

Phoebe A Hearst Elementary School
Parent Teacher Organization

PTO Meeting
November 13, 2024
Sutter Lawn - 6pm



November 2024 Agenda

Our Organizations Agreements: Individuals agree to be respectful of others, engage in collaboration and communication, and listen to who is speaking without interrupting.

Attendance:

Present:

President: Erica Clayton

VP: Lorry Marvin

Secretary: Nichole St.Germain

Treasurer: Anastasia Dolotov

Co Treasurer: Denea Pruner

Fundraising Coordinator: Fonda Trimble

Special Events Coordinator/Harvest Festival: Kerry Sokol

Enrichment Coordinator: Rebecca Frazee

Membership Coordinator: Jen Almaguer

Jog-A-Thon Co-Chair: Paige Brokaw

HomerunReader Co-Chair - Jenny Close (Zoom)

Charity Drive: Vanessa Waszcuk

Spelling Bee: Rachel Connor

Garden: Melissa Miller

MAL: Trevor Hinkley, Jason Hechtkopf, Mariana Sandrock (Zoom), Allison

Dorsey, and Melissa Pennel

Rachel Castro

Principal: Doyal Martin (Zoom)

Assistant Principal: Kevin Nguyen

Call to Order - President called the meeting to order at 6:20pm.

- **Approval of Draft Agenda** - Paige motioned. Lorry seconded. Ayes carried the vote.
- **Approval of September 25th Minutes** - Lorry motioned. Becca seconded. Ayes carried the vote.
- **Principal Report:** Doyal Martin

- We hired a new teacher to replace Mrs. Healy, 1st Grade. She will start the Monday after Thanksgiving break.
- Parent teacher conferences begin Friday, 11/15. Please look for the dismissal schedule on the website.
- Everything is going well this year so far!
- **President Report:** Erica Clayton
 - Welcome & Reflection - What is your most used emoji? What is the emoji you would send your teacher with no context? Members shared their emoji preferences.
 - General Updates - Welcome Mr. Nguyen, Phoebe's new Assistant Principal. He has been on campus helping out, he was at the Harvest Festival, and we are glad you have joined our school family!
 - Stride is a program the primary teachers have brought on campus. Encourage kids to run and walk to make up PE credits.
 - Mrs. Scinto has revived the Student Council, just completed Boo Grams which help support the intermediate dance and equipment for school and playground.
 - Changing of hands of PTO roles will continue through the next year. Amanda Panton will take on Jog-A-thon with a newcomer. Next year, we will need a new Event team. This year it will be Trevor and Amanda. We will need to replace Trevor as well. Trevor mentioned that they do have someone interested in taking on the role that manages the back end software program/platform for all fundraising. Trevor is the guru for this role and we are so happy someone is onboard for that position. Harvest Festival will be needing someone to fill the role and lead that event. We do have a parent that is interested in co-leading the event and Kerry mentioned we can have three individuals leading as well. Kerry can help show everyone how the Harvest Festival works, best practices, and how to divide appropriately and effectively. Please let us know if you are interested.
 - We continue to get interest in areas on campus that need support. We are taking and will continue to take in all requests, but will not be able to make any decisions until after January. This is when we will have a better understanding of the budget for the year. We will be creating a list of the asks we receive and will bring it to the board for discussion.

Treasurer Report: Anastasia Dolotov/Denae Pruner

- Jog-A-Thon - Income \$140,701.57. Expenses \$26,417.13
- Harvest Festival - Income \$1,810.35 (out of the total \$100 is the deposit back withdrawn for cash box change). Expenses \$3,680.14 (out of the total \$100 is the withdrawal for cash box change). We are waiting on the refund for hay bales. Discussion regarding the permits that were reallocated from the budget in the last meeting lifted \$800 and now the budget makes sense. We met the budget for this event so that is great! Food trucks received positive feedback, but they take a lot out of the budget. Discussion on the possibility of doing a hot dog cart which would be more inexpensive. There is a parent with a cart that is available for use. Sold out of bakery items at the cakewalk, but not at the bake sale. Discussion moved to committee.
- Field trips - \$4,665.88 listed right now.
- Mr. Henrikson and Mr. White requested support for a broken table, umbrellas, and other fixes for about \$1,000. Is this available in the budget for campus beautification? If available, they can submit their receipts. Yes, campus beautification has exactly \$1,000 in the budget.
- Anyone in charge of trimming dead branches from trees? Members noticed dead branches in trees all over the kinder yard. Yes, the district is responsible and they came out last week. They only had a pull saw so they trimmed the tree by the garden. District does not allow anyone to cut on ladders. Ongoing conversation can be had, but this does fall under the district.
- **Enrichment Coordinator/Prop 28:** Becca Frazee - The music Clara contract, that was on hold, passed on Nov 7th at district board meeting. Music teacher Bianca will start classes in January, she took on a long term sub position in the interim. She will provide music for grades 3-6th. Clara will support classes for grades 1st & 2nd. Exploring ways to provide music for kinder. Band will start after Thanksgiving.
- **Comms Team Report:** Amanda Panton - no new updates.
- **Committee Reports:**

- **Jog-A-Thon:** Amanda Panton - Amanda will be the new lead. Current co-chairs have everything organized and listed out so all will continue to run smoothly year over year. Thank you Paige & Caitlin for all you've done for the school community and this event!
- **Harvest Festival:** Kerry Sokol/Serra Klunk - Happy we came in under budget at \$3,100. Reallocating permit fees allowed us to stay under budget. Still waiting on the final cost for the janitor.
- **Movie Night:** Kelly Hall/Natalie Butcher - Vendor will be there at 3pm to set up the screen. Discussion about raising funds with cotton candy sales. We have an excess of cotton candy sugar. If anyone wants to sell cotton candy, please let us know. Will sell leftover water bottles from the Harvest Festival.
- **Small Fundraising:** Kearsten Shepherd - Hit the 100 pie mark. Well done! Sees Candy sales are taking place on the website right now. Check social media or Phoebe website for information regarding that fundraiser. Member asked if we could not have board meetings on evenings we have Dine and Donate events so PTO can show support at those events. Dine and Donate has to occur on the same night every month which is Wednesday evenings, the same day PTO meetings take place. Discussion on selecting Dine and Donate locations in areas closer to other Phoebe family neighborhoods, good closer to campus due to 4th R, thoughts on extending hours offered, and finding the center middle ground for location/hours based on commute/traffic/family neighborhoods. Traffic safety has a map of concentrated areas of Phoebe families to reference. Great turnout for the Kiefer location. Discussion moved to committee. Please forward any location ideas or time preferences to Kearsten. Pie sales end tomorrow. Pick up next Thursday. Pies delivered to school at 10:30am, distributed to families 11-1pm. Request for help distributing pies, if available please let us know.
- **Charity Drive:** Vanessa Waszcuk -No concrete date set just yet, waiting on confirmation of date. We want to get the Phoebe kids involved. Kids giving back to kids, season of giving, world needs kindness and would like to spread that message with this event.

Discussion on having students make class notes/cards/kindness letters, not holiday related. UC Davis Children's Hospital gives to siblings, kids at the hospital, and donations spread throughout the whole health system, including the MIND Institute. Discussed having the student council involved for making posters/presenting in classrooms for a \$1 free dress day to raise money for the hospital. Mr. Ghoul's class could coordinate the dollar dress day towards an Amazon Gift Card to donate to the hospital. Discussed Dec. 6th for \$1 free dress day. PTO will not carry the money, the parent member collects and passes the Amazon gift card to the hospital. Discussed receiving kid wish lists before black friday. Excited to bring life into this charity, it has been lacking. The Charity Drive role will be open as well since Vanessa will be doing 6th grade year things next year.

- **Science Night:** Kelly Hall/Becca Frazee - Science night interest only received 5 responses so we do have a team. Keep information on this event in the monthly PTO newsletter to get more interest. Looking for parents that have knowledge about science. The whole idea is to get kids excited about science. We would like to set a date, thinking March or April and want to make sure it will not conflict with anything currently on the schedule/on campus. Discussion on conflicting dates: Earth Day and young actor's stage rehearsing in cafeteria in March. We would like to lock in a date by next month. It will be a tentative date/event, but then can really gauge interest. Discussion on reaching out to schools with robotics teams, colleges, having a garden theme that works with science, PTO will donate supplies that they have on hand that can be used, and see if Nature Bowl kids would participate. Discussion moved to committee.
- **Traffic Committee:** Lorry Marvin - Monica has a driven, independent, and motivated effort for the digital sign. The rationale for the sign is three prong: to raise community awareness that there is a school there, to communicate campus events that could impact traffic and to help slow traffic on Folsom Boulevard near the school.

Monica is fully committed to taking this on and not reaching out to Phoebe families or previous donors to PTO marquee fundraisers for funds, but she needs a 501c3 to receive and manage the funds. This directly affects PTO and is not a would be the responsibility of the treasurers to manage. The sign is 8 feet wide and 4 ft tall and sits on a 3 ft pedestal. It would be located on the grass between the fence and Folsom blvd- perpendicular to Folsom Blvd. The school district committed to cover the \$90 monthly energy bill. There is a 10 year warranty on the sign. The board would have to vote to make a budget amendment to 501c3. 501c3 would not affect PTO money, but would be noted in the budget so it requires a vote. Monica would like to approach donors before the end of year for tax purposes. Are we ready to have that vote? Lorry motioned to open the floor for discussion. Discussion:

- what happens after the 10 year warranty expires and what does it cover? Raises concern regarding efforts that would be needed for the maintenance of the sign and, based on location and height, it has potential to be vandalized and damaged by weather (fallen branches).
- Concern that from the outside it looks confusing to others and they would not know that this was not from PTO. There wouldn't need to be clear communication that this is not PTO asking for funding, it is independent fundraising.
- Members discussed that they liked that no one knows that Phoebe is a school, it is hidden, for safety purposes.
- The digital sign may slow down traffic, but we have a multi million dollar road diet to narrow the street down to one lane with turn in middle and dedicated bike lanes.
- Member's biggest concern is the responsiveness of the district to fix things that are not directly affecting the kids (since this would be the property of the district and their responsibility to maintain). Admin would submit maintenance requests and the work would be evaluated by need. Concern is that this would be at the bottom of the list since the district

has not followed through on other low priorities so far. Hate for it to be an eyesore.

- Members asked if we can wait for the data on the sign's effectiveness to slow traffic to come back. A member looked for data and only found data for city "school zone" yellow signs that flash that a school is ahead- those have data to prove that they slow traffic. These signs are outside the scope of what the school is permitted to do - might be part of the road diet, which begins in 2026.
 - Another concern is optics, kids have needs for services on campus/there is no space for those services and then there is the digital sign.
 - Members asked about the idea of using grass for more parking space- answer: there is no room for another row/easement.
 - Member asked to check with the road diet to see how it will work with the sign.
 - Member mentioned we should advocate for safety, but also the district could take part in it, we could be out with signs.
 - How can we have a vote if we do not have all the research regarding the effectiveness of the digital sign? Do we want to vote today or push to discuss further?
 - Member does not feel there is more research to be had. Are we close to making a decision as a group, we would like to take a temperature check, please raise a quiet hand yes, no, or on the fence.
 - $\frac{1}{3}$ vote no and half of the board is on the fence.
 - Dec 4th is the next traffic safety committee meeting. Erica will get a digital thread going to gather questions so members feel ready to vote.
- **Skate Night:** Allison Dorsey - Date confirmed for February 29th. We have started planning and we will put it on the calendar. More information to come!

- **Homerun Reader:** Fonda Tremble - First time registering which was exciting and had some confusion. 354 readers registered. There were 291 readers registered last year. Not every student registered has logged minutes. Discussion that there may be a need to add more to the budget since there are more readers this year. Discussion that the budget seems consistent with the outcome from last year's event. We will make sure the event is budgeted appropriately for all participating this year. Decided to make budget adjustments as needed after January. 6th grade has 20 students registered. 3rd grade is the highest with registered participants. Do we want to encourage more 6th graders to participate? Discussion was moved to committee.
- **Teacher Report:** Jeanne Chasko - The staff would like to thank PTO for all the amazing work that went into the Harvest Festival. Everyone had the best time and such a great experience. Mrs. Rupert was very happy with the quality and quantity of scarecrows this year as well. 100th Anniversary for the spelling bee. Lists have been distributed by staff. Gratitude for support of field trips, classroom supplies, garden, art and stem programs, spelling bee, and so much more.

PTO December 11th meeting relocated due to availability of location. Discussion to take a group picture for the website. PTO January open meeting - Gate meeting, a member asked if the board can introduce themselves at the meeting.

Adjournment - Paige motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:54pm. Trevor seconded. Ayes carried the vote.