there are many folks who follow the “rules” and many who do not. Jenn and I are often out in the driveway often, directing traffic, as best as we can. We have cones in the red zones, but it is still a daily issue. Our teachers are teachers, they are not traffic police. A parent called me today asking me to have teachers go up to cars and order them to move. I will not ask our staff to ever to that. I do this myself, and Jenn Mullin does it. We have asked for support from Davis Police, and unfortunately, they do not have the work force to come over. We appreciate everyone’s patience and safety out there.
5. **Open House is on March 23rd.** It is the same night as the 7th grade parent information night. Last year we had music, and food trucks, thanks to the PTO and Adrianne Simon-Carlson, our Activities Director/Counselor. Is anyone able to help get that organized again? The parent meeting is from 6-6:45 pm and Open House is from 6:45 to 8 pm.

**RESULTS/ACTION ITEMS: ANNEMARIE ZURBORG WILL INVESTIGATE/ORGANIZE THE FOOD TRUCKS AND REPORT BACK TO BOARD AND KERIN VIA EMAIL AND/OR MARCH 7TH MEETING.**

**VIA EMAIL, PTO BOARD WILL DISCUSS HAVING A PTO TABLE AGAIN THIS YEAR AT OPEN HOUSE. WE NEED SOMEONE TO ADDRESS THE INCOMING 7TH GRADERS DURING THE PARENT MEETING. JOANNE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO DO IT AGAIN THIS YEAR. CONTACT MS. SIMON-CARLSON ABOUT GETTING A POWER POINT SLIDE FOR THE MEETING. TRACEY SOETH VOLUNTEERED TO HELP "MAN" THE PTO TABLE.**

**QUESTION FOR KERIN: CAN CLASSROOMS BE OPENED 15 MINUTES EARLY?**

1. Joyce Lee asked me if I had a parent willing to help for the Showcase on May 18th. Joyce has done this in the past. I currently told Joyce that I do not have anyone yet. We need help with the cookies/brownies, water in rooms, etc. **JACKIE LEGG WITH HOSPITALITY WILL HANDLE THE TREATS/WATERS FOR FRESHMAN SHOWCASE THIS YEAR. THANK YOU JACKIE!!!**
2. Numbers 5 and 6 are causing me to wonder about Sign Up Genius. I wonder if Carla Angel is still working on this for us???? **YES SHE DOES**
3. Good news about the money rolling in for the 8th grade trip to the Exploratorium. Ken has the details. **WE ARE IN THE BLACK WITH DONATIONS!!! PERMISSIONS SLIPS HAVE GONE HOME. MANY GENEROUS PARENTS AND STUDENTS AND PARTIAL DONATIONS. KEN CANCELLED 1 BUS AND ARRANGED FOR 2 PRIVATE VEHICLES. CHARGE PER STUDENT WAS $40.**
4. Site Council meets again on Thursday, Feb. 9th at 8:30 am in room A3 if anyone is interested in attending.

**ITEMS ADDED UNDER PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:**

**1. CAREER DAY: BECKY REPORTED THAT MR. GALLUDET SEEMS TO HAVE THINGS UNDER CONTROL.**

**2. DAY ON THE GREEN: MERISSA WILL ORGANIZE THE PTO PART AGAIN AND WILL BEGIN DISCUSSING WITH MS. SIMON-CARLSON SOON. SHE HAS FEEDBACK FROM THE STUDENTS TO DISCUSS WITH MS. SIMON-CARLSON BEFORE PLANNING THIS YEAR'S EVENT. SHE WILL REPORT ON THIS AT MARCH MEETING.**

**Friends of Frances Report**--Ken McKim

The next scheduled volunteer work days are: Feb.18th, March 4th, April 8th from 9-12

Carla has been sending out sign-up geniuses for Ken. Volunteers should report to Cafeteria tables. They will be cleaning up the garden area and maybe pruning this month. The Garden Coordinator has a goal to create an outdoor classroom. A Girl Scout troop will be creating a Butterfly garden on campus as their Silver Project. A Boy Scout troop will be dismantling an old patio cover that is unstable.

**SPAC Meeting Report**--Merissa Leamy

Merissa reported that there was good news and bad news:

1. The group was excited to pass a resolution regarding safe and welcoming schools.

2. The group was not excited to hear that the school board is concerned with the likely 1.5 million in budget cuts expected next year. These cuts affect areas separate from Measure H items. It was explained that Measure H is like "frosting" areas, and these new cuts will come from the actual "cake" area of the school budget.

**Treasurer's Report**: Kimberly Robben

Finances look solid. Kimberly proposed the approval of 4 items for payment--Exploratorium trip, Field trip busses, CA Secretary of State cost for PTO, and the renewal of our PTO Website (reimbursement to Deb Brayton). Annemarie Zurborg motioned to approve payments. Denise Johnson seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

Kimberly also projected that conservative estimates show PTO with possible year-end surplus of $2,439.61 (in excess of our usual carry-over funds). **WE WILL DISCUSS AT MARCH MEETING IDEAS FOR DISTRUBUTING THESE EXTRA FUNDS.**

**Fundraising Report: Annemarie Zurborg**

April will be the "round-up" month at the Davis Food Co-Op. All proceeds come to Harper. There will also be another restaurant fundraiser, but Annemarie will work with Tracey Soeth about when to advertise these events.

**\*\*\*Group discussed increasing registration of Nugget Scrip, and possibly having more cards and info at the Open House. In general it was discussed that we should have more Scrip advertisement and cards as part of registration in August and Back to School Night.**

**PTO Nominations Report**: Joanne Brennan

Joanne reported that now is the time to start reaching out to new parents and trying to fill our PTO Board and chair roles. Only 1 person (Jennifer Miller) can stay in her position on the Executive Board. All others must change roles and several are moving on from Harper. Denise reported that guaranteeing some continuity on the Board is best for new members so she recommended that a few Board members stay on in other positions. **Joanne is willing to consider being Parliamentarian next year to maintain some continuity. Jackie Legg will continue as Hospitality Chair but would like to have a new 7th grade parent join her in "learning the ropes". Debra Brayton will continue to maintain the PTO website.**

Action Items:

* Joanne (with Evey) write a blurb about upcoming nominations and Tracey Soeth can send out a PTO newsletter on the subject.
* The "Blurb" should be sent to the PTO Presidents at the 3 elementary schools ASAP--Joanne and Evey.
* **WE NEED a NOMINATING CHAIR**. Joanne did this last year and would like someone else to do it this year. The person can delegate much of the communication to other PTO members and friends but can document the progress and obtain forms & position descriptions from Joanne
* Joanne tasked each person at the meeting to contact someone they know and try to get them involved. Target current 6th grade and 7th grade parents. New people can be referred to Joanne directly or contact the PTO through the email on the website.

**PLAN** **TO MAKE SOME PROGRESS IN THIS AREA AND DISCUSS FURTHER AT MARCH MEETING.**

**Announcements**:

 Due to programming conflicts the March meeting will now be MARCH 7th at 7:00pm in the Library**. JOANNE WILL ASK DEB TO CHANGE ON WEBSITE**. Marjorie in the office has already changed it in the bulletin and on the calendar. Tracey will send announcement in PTO newsletter closer to the date.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:06pm.**