The meeting was called to order by Merissa Leamy at 7:05pm

**Introductions of Attending**: Merissa Leamy, Lorena Anderson, Lisa Paradis, Jonathan Groveman, Mr. McKim, Sandy Pellegrini, Nicole Shankarappa, Chrissy Bennetts, Kelly Sequiera, Catherine Allday-Davis, Karen Yoon, Misaki Curtis, Paula Rivera, Kelly Heung, Valerie Bennamer

**President’s Report (Merissa Leamy)**

1. Thanks to Sarah Edson for Back to School teacher luncheon, very much appreciated
2. Andee Bell is volunteer coordinator – will set up signup genius for any event, contact her if there is an event that you need volunteers for
3. Future Meeting Dates – will evaluate need for December mtg
4. Harper Fund – Online form for membership

**Approval of minutes (Deb Greenway)**: June Minutes Stand Approved as Read

**Teacher’s Report (Ken McKim)**:

1. Acknowledge and appreciate the PTO to Harper Science – granted equip, physics energy tracks, fetal pig fund, flexible spending fund. We need $ to get something for a particular vendor but don’t have the chance to get a PO. PTO’s flexible spending, gift cards, helps to buy things at last minute.
2. Things are running very well. Farewell to Mr. Dimond. Snake will go to Ms. Blackwell. Science is now Ms. Blackwell, Ms. Shelton, Ms. Garbers, and Mr. McKim. Ms. Blackwell is now also doing Biology and is doing Earth Science which is helpful to kids not ready for advanced thinking and development. Ms. Blackwell is doing a wonderful job for kids to go where is developmentally appropriate.
3. PTO is wonderful in being a pass-thru for donations to the 8th grade field trip. March 10th is proposed date for Exploratorium.
4. Ms. Blackwell is going to do salmon release with 9th graders in Earth Science class.
5. Mr. McKim is the first teacher to join PTO. Had his check ready for $15. He wants to invite teachers to join PTO.
6. Mr. McKim organizes Tree Harper – student run. And Friends of Frances that is community organization, Sat, Sept 28th, 9a-12p. Tree Harper did a Japanese garden by the office.

**Treasurer’s Report (Lorena Anderson):**

1. Lorena presented the 2019/2020 budget
2. Donations through Paypal – electronic donations. Halfway of meeting goals for PTO - $6900. Last year at end of September, we had $11k. Last year, we had huge donations from Oct-Feb due to companies matching family donations.
3. More $ from Amazon than e-script . Encourage Amazon donations.
4. Under Physical education, Karen asked about it being split between balls at beginning of year vs spring. $350 per time. They will get information from Ms. Simon-Carlson regarding balls.
5. Lorena asked about needing to get approval for things under $1000. Only need 2 signatures for anything over $1000. If we need to reimburse someone, any checks that you wrote from June until October, Lorena can reimburse but it can be recorded in the minutes in October meeting.
6. Sandy Pellegrini inquired about $2k that is allotted for parent education. Because it is approved in budget, it can be given to her.
7. Check was written for general hospitality for teacher luncheon to Mr. Pickles.
8. Mr. McKim mentioned about what was done in the past – they were able to get $9k just for science before there was a general fund. In 2008, recession hit and parents/educators were looking at making sure all was being distributed fairly. This community is very generous but might like to know more specifics, like what the $ is used on – fetal pigs, etc.
9. Catherine mentioned that she and Lorena could make a graph/diagram that showed how money was spent last year, in science – pigs, in english – books. A list of past grants would delineate it for new parents.
10. Lorena mentioned putting more numbers to what the different departments need.

**VP Fundraising (Karen Yoon):**

1. Grant Applications – Teachers will get application and direction to submit application before end of September. Last year, collected and spent $8100.
   1. Science received $1300 for fetal pigs
   2. English teachers received $1200, 20 House of Mango books, 40 Mockingbird books, set of books for staff to do book club with.
   3. Career tech asked for $$ for mixers.
   4. Money for The Tennessee Valley trip
   5. Intramural soccer supplies, headphones for audio books and videos. 150 jump ropes.
   6. Karen asked Mr. McKim to encourage teachers to apply. They want discretionary gift card funds – PTO will supply half of it and Safeway, Nugget, etc. will match it.
   7. Catherine explained how we are not supposed to sit on money at the end of the year. We try to use it/give it away, roll over a little.
   8. Not going to do box-tops anymore. Only earned $100-200 for them. Was not worthwhile. Won’t push for boxtops. Whatever is turned in, will be given to elementary schools
   9. Will still push Nugget Scrip cards for donation. $290 so far this year. Last year was $1800. We should remind people how to switch from elementary schools to Harper.
   10. E-scrip earned $20 last year. Do away with E-scrip as well.
   11. Continue with food trucks at Open House – they donate a large portion.
   12. Push Amazon smile
   13. Send out On listserve – give clear info on Amazon smile, Nugget scrip, and restaurant night outs.
   14. Let Karen know if you have other ideas.
   15. Costco will sponsor events – will donate all the water to Day on the Green, will donate all the cookies to Freshman event. Not as motivated to give gift cards, but will give specific things that they can write off. Easier to give product.

**VP of Membership (Chrissy Bennetts):**

1. 144 members. Higher than we were last year (in 90’s)
2. Online form has been helpful to get results in Google Doc.
3. Will send it out again to parents via listserve.
4. Karen will have chromebook at back to school night. And paper forms.
5. Set up Venmo by Thursday?
6. Ken McKim asked about how do we increase that, what can we expect?
7. Lorena will review the checks and determine whether there are 1 or 2 members and split it up as best she can but Chrissy has the exact number from the forms, etc.
8. In a PTO, 100% of the money stays at the school. But a PTA, you send a portion to the state.
9. Chrissy feels like this number is average and may get 20-30 more.
10. Merissa mentioned transfer to jr high can account for parents not being as involved because they aren’t on campus and it’s a different/busy transition.

**9th grade trip**

1. Karen mentioned asking teachers to hand out a flier about 9th grade field trip with form/$. We can’t ask parents to pay for the trip. It has to be requested as a suggested donation.
2. Was the 9th grade trip fair share or suggested donation?
3. On June 3rd, email sent out because only had half the donations. “good faith suggestions”. $675 came in after June 3 email.
4. Suggestion to change wording from “donation” to “contribution.”

**Principal’s Report (Kelly Sequeira):**

1. Appreciations – Merissa met KS for coffee. Started out year beautifully with PTO
2. Wonderful luncheon from PTO
3. KS started meeting with each staff member at Harper. One on one meetings. The students and parents here help everyone feel connected.
4. Thank the families that came to help with schedule pickup. Lines were not long. Decorations were great. Kellie appreciated visiting kids in hallway
5. 4 new teachers –
   1. Sarah Garbers (sp?) in Science – best periodic table iin 3d. She loves cabinets, etc.
   2. Molly Vang (sp?)– teaching 3 sections – 2 World Geo, 1 7th gr. Social Studies. Came from nursing. CTE could be option for her- medical pathway?
   3. Carrie Zieser (sp?) – artist who has worked at so many galleries. Teaching art. She did spray-paint/graffiti art on the windows.
   4. Carmel Barajas (sp?) – new school psychologist. Loves her window that overlooks the Japanese Garden
6. KS was thinking about volunteers – and the volunteers that are here want to construct the community that they want. We are building what we are living in – volunteerism helps that.
7. Counseling update –
   1. Growth Mindset – We don’t want to hear kids say “I’m bad at math”. Growth mindset is very much on KS mind and our staff mind.
8. Our students are minds that learning empathy – and books help that.
9. KS buit a 4000 book library. In order for kids to love to read, they need to find a book they love. Classroom libraries are very important
10. E-cigarettes and Vaping –
    1. CDC made an alert saying it is causing pulmonary related deaths. – watch our students as much as we can. Parent campaign.
11. Social Media – know what’s on your kids’ social media.
12. Harper has an Athletic Director , Darcie Hauger. Volleyball and cross country are starting up. Come out and enjoy them.
13. Kellie will verify with other middle schools for the date for 9th grade trip.
14. Want to make sure everyone loves school and have them come in if they need anything.
15. Late start, starts this Wednesday. Kellie is going to go to Target and greet the kids (discussed jokingly).
16. Health starts at end of September.

**Counselor’s Report:**

1. Adrienne Simon-Carlson (7th graders and 9th grader M-Z) and Ms. Orozco (8th graders and 9th graders A-L)
   1. Working on schedule changes
   2. Last day to change schedule is September 13th.
   3. Counselors will be looking at social, emotional needs of each students.
   4. Kellie said they went to PE classes this week and the 9th graders had funny questions – “what should we not bring to school”
   5. Lunchtime pizza for new students at Harper
   6. In late Sept/mid-Oct, will start 504 renewal plans.
   7. At Harper, counselors do groups, in addition to one on one.
   8. Beth Merrell is librarian and also will do counselor support.
   9. Jessica Rodriguez will work with migrant students.
   10. Martha will be working with migrant students.

Meeting adjourned at 8:32pm