

Frances Harper Junior High Parent Teacher Organization

Meeting Agenda October 10th, 2024 – 7pm

Virtual Only

Meeting ID: 408 629 6290

Passcode: 7050

One tap mobile

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- I. Call to Order 7:06pm – Ashley Burgdorf
- II. Approval of September Minutes – Motion – Irma Nevarez, 2nd by Ian Pund. Unanimously approved.
- III. Principal's Report
- IV. Counselor's Report
- V. Teacher's Report
 - Mr. Toby – Leading a 9th grade trip to DC and NYC. Still a few spots left to sign up for the voluntary trip.
 - Mr. Gaudette – Ethnic Studies – Students are exploring how their identity impacts the way they navigate the world
 - Ms. Vang – 7th grade – Finished Roman Empire Unit and moving on to Western Europe
 - Mr. Greenler – 8th grade US History – completed unit on Native Americans before the Europeans came, now working on colonies and building up the Revolutionary War.
- VI. Treasurer Report
Balance approximately \$16k.
- VII. Fundraising Report
HarPER kid Membership Drive going well – approximately \$10k raised so far
- VIII. Teacher Grants

English

Classroom Library Update: books for classroom library - \$342

Requested by: Christine Baker - 7th grade + STEEL classes, 131 students

Details:

- New titles to classroom library to keep up with the ever-changing demand for different types of books
- These books will directly impact students in their independent reading
- Students read books of their choice, working towards an individual reading goal. They complete written reflections, book talks, and book conferences to talk to teacher about their reading and their progress.
- Observed many students enter classroom as reluctant readers, but exit with a vastly different attitude towards reading and credits the classroom library for this change. (Spreadsheet of titles shared)

Special Ed / Study Skills

Composition and journal notebooks - \$141

Requested by: Jennifer Hessel - 50 students, all grade levels

Details:

- Part of Study Skills helps provide supplies for students who have difficulty accessing school supplies
- Over half had difficulty getting a composition book for Math, causing stress and worry
- Typically, they provide paper, notebooks, pencils, pencil pouches etc if needed
- Students will be doing journal writing once a week this year

Math Manipulatives - \$100

Requested by: Snow Hernandez - 15 students, all grade levels

Details:

- for special education students who need more concrete and hands-on manipulatives for math learning, as well as students who are visually impaired and need larger materials

Drama

Licensing fees and script costs for school Fall Drama production - \$653

Requested by: Scott Daugherty - 30+ students, all grade levels

Details:

- Fall Drama production will take place from September through November
- The show is a topical comedy called *The Day the Internet Died*
- Students will have the opportunity to experience all levels of student theater, from acting and performing to set, prop, and costume design and production to working on stage and with lighting and sound
- Funds will cover licensing fees and script costs for our Fall Drama production (*The Day the Internet Died*).
Licensing fees and Scripts (full bundle including taxes and shipping)

School Nurse

Reusable water bottles - \$60 (*asked for up to \$120 for 100 bottles*)

Requested by: Karla Mahoney - 50 (up to 100) students

Details:

- Students frequently come to my office asking for water. Having their own water bottles will be helpful so they can reuse daily.

PE

New volleyball net - \$428

Requested by: Darcie Hauger - 30+ 7th graders, 30+ 8th graders, 30+ 9th graders

Details:

- Current nets are falling apart and only one is fully functional
- All students who participate in Harper volleyball and intramural volleyball will get an opportunity to use this equipment

PE Sweats - \$120

Requested by: Heather Taylor - all students

Details:

- funding for sweats to have available for loaners to students during the cold months.
- would primarily serve those students who for their own reasons are unable to wear shorts (religious, comfort, etc) but are still in need of loaners

Food Science

Dryer - \$700

Requested by: Yves Bouyssounouse - approximately 60 8th/9th & 120 7th

Details:

- Current dryer needs replacing - it currently takes about 3 VERY LOUD cycles to do a complete dry
- Current dryer is 21 years old
- Need to have clean (and dry) towels for cooking classes

Science

Fetal Pig Assistance - \$1302 (*we propose \$1232, and the difference of \$70 for Ziplock bags be covered by SignUp Genius*)

Requested by: Ken McKim - Approximately 160 9th grade biology students directly and approximately 532 7th, 8th, and 9th graders indirectly

Details:

- Each year, 9th grade biology students are traditionally supplied with about \$1,300 to \$1,500 worth of dissection materials which include gloves, tools, and preserved, latex-injected fetal pigs
- This is a highlight of the year and an enrichment activity
- students will increase their learning by having fewer students per fetal pig and will allow remaining science department funds to address our ongoing commitment to NGSS (Next Generation Science Standards) – which continues to demand consumable materials to be purchased.

Science

Microscope Maintenance - \$1200

Requested by: Ken McKim - 532 7th, 8th, and 9th graders directly (entire science student population)

Details:

- Every 3 years or so, the science department's 60+ high quality light microscopes accrue a variety of typical maintenance issues such as bad bulbs, bad batteries, lens misalignment, etc
- A service technician comes and performs these tasks, usually with a final estimated bill of about \$1,200

Frog Dissection - \$635

Requested by: Hudson Nunes and Julie Shelton - 177 7th grade students

Details:

- In teams of 4, students will study and learn about the anatomy of the common grass frog
- highlight of the year for year 7 students

Science

Flexible Spending via gift cards - \$1200 (we propose to do a SignUp Genius to fill this request)

Requested by: Ken McKim - all science students

Details:

- At times, the typical Purchase Order (PO) method of acquiring material needed to teach science fails.
- With our Harper PTO's support for purchasing gift cards – a repeat of a PTO grant funded for 7+ previous years - the teacher could run to one of four local stores, ACE, Safeway, Nugget, Target, or get it delivered via Amazon Prime - and would likely be able to locate the needed material
- (Specific gift cards and amounts were listed)

World Languages

Online Subscriptions - \$224

Requested by: Kelly Ridgeway - 148: 8th grade heritage language class, 9th grade heritage language class, and all Spanish 2 students

Details:

- Textivateactivities.com is the rebooted and phenomenally improved Textivate.com. It is an excellent way for students to read and process meaning using familiar texts
- Blooket.com is a fun way to review and practice

Grant budget \$8k

Grants requested \$7,432

Grants approved \$6,135 with the remainder being filled by sign up genius.

Motion Kelly Heung, 2nd by Ian Pund, unanimous approval.

IX. Hospitality Report

Chair brought In and Out to the maintenance staff.

X. Super Independent Advisory meeting

- Looking to recognize students demonstrating DJUSD values
- Getting \$5mill less money from state, and it will be reduced again next year.

- Declining enrollment, 100 less kindergarteners this year than usual. DJUSD has assigned a task force to study.

Meeting adjourned 8pm