

Harry Dewey

Fundamental Elementary

PFO Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: 2-10-25

Attendees: Rosie Kurtyka, Danielle Baute, Sadie Calderon, Megan Leschly (Dewey Teacher Rep.), Stefanie Vrapì, Matteo Vrapì, Stephanie Easton, Brian Spiker, Claire Thompson, Crystal Ruiz, Danielle Bowen, Ali Houting, Trisha Eastman, Lucy Eastman, Sabrina Parsley, Lilia Nardozi

Meeting called to order at: 6:05

Prior meeting minutes – 01/13/2025 meeting minutes reviewed (minutes recorded by Danielle Baute, Membership Coordinator)

1st Motion to approve minutes: Stephanie Easton

2nd Motion to approve: Lilia Nardozi

01/13/2025 PFO meeting minutes approved.

Treasury Report: Brian Spiker, Treasurer

Account balances reported from statement dates 01/01/2025 to 01/31/2025

Checking Account

Beginning Balance: \$30,735.21

Total Deposits: \$545.67

- 1/2/25 Wix.com \$327.66
- 1/2/25 Wix.com \$16.26
- 1/13/25 See's Candy Fundraiser \$201.75

Total Checks Paid: \$1,403.73

- ASD Mad Science \$116
- DHH and Kinder On Site Trip \$ 750.00
- Santa's Night Reimb. \$ 181.85
- Taxes \$51.80
- Kylie Gallington-Fish \$25.00
- Fall Festival Reimb. \$34.51
- Crab Fest Postage \$244.57

Other Withdrawals: -\$0

Ending Balance: \$29,877.15

Savings Account

Beginning Balance: \$32,348.06

Deposits and Additions: \$.27 Interest

Withdrawals if any: \$0

Ending Balance: \$32,348.33

1st Motion to approve: Lillia Nardozzi

2nd Motion to approve: Stephanie Easton

Treasury report approved

Scrip Treasury Report – Lilia Nardozzi, Scrip Treasurer

Balances reported from 01/01/2025 to 01/31/2025

Beginning Balance: \$25,631.00

Total Deposits: \$20.60

Total Withdrawals: \$3,087.03

- 01/21 Amazon Cards
- 01/31 Order

Total Fees: \$0

Total Disbursements: \$0

Ending Balance: \$22,564.57

Total Monies: \$22,564.57

Total Monies allocated (summer/teacher accts): (\$7,834.33)

Total Monies un-allocated: \$14,730.24

1st Motion to Approve: Stephanie Easton

2nd Motion to Approve: Danielle Baute

Scrip Treasury Report Approved

Principal Comments: Sabrina Parsley, School Principal

New Chromebooks

- Sabrina has requested that we explore the use of PFO funds to purchase a Chromebook cart for the school. One Chromebook cart plus the charger runs \$13,000 – \$14,000.
- We have carts for all classes except for 1st grade and below.
- ASD also doesn't have their own Chromebooks.
- One cart per class at 36 Chromebooks.
- Matteo Vrapic wanted to let everyone know that the Chromebooks in his class (Mr. Hann) are not charging very well and there is not enough Chromebooks for the class.

Thought Exchange Around Cell Phone Policy

- Sabrina encouraged parents to put our feedback in on what the policy should be. The feedback request was emailed out by the district this evening, 2/10.
- The survey came at the district level.

State Testing

- Will start after President's Week
- 5th Grade students will start their science testing a little earlier than the rest of the school (early April) due to their 5th grade camp field trip.
- The rest of the school will start State Testing the week after Spring Break.
- The test is just one measure, but a very important one.

Summer School will be offered again

- June 23rd – July 18
- 8:30 – 12:30
- Sabrina sought feedback from the group on the length of the program. Many of the working moms in the meeting appreciated the duration of this summer's program as opposed to the two-week program in prior years.

Jog-a-Thon

- Mr. Deal has decided to use Apex Leadership Company for the Jog-a-Thon moving forward.
- Apex leadership is an online fundraising platform so that everything can be done electronically.

Second Family Night – May 22nd

- Family Night took the place of the standard Open House.
- Principal Parsley opened up this topic because she wanted to seek feedback from the group regarding sticking to the family nights vs standard Open House format.
- Trying to decide on the theme
 - It will be either Arts Based or Family Game Night
- We are looking for family feedback on the game night vs Open House type of event. Open House allows families to see the finished product of a year's worth of work.
- The Wax Museum is a hugely missed event at the school that took place during Open House. The Wax Museum was a crowd draw, not just for the participating 5th graders and their families, but for the entire school. The event was always a draw at open house and unfortunately it went away after COVID.

- Volunteer Coordinator, Danielle Bowen, is more than happy to put together teen volunteer support for the evening if that is needed. Sabrina agreed to follow up with Danielle should teen volunteers be needed.
- For the Family Game Night, we can ask for Parent Participation to get more hours and parent involvement.

Community Service Outreach Opportunities:

- Do we have any opportunities for Community Service work for sports teams from other schools?
- Claire Thompson asked this question because her son's baseball team is required to complete community service hours throughout their season. Claire feels it would be great to do the community service at area schools.

Ways & Means – Claire Thompson on Behalf of Bre Sullivan

- See's Candy March 3rd – April 4th
- Almost 1,000 Kindness Grams were sold. Help is needed on Wednesday night to attach the notes to send them out. The grams will be delivered on Friday.
- Waterfly Fundraiser Update:
 - We had nine people sign up for the Waterfly Membership – seven on them were board members.
 - Waterfly sent Dewey a \$500 check
 - \$250, \$150, \$50 allocation for the top classes
 - Hann will receive \$250
 - Novik will receive \$150
 - Willett/Gallington \$25 each
 - We will reach out to the teachers to let them know that they will get the money towards a class party or field trips

Teacher Requests – Megan Leschly DHH Teacher

- Megan Leschly had a provided ESL interpreter for her.
- She thanked the PFO for donating the \$100 gift cards.
- She stated that the DHH/ASD department is really looking forward to the new Dewey shirts. It's nice to include the DHH and ASD class so she was wondering if we could represent our whole school in that way.
 - ASD would like to have the puzzle pieces included in the design of the shirts and the Dewey swag.
 - Claire will run the idea by the merch people and will run the design by the DHH/ASD teachers for input.
- She is also involved with the Dewey Student Government, and she stated that the students are really motivated to help out. The students would like to do things like delivering the cookie grams or putting them together. Claire let her know that she will have Bre follow up with her about ways Student Government can help out.

- Ms. Strong:
 - Requesting PFO purchase four used station art easels. \$274.69.
 - Unanimous approval of the used art easels.
 - Brian will issue a check today to Ms. Strong.
 - She's already purchased drying racks for her art.
- Lucy Eastman – 6th grade student
 - Wanted to follow up about the tiles in the bathroom for beautification of the bathroom because the bathrooms are really dull and the 6th grade class would like to brighten them up.
- Dewey Bricks
 - Purchase of Dewey bricks have been requested multiple times but we do not have a person to take the lead on this.
 - If we have a lead, the role entails the purchase of the bricks as well as coordinating the installation with Chad. Bricks are located in the dirt on the walking path or entrance area of the school. They are primarily purchased by Dewey alumni or promoting 6th graders as a memento.

New Business:

Crab Feed – Claire Thompson

- A decision was made at the last meeting to cancel the Crab Feed. Claire asked the group for feedback about what they had heard, if anything.
- Claire heard various feedback from other adults about “how it’s a bummer it was canceled.” It was an opportunity for PFO to drive home the message of why it was canceled due to lack of parent involvement.
- Lucy Eastman, 6th Grade Student, voiced her disappointment about not being able to participate in Principle for a Day or Teacher for a Day type of prizes that are raffled off at the crab feed. Her feedback shows the loss that happens when things like the Crab Feed is cancelled due to lack of involvement.
- Danielle Bowen volunteered to look into an adults-only fundraiser party.
- Venues were floated around such as Glen Oaks on a Sunday Night or Divided Sky
- Danielle Baute suggests that we still do a raffle of some type so that we can fundraise via raffle ticket sales.
- Danielle Bowen received 11 donations so far for the Dewey Crab Feed based on the donation request letters already sent out.
- Laughs Unlimited said we can use their venue for a fundraising event in the future.
- Lucy Eastman states that 6th graders would like to help with events in any way they can.
- Sabrina was at a principal’s meeting last week for an Orangevale school and they do an auction event at their Spring Open House event. They get a very high turn out that way as the parents are already on hand and highly invested. No overhead costs for an event like that. That event raises on average of \$20,000.
- Movement Brewery was also floated as a great fundraiser spot.

Meeting Agenda Updates:

- Every person who is in charge of something on the PFO will be asked to provide an update every month at the meetings moving forward.
- For example, the Hospitality Chair, Sadie Calderon, will provide a monthly update on what she's working on, if anything. Updates will be provided by every coordinator and board member at each monthly meeting.

Disconnect From Parents About PFO Updates/Info

- Room Reps to close the gap about what is being discussed in the meeting and then get it out to the parents. Room Rep Coordinators will send an email with notes from the PFO meeting out to all the Room Reps to send to the parents.
- Last Tiger Tale had 614 views.
- We need to decide if we have a Hybrid meeting which consists of a Zoom element and an in-person element.

Mission Oaks PTA Shadowing – Brian Spiker

- Brian Spiker, Board Treasurer, attended the Mission Oaks PTA meeting last week that was done via Zoom.
- Brian spoke very positively about the meeting and how it was organized and managed. He sees many things that we can replicate for our meetings in the future.
- Brian went through several highlights he noticed:
 - The meeting was fully on Zoom during the one he attended, but most meetings are a hybrid model.
 - They do monthly family nights, such as bingo night, game night, dance party, etc.
 - They have a historian that tracks all the volunteer hours and logs them. Last month they had 400+ volunteer hours just for the month.
 - They had an "author" day.
 - They were able to get the author of Ivy and Bean who lives in Berkley to speak at the school. \$650 for food and travel.
 - This shows that the PFO is highly invested in providing highly immersive opportunities for their students. Brian would like the PFO to do more of this for Dewey.
- They have a nominations committee that is in charge of nominating people in charge of events, fundraising, etc.
- They use moneyminder to check/monitor expenses.
- \$40,000 goal to raise for this year's auction. That goal was made at the beginning of the year so everyone involved in the event knows what they are working toward.
- Everything with the auction is electronic. You can also just donate money. Auction is done every two years.
- This PFO has also had issues with volunteers but they do get a lot of financial support from the parents. The auction is not a crab feed but a themed dinner. This year's theme is Mardi Gras.
- Mission Oaks is an "Open School" so the format of the school is a little different.

Student Government Partnership:

- Stephanie Easton has been partnering with the Student Government program to push out information about what we're doing so the students can help communicate it.

- The most recent partnership was about Kindness Grams. Stephanie sent Student Government information ahead of time, so they made posters to promote the sales of the grams and then went class-to-class to promote the grams.

Role Documenting:

- Danielle Bowen would like to document her role and what she has done as a Volunteer Coordinator. She would like to do it electronically so that the next person that comes in can have a seamless experience.
 - Danielle stated that it would have been very helpful to have at least a starting point for her in her role this year.
 - Perhaps if things were listed out more clearly for events, we would have had more volunteers to sign up for things piece by piece.
- Danielle Baute, Membership Coordinator, indicated that she has started documenting her role as well with information about how to change the website, etc.
- A suggestion is to do a working session to start the documentation process.
 - A question is, does this need to be a “board only meeting”
 - By the next meeting we need to create a document listing who, what, when, where
 - We do have a starting place for positions in the bylaws but they are very general.

Crocker Art Arc

- They are completely booked for the spring
- We are on the wait list for next year. We are still a go if we can nail down a date for next year.

Teacher Appreciation Week

- Teacher Appreciation week was briefly discussed that this meeting to put the week on our radar.
- We need to start planning the week.
- The week is May 5 through May 9
 - We need the help of the room rep for the Door Décor, etc.
 - We'll need to plan the spirit days and nail down the details.
- Look for opportunities for student government to get involved with the extra doors décor such as Mr. Deal, DC, etc.

PFO Elections

- The beginning of March/Early April is when the PFO elections for next year will take place.
- Board gets determined first and then the committee positions get a nomination and/or vote if there is more than one.

After-School Enrichment Activities

- Sabrina is looking at maybe having another drama session, chess and art session this year.
- Requirements for an after-school activity are:

- They have to be employees of the district or they have to provide insurance and a service agreement.
- Staff member has to be present.
- Mrs. Shook is the coordinator for the before and after school programs.

Raise Right

- This is a great way to advertise that the money goes to a specific class.
- Recommend an in-person orientation session using the new system.
- There is a lot of feedback regarding grade-level fundraisers, and it being evenly distributed no matter the participation. With Raise Right you can fundraise for each class.
- Provide specific examples of how the money is being used.

Meeting adjourned at: 7:58 pm