

Phoebe A Hearst Elementary School  
Parent Teacher Organization

PTO Meeting (GENERAL)  
May 14, 2025  
PHE Cafeteria



## May 2025 Agenda (General Meeting)

**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: Denae Pruner

Communications Chair: Amanda Panton

Enrichment Coordinator: Rebecca Frazee

Parliamentarian: Isaac Gonzalez

MAL: Jason Hechtkopf, Serra Klunk, Melissa Pennel, and Allison Dorsey

Spelling Bee: Rachel Connor

Garden: Melissa Miller

Teacher Representative: Jeanne Chasko

Assistant/Permits: Sarah Zorn

Board President of the SCUSD Board of Education, Area 2 – Jasjit Singh

Deputy Superintendent – Mary Hardin Young

### Call to Order - President called the meeting called to order at 6:11pm.

- **President Report:** Erica Clayton
  - Welcome! If you look on the table, you can see QR codes for the agenda and the treasurer report. If you travel to the website and click on PTO, you will see our mission statement and how to get

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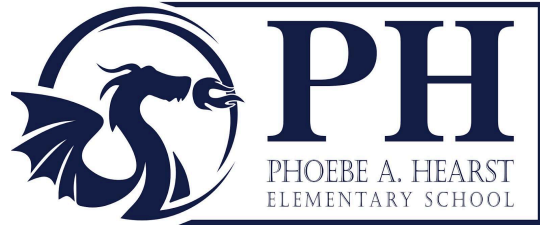


involved. The Phoebe Hearst PTO is committed to fostering a vibrant school community by supporting educational enrichment, creativity, and equity. Through collaboration, fundraising, and volunteerism, we enhance student experiences in and beyond the classroom. We fundraise for programs, supplies, and special projects, support teachers and staff with resources and appreciation efforts, and help enhance the student experience through enrichment efforts. There is a slideshow, on the website, that talks about all the things that are PTO, what is under the PTO umbrella and what are the responsibilities of the admin. We work in collaboration with the admin to bring events and enrichment to the campus and community. There is a form you can fill out online if you would like to participate in the PTO. Everyone is welcome to be a part of the board! There are a lot of ways to get involved, which is important because parent involvement and volunteerism is the backbone to the success of our organization! Please join in, fill out the form online and get involved. All of this information is available on the website and that might be changing soon as we work to revamp the school site, but if anything it should become easier to use and navigate. Today is our election and, as the year winds down, we will be saying goodbye to some of our members and welcoming new members for the coming year. Thank you to the board for all your hard work and all the love in that labor. I have so much gratitude that my kids' education gets enriched by so many loving parents that are so invested in our community.

- Introductions of present PTO Members - PTO board members introduce themselves and their position/committee on the board.

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Always feel free to come and say hello!

- **School Board Report:** Jasjit Singh/Mary Hardin Young - Hello everyone, I am your Trustee in Area 2 and the President of the Board of Education for SCUSD. I am here with Deputy Superintendent Mary Hardin Young. We spent the day at the capital; the state budget came out at noon. We would like to address where the budget is at the state and federal level. The state budget looks normal for education in the sense that it has not changed much, but that does not give me hope that the federal budget will not see a deficit. The feds are threatening to cut the federal budget by 10%, we cannot cover or handle a 10% budget cut. We are currently in the green, but barely. The county has had an independent person monitoring our every move, that person is no longer going to be in our meetings, allowing us to be accountable for the decisions we make with our budget. We do not want that to change as well. We can find a way to fight back. We hope you all can join us to rally at Cesar Chavez Park for our Fight for our Students campaign on May 17<sup>th</sup>. We will be joined by SCTA, CTA, SEIU and so many of our labor partners. These cuts would be devastating to our students, especially our students with disabilities. These cuts would include our free lunch program, special education, and access for students to have the ability to succeed in the classroom. If the federal budget cut takes place, it would be detrimental to our community and our country. Budget is a lot of what we are talking about at the board meeting on 6/5. This does not mean I am not wanting to discuss the things that are happening at Phoebe, but we need to focus on the budget right now. I would like to bring in the new principle for a meeting at Phoebe with your community on 5/27. I would like to talk about the relationship I would like to build with them and the specific needs of the Phoebe community. You can come to the board meeting on 6/5, but your specific needs will be best addressed on 5/27 with me and your new admin at your school site. Regarding the principal, I will find out, just like you, at 5pm on Thursday 5/15 who the new principal of

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Phoebe will be. They will announce the candidate to the public at 6 pm. We will vote at the district meeting on 5/15. The community meeting you held at Phoebe was critical. The principal finalist list you created is being considered. School board members defer to the Trustee, which is me, and I passed the list along to the panel with hashtags. Your finalist wants and needs were compiled into one sheet, we combined and put the most critical needs at the top of the list. We placed your list in the board packet, so the board members can review the list in all tiers of the interview process. We are utilizing your list during interviews to see if the candidate aligns with all the qualities you are looking for in a new admin, while also making sure that I can communicate with them effectively. I am hoping that communication will shift with the new leadership of Phoebe. I see your needs lining up with this panel. I see all that going well and see a new principal lining up well.

**Sibling Waitlist Preference:** The idea to build out a community school is challenging in that you have a test for kindergarten enrollment. Sibling waitlist preference is a difficult conversation, especially if they did not pass the test. Currently, grades 1-6 accept Inter/Intra District Permits with no screening, but only if there is an empty seat available. We hear your concern for building out a community school with sibling preference and Aprille Shafto has rigorously worked to look into this for you. We posted to legal to propose sibling waitlist preference in grades 1-6. They cannot do this for one school site only so they are considering additional school sites as well. What we are suggesting is not yet approved by legal. If it is approved, it would be a sibling waitlist preference for open seats in grades 1-6. We hope to have that decision soon. Question: Is there a reason why the cut off for removing students from waitlists is at the end of July and not if someone leaves during the year? Is there a reason why we would not pull from the waitlist mid-year? Answer: The cut off used to be at the end of June, we pushed to the end of July. I can ask, but part of that is due to leveling to see if we have enough teachers

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to support those students. We start to look at those numbers in August, my guess is that the cut off is due to leveling based on how the system works currently.

**Question: What can be done for families who had a sibling that passed the kinder assessment, but did not receive enrollment due to a back-end error in School Mint?** Is there a way we can have something to flag or help families who make that error? Information was not communicated properly to families when the district moved to two separate systems, Infinite Campus and School Mint. Answer: School Mint is designed to help educators, individual schools, and large school districts track application progress, facilitate their enrollment processes, and streamline student transfers. School Mint is subjective so we cannot say whether your child gets in or does not. Infinite Campus is a district-wide student information system designed to manage attendance, grades, schedules, test scores, and other information about the student. Answer: This year we did away with the separate registration process, so if the registration information matched, then it populated automatically. I'll get your name and information, so we can discuss and find specifics for your concern.

**Question: Regarding enrollment transparency, I do not understand why we cannot get information on how many siblings are on the waitlist and how many seats are available at a school site?** Not prioritizing potential incoming students, but wanting to know the options available to me and other families? I am on the waitlist and the responses I am getting from your team are lip service, generic, and not straight forward and it is frustrating. This is not just important to me, but other families and for enrollment options/waitlists at other schools. Answer: I hear you, but I have no control over staff. I don't run the school

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district, I run the board. I am sure they err on the side of caution. We can look at this together where it is appropriate. The Superintendent has staff, I can take this back to talk to them. There is also the depth of leveling, how many teachers are available, and contractual obligations that all really dive into the ability to take on additional students. We cannot require someone to take on another student. Leveling is complicated and trying to mitigate concapping is part of it as well. I think addressing situations like this is best at the community meeting I am proposing on 5/27, when you have a new admin. Your school site principle is the best advocate for you. I have 82 schools that I oversee, this is why I am hoping to create a strong communication and relationship with your new admin so they can address and support you in these ways at your school site.

**Question – Are there any other solutions regarding how many spots can become available at our school site?** Answer: We are

contractually limited to how many students can be in a classroom, the number is 90. We are also contractually limited to how we can expand and build out. There is no room to build at your school site, how do we find the balance? I am struggling with how to find a solution for Phoebe, which is one of our smaller school sights. We are also required to open Traditional Kindergarten spaces, in our district, by 2026/2027. Question: If they add Transition Kindergarten to the Phoebe school site in 2026/2027, where would they find the space for these classes? Do you think they would utilize the Stem and Art classroom spaces? Answer: There are very specific requirements for site locations to meet in order to build or have additional classes (distance from bathrooms, need for ramps, etc.), due to this I have thrown out all ideas. Miwok was one



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option I put forward, which is great for space, but not ideal for the age group. Other schools have no room at all, they are already using the am/pm kindergarten model. With the limited statewide requirements and without getting money, we are not sure how the requirements for the additional Traditional Kindergarten classes for 2026/2027 will work, but we are supposed to make it work. It is difficult.

**Question – Why is a kindergarten test required when grades 1-6 do not have the same requirements to enroll?** Answer: When we do Intra/Inter District Permits, there are no testing requirements. It is hard when you look at a school with screening and you want to keep families together, it is counterproductive. LDV got away from screening as well as other schools. High Schools all used to have testing requirements as well, they all walked away from it part due to siblings except for Wes Campus. Question: Is it the principal's decision? Answer: It is the site's decision, total campus/staff/admin decision.

**Question: Phoebe Hearst does not get robust financial support from the district. If there is a 10% federal budget cut, how will this affect our campus?** Answer: The budget cut issue is bigger than that, I advocate for so many different schools every day. This budget cut is going to hit hard and not just in our state, but even more within our country. I am hoping that there are funds somewhere in the state budget where we can help bridge the gap for CA. I hope we won't get to that point. My other hat is to ensure funding for our schools and area. Facilities use agreements for charters to distribute funding to make sure facilities are up to date. We can show you facilities that have it way worse than Phoebe, we do red lining. Southside Sacramento has much more of a need, it will be a long time before we see funding for this side

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of the area. Miwok will be a brand new school in 7-10 years, it legally cannot be fixed because we have earthquakes in CA. This is how I see it for Phoebe, it would have to be legally and not able to stay supported in this same way to receive any funding. Plus, Phoebe added the kindergarten portals, so the district would look at schools that have not been supported in this way for years before they would be given funding. Question: What about outside funding, if we received funding on our own? Answer: It would be put into the larger pot, for all schools, and sent to schools within the district that are in the most need.

**Question – Will the testing on iPads and off site be discussed in the community meeting on 5/27?** Answer: In the realm of testing, when you have it at the site level, if you know someone you can give them insight. The testing site was moved to the district office so it would be neutral to all in the district. I apologize that things were not executed the way you wanted them to be. We can have that conversation with your new admin so we can work to make the process better, but with all that to say, it is the Department of Education that drives the decisions to this process. I can dive deeper, but want to wait until you have your new site leader so they can get the proper guidance from the Department of Education. I will continue to advocate for you and find the best ways to move forward. This is part of my job as the Trustee in your area, but I am supporting 6 board members. We are elected as part time volunteers; I push forward everything to them. One solution is for me to come here and address all of this directly with you. As a parent, I understand your concerns. The Department of Education codes and requirements also come into consideration before we can start shifting and changing anything. Also, we are under a huge watch from the Department of



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Education regarding testing sites. I hope we have more information for you at the community meeting on 5/27<sup>th</sup> regarding the grades 1-6 waitlist. I am happy to push the board, but I cannot change anything. 7 people need to vote if there is going to be change. I look forward to attending your Open house and seeing your classrooms and campus! Thank you Jasjit and Mary for your time today!

- **Teacher Report:** Jeanne Chasko - Please visit the Stem and Art classroom during Open House on 5/21. Especially since this is Ms. Jane's last year. I cannot tell you how much it means to her that families and students come through the Art Room. Phoebe students get to do a walkthrough, like the Open House, the next morning so they can visit the various classrooms on campus.
- **Principal Report:** Doyal Martin
- **Treasurer Report:** Anastasia Dolotov/Denae Pruner - Anastasia Dolotov/Denae Pruner – Scan the QR codes located on your table. The first QR code is the monthly Transaction Report. It breaks down all transactions by category, line by line, and by account. Member question: The first CD will expire on 6/21/25, will we continue to invest with that money? Answer: We have to make a decision to reinvest or pull the money out of the CD, this will be decided by the current board. The second QR code is the Budget Profit & Loss Report. The board revisits the budget every 3 months. The second column on the Budget Profit & Loss Report is phase 2, this is where our budget is today. The last column on the Budget Profit & Loss Report is the year-to-date income. On the website, there is a visual pie chart that shows where our entire budget comes from with percentages. Most of the budget goes to field trips and enrichment for the school. Member question: As a parent, I am trying to

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understand how field trips are funded by the PTO, the reasoning for how they are funded? Answer: Every teacher gets a budgeted amount per grade. 4-6 is budgeted a little more by @ \$1500. The teacher will ask parents to subsidize if they want to extend their budgeted money to take more field trips. If they are requesting money from families for field trips, they are doing more field trips that year. Some teachers will take 4-5 field trips and others will take 2-3 per year. Member question: Can we add a block at the bottom of the PTO Newsletter that takes families directly to the PTO minutes and budget? Answer: We are not sure how this would work with the timing of the newsletter, but do think that next year's calendar will be more solidified and we will have a better sense of how that will all work together. If you have questions, suggestions, and/or want to volunteer to help us with transactions, please email @ [phptotreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:phptotreasurer@gmail.com).

- **Committee Reports:**

- **Nominations/Elections:** Serra Klunk/Isaac Gonzalez - The election was fine. Nothing groundbreaking occurred. We will have the results soon and will send them out to everyone. Thank you to everyone who participated and took the time to vote, look at voter guides, complete bios, and have the willingness to be involved in the process.
- **Adjournment** - Jeanne motioned. Melissa seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:15pm.