

**ZOO MAGNET
NORTH HOLLYWOOD HIGH SCHOOL**

PARENT COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING

May 9, 2007

WELCOME

Linda Hurevitz, President

W 818.500.4800 H 818.769.9404 vitzz@earthlink.net

Welcome new 9th grade parents and students!

Let's start with the review of last meeting's minutes. Have we reviewed them?

Can we have a motion to approve the minutes? Aye.

There will be a New Student Registration on Sat May 19, 9am-12pm. It is the one opportunity to get all the new families together to sign up for our email roster and enforce the submission of Emergency Cards to Ms. Vega. We need current Zoo Magnet parents there to answer questions, so do I have any volunteers? Please bring a case of water or orange juice, etc. so we can use it as a fundraiser. I will appeal to Ralph (Gentile) for his juicer and we can sell fresh oj for \$1/cup.

Parent: Why don't we have a phone tree?

Lee: Good question

Cheryl: Lots of our parents still don't have email access.

Parent: Lots don't read their emails anyway.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Penelope Jones, Secretary

H 323.221.4097 penelope@usc.edu

The previous minutes were reviewed and approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Michele Wolfe, Treasurer

H 818.509.0300 rleewolfe@earthlink.net

We have an income this month of \$1,892 so now have \$8,420.26

We spent \$2,600 tree planting, hose reels, a BBQ for the students, Arrowhead water for the office, etc.

ZOO CREW/ZOO SENIOR REPORT

Jessica Jedvaj, President

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peachykeenpallor@aim.com

Earth Day is over. It went OK except for the rain, but the students loved it and the organizations did a good job. We got a write-up in the Studio City Sun.

AP testing is underway, so Zoo Crew and Senior meetings have been delayed to discuss the yearbook, elections in June, and other activities scheduled for the first week of June,

Thank you for supporting us in our search for a BBQ. It went really well and Donna helped us set it up and taught us how to work it.

Parent: Are Park and Recs allowing open fires in Griffith Park, since the fire?

Lee: We can go under the radar with that
Parent: Will there be a Luau this year?
Jessica: Probably not, since last year we only had 20 students show up and there are many conflicting dates with Prom and other end-of-year events, etc.
Lee: It is just another expense after Grad Nite and Prom, and the students are really broke by then.
Parent: Maybe we could plan a picnic or something else? Do you have any suggestions to make kids come?
Jess: You can pay them – ha ha!
Lee: It would be a good idea to have a picnic - When?
Michele: Saturday, June 10 would be what we set aside.
Leslie: Please tell all the students and invite them to come ok?
Jessica: Where is it?
Lee: I don't know at this point but we'll choose a venue in the park.
Linda: (To Leslie) Do you want to organize the picnic?
Leslie: Sure with Nancy, Robin, Cherilyn, etc. Maybe we will have a quickie meeting first to plan some ideas.
Michele: Assign me jobs as I am off work that day.
Linda: Anything else?
Jessica: My email is peachykeenpallor@aim.com if anyone needs to contact me.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

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

Not in attendance, but forwards this news:

We have managed to convince the administration to offer Spanish III this summer at NHHS. We will need a minimum enrollment of 30 students for the class to run. Please let Ms. Rojas know ASAP if your student is interested in signing up for this class.

COORDINATORS 'S REPORT

Lee McManus mcgroovy@earthlink.net W 323.660.0165

A number of things:

We didn't burn down and I want to thank you for raising very responsible young people. They all just got on the buses and did what there were asked to do, with no goofing around so the evacuations went very well. We were all done in 10 min.

I saw the fire start quite early in the day and as it grew thought it might be an issue so I called the bus supervisor and they were great. Half an hour after I called, the head ranger of Griffith Park, Chief Torres called and said it was time to evacuate. The buses were here in 10 min. We had 6 buses which was more than enough for the kids.

But it did raise issues about safety preparedness and backup. We need to contact parents quickly. Still I think we should budget for a couple of laptops that carry all student data that we can just grab and go, and all the info is contained in them.

Phyllis (new 9th grade parent): If you get them, I would be willing to input the data

Lee: Thank you, that will come in handy. It makes it redundant but it might really come in handy. If there is a situation where the cell phone access is down, then it would be great. I am really concerned with earthquakes, not fire, since all the power could go down.

Michele: How can we support you to get our own Sprint Phone at NHHS?

Lee: Got a call from Sharon Curry and that was nice that they reinforced that we needed an Emergency Preparedness Plan which needs to be updated.

Leonard: Is there a committee?

Lee: We are too small really to have a committee, but we do need to do something right away and not put it off any longer. This disaster really pushed me to get it done now.

Phyllis: Do we keep earthquake supplies?

Lee: Yes, of course. But in the past the ZMPC paid for it all, not that that makes any sense. But it is all dated and was purchased by the ZMPC. Another example of a health and safety issue is our food preparation area. We would get an F in a heartbeat. NHHS suggests that we use our Block Grant money, but we want to use that for educational stuff, not facilities. My faculty want “toys” and do not want to spend that money on a retreat.

Back to narrative: All the kids were bused to the new East Valley High School. It was great since they are at less than 50% student capacity, and there are lots of empty classrooms. Tomorrow the students will go to NHHS until the Zoo Campus is opened again. I was impressed with the quality of the instructional programs our faculty put together “on the fly” so to speak. All teachers were teaching when I went there to check up on them.

Leonard: Where will the kids be on Friday?

Lee: I don't know. Maybe I will know by 1pm tomorrow.

What else?

Jessica: Are the AP's still going to go on?

Lee: Yes, beginning at 7:45 am tomorrow and they will be held at Pickwick or NHHS.

Lee: “My mom doesn't want me to be here today.” We don't want to hear that – all kids need to attend school whether they are at NHHS or East Valley High School. I was very impressed with how well our students behaved yesterday in their “adopted” school.

Here is a contentious issue:

There will be not room for 11th graders to take Spanish III at the Zoo or NHHS. They can take it at the community college instead. This is because the students have to take Animal Studies and Biology, and we can't have the 11th graders abandoning the Zoo Magnet to take Spanish. If you are in sports or band then they will be able to take AP Calculus here at NHHS during 5th and 6^h period, or at the Zoo 6th period.

Basically, one of problems is that the present 10th class got themselves so far ahead in math that they have conflicting classes with the 11th graders.

We could put off Animal Studies, which is the core course in 11th grade, and postpone it until 12th grade, but this doesn't not work. We are trying to offer Zoology AB, with one semester focusing on vertebrate zoology, and getting honors credit the the UC's. We will be copying LACES Zoology course, and keeping the substance of Animal Studies in the first semester. It probably won't be ready until 2008 if I can get downtown (LAUSD) to accept the syllabus from LACES.

This might be problem for 11th graders who have to take Spanish at a community college. But we don't want to give up a Science elective for Spanish, do we?

Parent: Ms. Rojas has already set the schedule for next year – will it change now?

Lee: There may be some will changes, but we will review everything again.

Parent: Will Animal Husbandry happen on schedule?

Lee: Yes, along with Economics, Government and English for 12th graders only.

Parent: Why can't we do both? Offer Spanish 3 during the summer along with Italian?

Lee: That is a good idea. Let's use the influence the ZMPC has to get the NHHS administration to offer it during the summer along with Italian. Parents' input is always more effective in getting things done.

Ms. Rojas: There has to be a class of at least 15 students for LAValley College to offer Spanish 3.

Parent: Is the matrix ready?

Lee: No not yet, they want to see our schedule first.

Marcia: An update on the Governing Council. We need to have an official representative on the governing council, so I am getting myself on it. The main issues have been between UTLA Chair and the Principal Dr. Delling. Someone fabulous will be taking over as the new Chair and it will bring good things. NHHS is going to be broken up into small learning communities, and they are going back to a traditional calendar. The bell will start at 8am and the school day is over at 3:10pm. That is 377 min of instruction/day. There was a question about the "silent reading time" at NHHS – how it is used or not used, etc. and there was fierce fighting about it. Should they even keep it or roll over the minutes into instructional time?

Classes have now been shrunk to 52 min periods, which is really hard on the science teachers. Block Scheduling was discussed and it was noted how wonderful it worked at the Zoo Magnet.

We were accredited by WASC (Western Association of Schools and Colleges, which is the sole accrediting agency for the western US) at midyear and the report was "stellar." The WASC committee was impressed. I have a copy of their report. They went to our classes at the Zoo and met with parents and students. They talked about how our community is more diverse and successful in their report.

Linda: Please sign up for escrip at VONS - it is really a money maker. Also sign up at Ralphs.com and use your Ralphs card as a percentage goes to us.

Lee: Mr. Fernandez who works at IBM and is a Zoo parent told me that IBM matches up to \$5,000 in grants if you are interested. They might match a ZMPC donation of \$5,000.

Linda: Website development: Cheryllyn has done a fabulous job with the graphic design for the site, and Leonard has gotten it up and running but we really need volunteers to write content and maintain it. Lee and I together wrote the home page. Jessica wrote the Zoo Crew page, but we need parents to write about various topics. Mr. Borden gave his students an assignment to write a newspaper article about the Zoo Magnet.

Leonard: Student-written stuff is good, but parents need to write too.

Linda: We need a sports writer and other writers, like a student section. Teachers can post homework assignments, or curriculum.

Nora: Any materials for the school newspaper should be put on our website. Any activity should be covered by a student and put on our website.

Linda: Just send it via email to Leonard.

Leonard: Actually, I prefer a pdf

Lee: No, not a pdf because I can't edit a pdf. Just send it to me first in Word, for editing, and then give it to Leonard in pdf form for posting on the site.

Linda: The Tree Ceremony was lovely. Attendees included the Chief park ranger Mr. Torres, Tom LaBonge City Councilman, John Lewis head of the LA Zoo, a representative from the Autry, and Sharon Curry from the LAUSD Office of Integration. We planted 10 trees, and one huge one donated by Deb Brown and husband.

Andrew: One concern is that fire is now a possibility, especially from people smoking while waiting to board the bus to the Observatory. I suggest an automated sprinkler system. The system is right there and ready to hook up. It takes about 2 hrs to install a drip system. But asphalt needs to be cut and the pipe system put down.

Linda: How much money do you think it would cost?

Andrew: \$2,000 maybe?

Linda: You need to get me a budget.

Lee: Mr. Winnie and I talked curriculum all the way to Mammoth

Linda: Can you install it yourselves?

Andrew: Yes. It would be better to start it this summer and do the irrigation system so it can be turned on and off automatically. Mr. Owsley, I and another kid could do it easily.

COUNSELOR 'S REPORT

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

Not in attendance

OLD BUSINESS

Linda: An update on Dr. Delling - I don't know what is up, but all the Zoo Magnet parents have shown lots of support for him. The students organized a march in support of him. And he might get in trouble for this. There were a few faculty malcontents who were active in the union, but they have now been voted out and there are new representatives on campus now. It caused lots of adversity on campus and one of its effects was to unify the teachers and students together in support of Dr. Delling. He is creating these small learning communities at NHHS. And we need the continuity, so we still need you to write to David Brewer (LAUSD Superintendent) about how we need Dr. Delling to stay here.

Lee: The most experienced administrator now is Stephen Foster who has only been an assistant principal for 3 yrs. There is a district policy that administrators must move after 5 years in one place. This is so they can't establish a constituency and will be beholden to the administration of District 2.

Cheryl: The mismanagement of LAUSD has been a well-known thing.

Marcia: Things look maybe a little bit better, so he might stay. But the issue is multileveled. The president of the HGM Parents Association has been very active in meeting with Jim Morris to keep Dr. Delling. Superintendent Brewer needs to be aware of the support of the parents. Morris just wants to move him since that is the policy and Dr. Delling has been here for 5 yrs.

David.brewer@lasud.net Please write him.

NEW BUSINESS

Linda: We had to postpone interviews for the replacement of our Chemistry teacher, due to the fire. We have three very good candidates.

The Teacher Appreciation lunch – we need a date from Lee when kids are “occupied”

Parent: How much will it cost the ZMPC?

Nancy: I think under \$300. We will have it catered from Mambo's again.

Linda: ZMPC elections – we need three officers, a President, a Secretary and a Treasurer, plus a board of parents from each grade. I am looking for nominations for classroom representatives. We will be meeting during the summer, because we are planning a silent auction for the holidays, plus we will also be working on a building a new school, a green school with a grass roof, that is totally wired. Sharon Curry is supportive but we need a grant. We will have to define our mission statement.

Parent: Will the new school be on the same site we are on?

Linda: Yes. We can use grant money to hire an architect with experience in designing green schools such as Ohlone College up north, and Pitzer College in Claremont. I know it will not happen in a year, but we need people to carry this forward. We will need to

organize an executive advisory committee, with people on it like Wendy Gruel, Tom LaBonge, John Lewis, etc. The school should have a beautiful physical presence and have its own administration on campus, not just a Coordinator, but someone who is paid to be an administrator. We will also need to get at least 450 students to enroll, but this should be easy as we have a waiting list of over 200 students now.

Last semester, we sent Robin to a grant writing workshop to learn how to write grants. Hi Tech High School is a school that was built entirely with grant money. Their website lists all the companies that gave them money, so all we need to do is to research and submit the grants starting with those companies.

Last item: Temporary buildings. If we could get some more buildings, we could teach drama (Borden), French(Gottlieb), track and PE (Winnie and Trammel).

Lee: There is a meeting with Kiersten Perez of the Zoo Education Department next week, and I am going to try to figure out how we offended the powers that be and work on repairing and strengthening that relationship

Cheryl: How about using the Autry for drama?

Lee: We need to build our relationship with Faith _ of the Autry still. They are not open on Mondays so we can't use their site then and they don't open till 10am, but they want to work with us.

Cheryl: There is a fabulous art show at the Getty. They will send us buses and bring our students there. Can I call them?

Lee: I need to ask Borden about the doing the drama class at the Autry. I also need him to teach the classes he is teaching first, so it might be tight.

Andrew: The guy who donated the trees to us up on Commonwealth Avenue in Los Feliz lost half his nursery in the fire. Can the students maybe get together and help him clean up his place and maybe build some boxes for the plants?

Everyone: Yes, absolutely, let's do something for him –it is part of our community service after all, and he has done a lot for us.

This just in: Our Assistant Principal, Stephan Foster, has managed to convince the administration to offer Spanish III this summer at NHHS. We will need a minimum enrollment of 30 students for the class to run. Please let Ms. Rojas know ASAP if your student is interested in signing up for this class.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday May 19, 9:00am - noon - New Student Registration at the Zoo Magnet Campus. We need volunteer parents and students to help answer questions. We also need donations of food and drinks so that we can raise some money for our campus. Suggestions: water, cookies, apple juice, orange juice, bagels, cream cheese, donuts, etc.

Tuesday May 22, 6:30 - 8:00pm - Princeton Review Guest Speaker
North Hollywood High School Auditorium

Thursday May 24, 8am - noon - AP English Language Test at NHHS. (The test date was changed from May 16).

Sunday June 10, 1:00 - 5:00pm - Zoo Magnet Family and Staff Picnic.

Everyone is invited to join us in Griffith Park (location to be announced) for an end of the year picnic. The students will be challenging the teachers and parents to some sporting events! This will be a POT LUCK. So bring your favorite picnic items to share with friends and family.

W June 13, 6:30PM - Next ZMPC meeting at the Zoo Magnet campus.

Summer Programs for 7th-12th Graders!

These high school-level courses focus on academic achievement and enrichment. Subject areas include academic skill building; preparation for the SAT; English; Math; College Essay Writing; Latin; Law and Justice; Psychology; and other popular topics. The Summer Programs are a great way to get a taste of college life as you advance your own personal academic progress. Classes begin June 25th on the UCLA campus. For any questions or to schedule a counseling appointment please call Alexis P. Markowitz at 310) 206-7229 or email amarkowi@uclaextension.edu.