



**Harper PTO Executive Board Meeting Notes**  
**Wednesday, MAY 3, 2023 9:15 a.m.**  
**LOCATION: Harper Elementary**

**Attendance** - Aaron Dubnow, Jackie Brennan, Kari Darmstadter, Allison Achter, Jesse Schirmang, Erin Lawler, Danielle Slattery, Sheetal Shah, Natalie Kapnick, Laura Geiger, Allison Soderstrom, Daniela Burnham

**Old Business**

- Call to order- 9:19a.m.
- Approval of Minutes – April 2023 [Daniela, Erin 2<sup>nd</sup>]

**Principal's Report - Aaron Dubnow**

- Welcome Jackie Brennan as new principal
- AP opening- 24 applicants, position will be filled by next board meeting
- MAP and Benchmark testing upcoming
- Laura Polkoff and Patty Ballard retiring- cards presented @ end of year assembly. FB post to Highcrest and WJHS and blurb in the newsletter to inform former students. Card collection basket at front office.
- Joey Feinstein environment presentation huge success

**President Report: Kari Darmstadter**

- Welcome Jackie Brennan as incoming principal
- Village Crossing guard- End of Year Gifts (\$50 x3 ) add to the budget- APPROVED unanimously
- Crossing guard @ Thornwood and Dartmouth- added to agenda for **Transportation Commission Meeting MAY 24 in evening , NEED PARENT ADVOCATES** so Village will fund extra guard
- Retirements of Patty Ballard and Laura Polkoff- Memory Boxes in office, favorite foods in teacher's lounge in their honor
- IGNITE uptake
  - Harper percentage of donations significantly lower than other schools
  - IGNITE flyers w/ enrichment highlights to increase awareness around IGNITE?
  - Google idea doc centering around IGNITE ideas to be shared
- Aaron Departure - meetings w/ Jackie continue
- 2023/24 SLATE
  - Openings going in HH this week

- o Immediate needs: After School clubs, Harper Hoedown Co-Chair, Social Committee, Yearbook, Adding Open Gym
- Teacher Appreciation Week
  - o May 8-12
- Wednesday May 24 9:15 am- General PTO Meeting, Megan Butler Guest speaker, vote on budget/ pass slate (Exec Board Attends)

**President Elect Report: Daniela Burnham**

- Basketball Hoops- Eric getting labor estimates
- Environmental-
  - o Green Team: Megan Butler coordinating during lunch for 4th graders only, 20 kids, 1 teacher volunteer (\$600 stipend for year), meet once a month
- Garden-
  - o Being prepped 5/24 w/ summer crops to be harvested in Fall. Kids will get to vote on what to plant
  - o Mrs. Tromp art project 5/19 activity, 5/26 reveal. District doing woodchips prior to reveal
- Teacher Appreciation Week-
  - o Wed 5/14 Volunteers needed for Flower Day

**Secretary: Tracey Fitzgerald**

**Treasurer: Danielle Slattery {ast. Natalie Kapnick}**

- Financial Report: Cash reserves look good, expenses up \$7000, raised \$10,000 fundraising this year (1st for Harper)
- 23/24 Budget Review (all received hard copy)
  - o Conservative estimates
  - o Lower overall student headcount
  - o Making transition to Zelle for fundraising/ events but can't for website purchases
  - o No Amazon Smile next year
  - o Can make up cash deficit through Fundraising
  - o Thoughts on what to do w/ reserves so they are not just sitting in bank

**VP Room Parents: Laura Geiger {ast. Erin Lawler}**

**VP Enrichment: Sheetal Shah {ast. Allison Soderstrom}**

- 4/21- Joey Feinstein- divided by grades
- Botanic Gardens- 3<sup>rd</sup> grade
- High Touch High Tech- 1<sup>st</sup> grade
- Feed My Starving Children- 4<sup>th</sup> grade
- Need another 2<sup>nd</sup> grade trip- a bit of a push back from the teachers
- Walking field trip to fire station- Kindergarten

**VP iGNITE + Fundraising: Jesse Schirmang {ast. Marni Sheehan}**

**VP Communications: Allison Achter**

- Harper Happening updates to [harperhappeningspto.com](http://harperhappeningspto.com)

**Adjournment:**