

**Pleasant Hill Elementary Education Foundation
Meeting
November 11, 2015**

Date, Time & Location – Meeting called to order Wednesday, November 11, 2015 at 7:08PM, Round Table Pizza on Oak Park Boulevard

In Attendance – Amy Bleichner, Angela Nishizawa, Nate Lunt, Jennifer Philson, Hasmig Gregorian, Kerstie Pederson, Mara Jones-Bey, Lisa Stauffer

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- **Nate Lunt made a motion to approve PHEEF Meeting minutes from October 14, 2015; Lisa Stauffer seconded the motion**
- **Vote taken, Motion passes - Approved**

Treasurer's Report

- Picking up tax return Thursday, 11/12/15 from accountant, will be signed & mailed to IRS
- Will clarify positions with district prior to salary payment as one position was eliminated and one teacher quit, need to clarify exactly what we are paying for before making payment

PHE Principal/Staff Report

- From Principal Ifeoma Obodozie sent via email:

Principal Notes for PHEEF Meeting – November 11, 2015

- We began *Walk to Language* on November 2. This is when we provide students who are English Learners or ELs a mandated English Language Development lesson for at least thirty minutes. Students travel to other teachers during this block, and if they are non-English Learners, they receive instruction in a variety of ELA strands: grammar, writing, reading.
- We had a lively student council campaign and ensuing election. The newly-elected officers successfully conducted our first *Spirit Day* (Crazy Hair Day) on Friday, October 30th. Staff (including Yours Truly), students, and some parents, sported some pretty wacky hair!
- Our first *Mileage Club 5K* was a lot of fun. Parents and staff ran with students, with upbeat music playing in the background. We had over twenty parent volunteers, who punched students' running (lap) cards. Please spread the word: we are still looking for volunteers to punch lap cards during morning or lunch recesses. Contact the Office if interested in helping.
- Our new VP, Steve Slater has hit the ground running, acquainting himself with staff, students, and parents. Please be sure and introduce yourself to him and welcome him to PHE. He is at PHE every other day.
- 4th and 5th grade have begun receiving services from our PHEEF- funded reading lab.
- I encourage parents to join me for *Coffee with the Principal*, which is a monthly informal Meet and Greet following drop-offs at 8:10. We catch up with one another over a cup of coffee or tea, swap ideas, and chat about all things PHE. Dates are posted on the PHE website. The December CwtP is

on December 15.

- Thanks for your support of the very important work we do with your children, our students! ***Please thank a veteran today and always!***
- PE assistant position still not filled

Standing Committees

- *Communication*
 - Angela Nishizawa reporting – communications to be sent to Angela first, then she will forward on to appropriate people for approval, approval needs to happen before any communication is sent to print
 - Hasmig is handling Peach Jar – Hasmig has to make a phone call to Peach Jar to make sure it gets published, can filter who announcement gets sent to
 - We will be utilizing both PHE eNews and Peach Jar for communication
 - Angela will look into making separate email for PHEEF positions...such as president@pheef.org
 - Hasmig would like to streamline everything through pheef.org
 - however Gala posters have already been sent to printer utilizing phegala.org
- *Loyalty Programs (S.H.A.R.E.S./eScrip)*
 - Nate Lunt reporting – some matching coming in from Wells Fargo & Chevron
- *Spell-A-Thon*
 - Jennifer Philson reporting – looking at January 29, 2016 for Spell-A-Thon
 - Science fair is 1/28/16...too close to science fair?
 - Jennifer will consult with teachers and will announce date at next PHEEF meeting
 - Jennifer will forward pledge form to Angela for review
- *Spring Gala*
 - Lisa Stauffer reporting
 - Priority tickets before Dec 31 will be \$75, after that price will increase to \$85, will also be selling tables
 - Communicating with Gina at CCCC regarding 60's-themed appetizers & cocktails
 - Shira & Edie working on sponsorships
 - Will re-introduce sign-up parties – possibilities include: Fiesta party, family bingo in the MU, canvas painting party, has been in contact with Tammy Maxon regarding bringing back school tiles – considering doing a tile painting party
 - Searching for a replacement for Gala Chair, recommend board position be a 2 year commitment

Special Committee

- *Science*
 - Alisa Todd reporting via email:

PHEEF Science Committee Report 11.11.15

B.O.S.S. Program (Box of Science Supplementation)

Committee Members:

Alisa Todd, Mara Jones-Bey, Mary Briemle

Program Overview

- “Ready-to-go kits” for “hands-on” labs in each class.
- Each kit has supplies for 2 classes of 30 students.
- 2 kits of each lab - so teachers need to share.
- Each kit includes all the needed supplies, handouts for 30 students and a teacher guide.
- The labs follow the current science text for each grade level and are aimed at reinforcing the lessons that have already been taught in class – these are not separate lesson plans.
- Each grade level (1-5) has approximately 10 labs per year (approx. 50 total).

Budget

- We are estimating about \$75-100 per lab (\$5,000) this year.
- As of now, approximately \$1000.00 has been spent on labs.

Current Status

Currently we are creating each kit and handing them off to teachers.

The idea for the future is that each kit will be ready to go at the beginning of the year (consumables replenished, new handouts, etc.) and teachers can simply check them out as needed.

The following labs have been sent out to teachers so far:

1st Grade:

- Mass Lab – using a balance scale to compare Mass

2nd Grade:

- Matter – effects of temperature
- Owl Pellet Dissection

3rd Grade:

- Biomes (Dessert, Forest, Grasslands, Tundra - including several live plants)

4th Grade:

- Minerals – analyzing and identifying
- Rock Cycle – analyzing and creating mock rocks

5th Grade:

- Checking for Water Vapor in the air
- Building Water Filters

We’ve gotten limited feedback, which has been positive, but it seems like teachers are having difficulty fitting the labs in to their schedules and transferring it to the next class.

Not all the labs have been confirmed but as of now the rest of the year includes some of the following:

1st Grade:

- Properties of Matter (Liquids, Solids, Gases)
- Changes in Matter
- Weather
- Habitats
- Animal Coverings

2nd Grade:

- Wind and Water – effects on land
- Rocks and Minerals – erosion
- Dinosaur fossils
- Simple machines
- Plants and pollination

- Animal habitats

3rd Grade:

- Organisms and the Environment
- Extinction
- Energy and Fuel
- Energy Sources
- Ocean Life

4th Grade:

- Weathering
- Erosion
- Adaptation
- Scientific Method
- Currents and Circuits
- Conductors and Insulators
- Uses of Electricity

- Photosynthesis
- Respiratory System
- Excretory System – Dissection
- Compounds
- Chemical Reactions and Change

5th Grade:

- Air Pressure
- Cell Biology
- Plant Transport

In addition, I have been talking with Ellen Concepcion, of New Leaf Collaborative, to develop a Science Workshop at the school. They currently run Community Science Workshops at 2 schools in Martinez

The idea would be to give each class (grades 1-5) a 40 minute hands-on workshops each month from January –May 2016 (5 workshops per class – total 105 sessions). The staff of NLC would bring in all the necessary supplies and set up in the MU. (The classroom teachers would still need to be present at the workshop – this cannot be a prep period).

In order to fit in all the classes, the topics would be the same across grade levels and may not line up with current studies in each grade level during that time. However, the activities would be appropriate for the different grade levels.

The cost estimate for the 105 sessions is \$8600 (a full year of 9 sessions would be approximately \$15,500).

However, working out the logistics and scheduling is a hurdle.

I met with the principal today. She feels the teachers may not be fully supportive of this as it would be one more thing to add to their already busy schedules.

I'm still trying to get more details to present to the staff, but it seems like there is a good chance it wouldn't start in January since we may run out of time.

Old Business

- *MARE Curriculum*
 - Until we have a replacement, PHEEF will continue to support MARE curriculum – presented to teachers at staff meeting
 - Hasmig will research what needs to be done to update current curriculum through the Lawrence Hall of Science
 - Alisa Todd reporting via email:

On a separate note, I did talk to Ellen at NLC about MARE Week. She made one suggestion to add something to spice it up, **Whale Week** – see info below:

“Whale week is a unique opportunity for a school community to appreciate and interact with the wonders of a 30 foot gray whale skeleton, recovered by parents, children, teachers, volunteers and Mission Science Workshop staff on August 27, 2013.”

“We have worked for months to make the whole skeleton completely portable in a truck and completely reassembleable on site by the students themselves.”

The cost is \$1000/day. I'm not sure of any more details or how we rotate classes in. If interested, I can find out more.

- Mara Jones-Bey will ask teachers to see if they are interested in this

New Business

- Hasmig attended a district meeting last night regarding how the district receives its money from the state
 - There will be a meeting at College Park HS, Hasmig recommends as many PHEEF representatives as possible attend
- Technology – Measure C bond measure
 - Nate has talked with district representative & current principal, now questioning whether or not PHE will get its share

- Teachers getting laptops rather than technology for students
- Computer technician – Bridgette will take old computers from teachers and refurbish for student workstations
- New 5th grade teacher on campus – James Brown, will have demonstration regarding interactive TV's in his classroom on 11/18, Hasmig will confirm time
- Request from music program for music stand carts – 1 cart \$422.40, 2 carts \$921.60, each cart holds 25 stands
 - Request states that there are several safety issues if they do not have carts to store music stands, board members question that if safety is an issue then why isn't the school or the district covering the costs of these items

Announcements

- Next meeting date & time: Wednesday, December 9, 2015 @ 7PM, Kobe Japan Restaurant

Adjournment

- 9:28 PM