

**ZOO MAGNET
NORTH HOLLYWOOD HIGH SCHOOL**

PARENT COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING

4 April 2007

WELCOME

Linda Hurevitz, President

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This is a short meeting tonight because of Open House. I have lots of handouts here on various related subjects so help yourself.

Are there any new faces here tonight?

Ms. Artunian is the Parent Center Coordinator at NHHS as well as a parent at the Zoo Magnet. I will leave me email address in case you want to contact me. taguhi@mac.com or 818.429.7117

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Penelope Jones, Secretary

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Linda: May I have a motion to approve last meeting's minutes?

Approved. The previous minutes were reviewed and approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Michele Wolfe, Treasurer

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Since our last meeting we now have \$9, 072 in our account. We just paid Arrowhead Water company for water in the office and we owe Donna \$87 for 3 hose reels.

Linda: We need to spend money for new brochures

Cheryl: I have a shockingly cheap printing company if Lee is interested.

Lee: So do I. Thanks anyway.

Linda: We are reconsidering the type of BBQ to buy, and Ms. Rose needs novels, because NHHS won't give her enough for the class or buy any for her.

Cheryl: She needs the following:

1. Of Mice and Men
2. Catcher in the Rye
3. Night

She would prefer we give her the money rather than books, so she could purchase them online or at a discount source.

Lee: Could you give me until next week? I might be able to get Title 1 funds, so do not give her the money yet, ok? Students need to return books and some "forget."

Linda: OK, we'll table the issue for now.

Cheryl: But not for long. But it would be better to get them from NHHS.

Lee: There is always lots of attrition.

Linda: I'll keep all informed.

ZOO CREW/ZOO SENIOR REPORT

Jessica Jedvaj, President

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Hi. The most exciting thing is that we have Zoo Crew T shirts. Earth Day is Friday, April 20. We have many agencies participating, such as the Wildlife Waystation, the Amanda Foundation, the SPCA, Channel Island Fox Group, National Resource Council, the AQMD and others. We want snacks and fun stuff too, like brownies with earthworms, cat litter cake, etc. So if you want to make us stuff, that would be great.

Another big issue is the Spring Dance. The LA Zoo says it is too busy to accommodate us when we wanted, and June 2 is too close to prom and April 28 is right around the corner. But those are our options.

Cheryl: That is Big Sunday weekend which is not good.

Jessica: Some themes we are deciding on are masquerade ball, favorite movie themes, colors, etc.

Michelle: How about holding it in the cafeteria at NHHS?

Jessica: students would not pay if it was at NHHS. There is an anti-NHHS feeling, and it would not be a good idea. Maybe Tree Tops Terrace at the LA Zoo? Tickets will be \$15.

The big BBQ issue has generated lots of discussion; it's pretty messy, so we are sorting thru everything.

Donna: Instead of two BBQ's just get a 5 burner BBQ from BBQ's Galore. They are \$1900, so we might try to find a company who can give it to us half price or something. Does anyone know anybody who can donate a BBQ? Craft service? Craig's List? Let me know if you know anything about this.

Parent: Bull BBQ's are a local company and would be a better target than BBQs Galore which is a chain.

Cheryl: The ask letter should come from the students, not the adults and tell them where the money will go, like to Earth Day activities or something.

Donna: I can help you with the letter and we can send it out to all the companies.

Cheryl: What is the money for the Spring Dance used for?

Lee: It pays for the Spring Dance essentially.

Jessica: I have a friend whose husband works in taxes and might be willing to help us with the tax status.

Linda: Please make sure you give your list of guest speakers for Earth Day to Nora so she can publicize the event.

J: None of the organizations have told me exactly who will be speaking on their behalf.

Linda: Any thing you want the parents to do?

J: Career Fair parent came and stood outside at the doors to monitor the students. If you could do that and help out, that would be great because students loose their schedules and stuff and get lost. It is 8am-1pm We are feeding them breakfast: bagels, fruit, coffee.

Cheryl: Noah's Bagels will give you whatever you want

Bruce: I suggest Pannero. I will ask them for bread. Forget Noah's.

Michelle: Coffee? I will coordinate the food service, so if you can help out let me know.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Stephen Foster W 818.769.8510 sfost1@lausd.k12.ca.us

Not in attendance

Lee reports: NHHS is going thru its third-year WASC accreditation and Mr. Foster was preparing the documents for the committee. He narrowed it down from 500 pages to 50 pages and then presented it to us. He was very well prepared and eloquent, so NHHS is in good shape. I hope we will get a six-year instead of a three-year reprieve this time.

Parent: How is the Dr. Delling issue doing?

Linda: There is a good article in NHHS newspaper about Dr. Delling's status. He is still our principal. There was a meeting with Jim Morris and it went very well. Because the school is in "program improvement" status, because last year's scores did not increase high enough, they look for a fall guy. If they change the principal then that will supposedly resolve the situation. With the new assistant principals, it doesn't make sense to change everything again. Even if you have any accusations, Dr. Delling is still the principal. I will write a letter on behalf of the Zoo parents.

Cheryl: I don't know Dr. D at all aside from metg him at the Christmas party

Lee: He is a competent administrator and has had a positive impact on NHHS and a good leader. He does visit on occasion and is there when needed.

Linda: Ms. Rojas is here because of Dr. Delling. He is supportive of us.

Lee: He is worthy of all our support. So write as many letters on his behalf as you can.

Linda: Please send a letter to Jim Morris Superintendent of District 2 on Lankershim Blvd. Go to the LAUSD website and find the staff directory. Just email him a letter and express your support. If you have a complaint about the programs they would like that as well. Greatly appreciated.

Lee: There was an important meeting to discuss his tenure with District representatives and the President of the union for administrators. They felt quite confident about his case. But still needs your letters.

COORDINATORS 'S REPORT

Lee McManus mccgroovy@earthlink.net W 323.660.0165

Lee: Animal Husbandry is back on track beginning next week with orientation. Tomorrow at 2pm three more students will be interviewed for a total of 10 or so students.

They're a good batch of candidates. This second semester is only for new students who haven't been in Animal Husbandry before. We might have 12 students. Last semester we had 14 students.

Donna: I was telling Linda about the Moorpark college program for animal keepers. They require 2 yrs of working with animals? Does Animal Husbandry count?

Lee: Yes, I think so. Especially considering the relationship Moorpark College has with the Zoo.

There may be an assembly next week for us to gather all students together and answer some questions and review rules and build solidarity. One of the most difficult challenges is that it is next to impossible for us to gather in one place and don't have a venue for 300 kids anywhere, so we use the LA Zoo. Frank Boydan of Deerfield Academy in CT has said, "You must gather your students at least once a day." I think it is a good thing to do.

Parent: Can kids ever have lunch again at NHHS? Varsity basketball meets at lunch.

Lee: Then the coach will have to change that meeting because they need to accommodate us.

Cheryl: Sometimes my son doesn't get any food now, because they run out or don't bring it here to the Zoo Magnet campus. Will it be better next year?

Lee: Yes, I am aware of that. It will be better next year, yes.

COUNSELOR 'S REPORT

Alicia Rojas aer9201@lausd.k12.ca.us W 323.660.0165

Hi. The Latino Youth Council will be at UC Riverside on Sat April 14. The focus is on sophomores and juniors only. It is good for everyone, but aimed at Latinos. Please sign up by Friday 8am-5pm.

Linda: ACT is on Sat April 14. And a mock SAT is on Saturday June 14. Fliers are at NHHS. Sophomores and juniors and their parents will be there and will get their scores right then after the test. It is practice only.

Alicia: Tons of scholarships are coming in so please have the kids check with me about those opportunities.

Progress reports will be out on Friday.

Tenth grade letters go out Friday and all tenth graders will meet with me to prepare for college and the next two years.

You can call me April 16-27 if you want to meet with me after school.

I have a speaker from Princeton Review coming out on May 9 if you want, or we can arrange a different date. He will talk about the differences between the SAT and ACT and what colleges are looking for.

Bruce: Watch out for the AP testing schedule May 7-18. Maybe the end of May is better.

Linda: Princeton Review will be offering three practice test days for SAT and ACT on April 28. If go to website you can sign up there. That is another option for your kid.

OLD BUSINESS

Linda: The masks are on the fence. A prototype tile is on the wall already, so with a contribution of \$500 you will get a tile on the wall of the school with an animal of your choice.

Ralphs Card: A certain percentage of every purchase will get credited to Zoo Magnet. Go to Ralph's website (<http://www.ralphs.com/ccprogram.htm>) and sign up. We just got a report that we received \$100 last month. Thanks go to Marcia Stone for her hard work setting this up for our school. Also please go to the Schoolpop website (<http://www.schoolpop.com/moreinfo/pghome/>) and sign up a list of internet merchants that you use such as Lands End, LL Bean, Amazon, Barnes & Nobel, etc. It is very easy to do. The Zoo Magnet is registered.

Parent: What about Gelsons? Schoolpop can solicit local stores if you want, and there is a form for merchants to register. Just go to the website. They also offer a credit card where % of all your purchases will go to our school.

Linda: How about Target Stores?

Cheryl: Only an administrator can sign us up.

Parent: How's Market also does this.

Cheryl: Which meeting can I go to address educational issues rather than this stuff?

Linda: Here. That is on my list.

Spanish: Too many kids are in the classroom

Lee: When it comes to a question of instructional practice, it can be addressed informally with me but all I can do is make suggestions. If that isn't effective then you need to meet with the teacher one-on-one.

Cheryl: Are there any meetings where you just talk about the school and what is taught and how it is taught?

Lee: No.

Cheryl: Every other school has a curriculum council, a governance council, etc.

Lee: I suspect that you should do it the way the administration asks you to do it: meet with the teacher; then let the administration know; then the principal, then on.

Cheryl: This is frustrating. I have not seen anything implemented from the problem solving techniques and teamwork discussions we had with the facilitator last year.

Lee: Funding was promised for a faculty-parent retreat and then taken away at the last minute. So we need to think of other ways to do this, but we can't meet on campus during break because my teachers won't come. We really need to get together at an outside place for a sustained period of uninterrupted time.

Cheryl: I attended the Open House tonight, and the mumbling comments from the teachers appeared unprofessional and left a lot of parents dissatisfied. Is this the teachers' best performance? I hear this from other people too. Teachers stand up there and report they don't really have anything to say to us. People should leave happy and I am depressed. Our teachers are obviously not plugged in and I am shocked. There should be a monthly meeting to discuss this stuff.

Parent: Open House is not the time to address individual problems. We made an appointment with a teacher. It was not a satisfactory meeting, that's for sure.

Cheryl: I want the teachers to be excited! Where am I? When they come back from the winter break they should be excited and engaging, not bummed out.

Parent: I like the break.

Parent: So do I.

Lee: With the new calendar it will be different.

Donna: I like the friendliness and laid back atmosphere here and that is why we are here. All the kids know all the teachers and vice versa.

Parent: Some teachers were not even here tonight! That is horrible and should not be excused!

Linda: The 9th graders went to CIMI at Catalina Island last week and it was a great success. Many thanks to Mr. Owsley's wife who got them a grant.

Don't forget to sign in with the sign-in sheet.

Linda: There was an incident at the LA Zoo with a student. We need to influence our kids to represent us better and train them to be good citizens.

Lee: Wed last week Mr. Owsley's digital photo class went to the Zoo. Mr. O plants himself at a table with extra batteries, cards and cameras, and students go off to other locations to do the photo assignments. So they are not closely supervised. The theme of "Don't mess up at the Zoo" is drummed into the kids at 9th grade. Teenagers are impulsive though. One of the seniors flicked a pinecone into the water at an alligator. No one was hurt and no damage was done. A zookeeper saw it and asked for their IDs, wrote down their names and did not give the IDs back. One teenage confronted the zookeeper and demanded his ID and the zookeeper shoved him away. The student shoved him back. The zookeeper then challenged him with closed fists and the kids backed off. They went to security. The students were not suspended. Both students, the one who threw the pinecone and the one who confronted the zookeeper, completed 8 hrs of service at NHHS and were warned about mandatory suspension if anything like this occurred again. I have heard nothing from the Zoo about this and relations are still cordial. I think they think the zookeeper was equally at fault here, so they're not making a big thing about it. Mr.O was very concerned and his heightened sense of concern affected the students. Though things might have been a lot worse, everything is fine now.

Bruce: An adult putting his hands on a child? That could be a suit in the making here.

Alicia: The Zoo personnel were very concerned and asked the boy who was touched if he wanted to press charges, but neither he nor his family wanted to.

Lee: We don't have a history of being a liability to the Zoo. We are good community people.

Parent: Do the 10th graders go to the Zoo at all?

Linda: It depends on the teachers really.

Lee: Audrey (the parent's daughter) has missed a lot because she is out of sequence. She will be taking Chemistry next year and will go to the Zoo.

Linda: I received essays from Mr. Borden and will put them up on the web for everyone. They are really well done and are good PR for the school.

We traditionally do a spring picnic on a Saturday in May and on Teacher Appreciation Day. It was Ralph Gentile's (former ZMPC president) thing. This year we are thinking of doing a school-wide picnic in Griffith Park, so we need to pick a good date. Perhaps on a Sunday, after church. Is this a good idea?

Lee: How about a softball game? Students vs. teachers and parents. That sounds great!

Deb: We need to promote it to the students, to sign up, etc.

Linda: Winnie is up for it.

Jessica: a good portion of the students will be up for it.

Bruce: On Friday, May 4 with the Chamber of Commerce, Studio City, there will be a first Friday Breakfast Club meeting. Superintendent Brewer will be there, at the Daily Grill on Ventura Blvd. There are only 80 places so make your reservations as it will be hot. 7:30am - 9:45am. Tickets are \$12 each.

Linda and Lee: Count us in.

Nancy: Teacher Appreciation will be the week of May 7. The next parent council meeting is May 9 so we really need to discuss having a luncheon for the teachers now.

Linda: I think we should do it another time because May is just too early. Let's do Mamba's again. Is there a time when the kids are not here, like last year?

Lee: No, but if you can get a couple of extra parents to watch the kids then we could do something for the teachers.

Deb: Are we ready for the tree? It is 48" and is about 7 ft. tall.

Linda: It might be a good thing for Earth Day. My feeling is we should just do it. We need to get it in soon, because it has been in a box.

Donna: Shall we plant it on Clean up Day?

Linda: No, we need to do it right away. Do we have a Saturday free? The workman has his own crew right? But he has to cut through the concrete, right? Let us choose a Saturday in May and we will send out fliers for the Clean up Day.

Jessica: How about the doors to the classrooms? Can we get them painted?

Parent: My friend can do it for \$100/door and I will split the cost with the school. She will do anything you want.

Lee. Let me talk with Jessica first and get back to you.

NEW BUSINESS

UPCOMING EVENTS

The next parent meeting will be on May 9 at 6:30pm at the Zoo Magnet School.