

**ZOO MAGNET  
NORTH HOLLYWOOD HIGH SCHOOL**

•  
PARENT COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
13 March 2007

**WELCOME**

Linda Hurevitz, President  
W 818.500.4800 H 818.769.9404 [vitzz@earthlink.net](mailto:vitzz@earthlink.net)  
Welcome

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Penelope Jones, Secretary  
H 323.221.4097 [penelope@usc.edu](mailto:penelope@usc.edu)  
The previous minutes were reviewed and approved.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Michele Wolfe, Treasurer  
H 818.509.0300 [rleewolf@earthlink.net](mailto:rleewolf@earthlink.net)  
The following was expensed in the last two months:  
We paid parent Robin Guzman for the grantwriting workshop she took on our behalf;  
We paid for water for the teachers;  
We paid for 11 textbooks for Mr. Trammel's Anthropology class.  
We now have a total of \$8,954.95 in the ZMPC account.

**ZOO CREW/ZOO SENIOR REPORT**

Note change in officers:  
Jessica Jedvaj, new President  
C 818.448.4101 H 818.986.3026

Earth Day will be Friday, April 20, and we already have a number of "earthwatch" organizations that are participating. For next year, we were thinking about doing a service day instead of a day of lectures and presentations. That way the student could learn about volunteer activities, community service, teen programs, etc.

Parent: Is the LA River Conservancy involved?

J: Yes!

Parent: How do the kids get credit for community service?

J: Angie in the office keeps the students' records so ask her if you need to reference the list.

The Spring Dance will be in May or June. We are in need of a theme and a date for the event. We really needed another BBQ for the school because the one we had was a mess. We researched them and purchased one with monies from the Sugar Shack, but we are looking for \$300 in matching money from the Parents' Council to purchase another one, since one is just not enough to serve the students in the short time we have for lunch. We would also like your help in painting the doors to the classrooms in animal prints. We would need paint and supplies. The students would do the labor.

Parent: Have you thought about using giant vinyl stickers on the doors instead of painting them, maybe?

J: No, the students want to paint it themselves. We just need paint and supplies and pizza.

Parent: When are the CSF applications due? What are the deadlines?

J: Michelle Yeung is the president of the campus CSF, so she can let you know via email.

#### ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Stephen Foster W 818.769.8510 [sfost1@lausd.k12.ca.us](mailto:sfost1@lausd.k12.ca.us)  
Not in attendance

#### COORDINATORS 'S REPORT

Lee McManus [mcgroovy@earthlink.net](mailto:mcgroovy@earthlink.net) W 323.660.0165

There are three new Assistant Principals at NHHS since the fall semester. Mr. Gonzalez, Mr. Rodriguez and Ms. Gardea, who many of you know from Reed MS. Mr. Gonzalez will be taking Mr. Foster's place in heading up Saturday School; Ms. Gardea and Mr. Rodriguez will take on a variety of roles.

Parent: Can we have Ms. Gardea as the Zoo's new AP instead of Mr. Foster?

Lee: That would be up to Mr. Foster, Ms. Gardea, and Dr. Delling. I know many of you know and like Ms. Gardea, but I would not like to impune Mr. Foster, or have anyone imagine any dissatisfaction with his service. He has not yet had much of a chance to establish a relationship with the Zoo Magnet community.

Parent: Who is the Principal of NHHS now that Dr. Delling is leaving?

Lee: Dr. Delling is our principal. I know he interviewed for the position of principal at Walter Reed, but he also implied that he would like to remain at NH. It is hard to know how this will play out because we don't know the district politics involved. But as for Dr. Delling, there is very small but vocal cabal within faculty at NHHS that is seeking Dr. Delling's removal. These few people have made some unsubstantiated charges against Mr. Delling, but, all charges must be investigated by the Inspector General of LA Unified, and a formal investigation is a rather long and tiresome process. It has been frustrating for Dr. Delling. He has not been receiving much support from his director and he feels unsure of his future at NH. I do not think any big move will be made until July 1.

The transition to a traditional calendar appears to be a *fait accompli* that we will be on traditional calendar starting July. We will have 180 days of instruction. We start around September 5, and get a three-week break for winter holidays and return in January for finals, plus a one-week break in the spring around Easter/Passover. There will be three full months of summer that will start in 2008.

What this means for us is a loss of winter inter-sessions; moreover, we lose funding for additional inter-sessions when we leave year-round school status. In the long run, the negative impact of losing winter intersession will be more than compensated by the benefit of having everyone on the same schedule. But, students will no longer have the opportunity to take courses mid-winter at community colleges—except after school. Students can still take day courses at community colleges in summer.

**Parents of Juniors!** Please make sure your kids have all their high school graduation requirements accounted for, since they won't have intersession to make up needed courses and credits next year. Remember that NHHS summer school is for remedial coursework only. Parents can also call counselor Syed Hussain at Valley College, who is a great resource for assisting our students take classes there. [hussaisk@lavc.edu/818.947.2657](mailto:hussaisk@lavc.edu/818.947.2657)

Last year I worked closely with Michelle Mills, the education curator for the LA Zoo to develop a new and improved curriculum for Animal Husbandry. The course has been very popular with

the students. As a consequence we placed 14 students with keepers at the Zoo last semester. More keepers are interested and we have had lots of positive feedback . Last November we began planning for the spring and Michelle and Duffy Wade felt that admissions to program should be made more rigorous, by insisting on a more detailed essay and an interview process held in the month of January. I suggested that January interviews were a problem, that our students were gone in January, but I didn't fight it too hard, hoping to later convince them to at least drop the idea of January interviews. I failed to communicate with them in the last weeks of fall semester and hoped the intersession interviews would go away. It didn't go away. What happened was they got frustrated and perhaps a bit angry with me. When school started, they summarily cancelled Animal Husbandry for the spring semester. They currently have no formal curricular contact with us. This is unfortunate to say the least. We had planned to work toward getting a larger number of students involved in something at the Zoo, developing an authentic "Zoo school."

Right now the Education department at the Zoo is reluctant to talk with me. I went to John Lewis about it and he understands my position, and I expect him to support whatever action is needed to get Animal Husbandry back on track for this semester. I hope we are successful and, given that Dr. Lewis' background is in education, I am confident it will happen.

Parent: Can we do anything to help the situation?

Linda: Wendy has expressed interest in being a parent liaison with the LA Zoo. If we don't get a response from John Lewis then we should make direct contact with him ourselves and do what we can to make him look good. Throw ourselves at his mercy. Re-establishing the relationship is very important. We can make Councilman Tom LaBonge look good too, which is what we have been doing. This is very important. We must make it clear to them that we are here for them and we are voters and we will do whatever they want us to do. In return, we want a relationship with them and for our kids to work at the Zoo.

Lee: John has always said that he wants us to be an integral part of the Zoo. He has even offered to give up part of the parking lot, allowing us to expand our enrollment to 500 students. Although this was before the Observatory enlisted the same area for their shuttle buses. Even more exciting was the meeting in spring with Kirsten Perez, the Director of Education at Zoo. She is from the Santa Barbara Zoo, where kids were always involved in activities at the Zoo. So she is on our side too. She wants more kids at the Zoo and embraced the idea of having our students in particular on the Zoo grounds on a daily basis.

#### **COUNSELOR 'S REPORT**

Alicia Rojas [aer9201@lausd.k12.ca.us](mailto:aer9201@lausd.k12.ca.us) W 323.660.0165

Not in attendance, but Lee reports:

The California Exit Exam for all 10<sup>th</sup> graders is given at NHHS on March 20-21.

On April 23-25 there will be some jockeying with the bell schedule because of C track exams, again at NHHS.

Open House at NHHS is on TH March 29 5-7pm. If your kids have classes at NHHS it is a good time to meet the teachers then.

The Zoo Magnet Open House will be W April 4, 6-8pm at the Zoo campus. The ZMPC will meet shortly at 8pm following Open House.

The deadline for AP sign-ups is Friday, but I found out that this deadline is one mandated by the NH College Counselor; the final college board deadline (albeit with late fees is actually April 20.) Despite the NHHS deadline there should still be enough time for your kids to register for their AP tests. See Ms. Rojas.

There will be no further program changes without Mr. Delling's approval after Friday.

Progress Reports will come out on April 6.

Parent: When is the scheduling done for fall?

Lee: Either April or early May and Ms. Turner has offered to consider our scheduling needs first, and work the NHHS schedule with the needs of Zoo students in mind. With the traditional calendar class scheduling will be easier because there will be more course selections for the students.

Parent: How is Zoology with Ms. Gilan?

Lee: I just ordered \$4,500 worth of lab supplies, so it seems to be going well

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

Linda: How is the Mask and Tiles project coming?

Cherilyn: They are all done. I need to call Maris Bedoyan and find out where they are. The masks will go on the fence. I am not sure how the tiles will be mounted, either directly onto the stucco wall, or on a removable wall maybe? We will ask for her recommendations. The molds are done and they are ready to go. One has been done for Ralph Gentile, former ZMPC president.

Marcia: Escript. I will have a report for you next meeting.

Linda: Schoolpop.com is an internet site that allows parents to purchase from a slew of companies, and each company gives back a portion of the sale. The URL is Schoolpop.com. Please visit and click on Zoo Magnet.

#### **Spanish Class Issue**

Marcia: How much Spanish is actually offered to our students? What is available? I know two years for sure but is a third year an option?

Lee: It is really hard to squeeze in electives in the junior and senior years unless the student is going to NHHS for band or sports.

Marcia: The reason I ask is because competitive colleges require three years of foreign language, so I think we need to offer Spanish here at the Zoo.

Lee: For Ms. Giron to teach Spanish here, she would have to be competent in three different areas, such as Spanish, history and science, because that is NHHS's rule, so this would not work. We have 10 teachers and only 9 classrooms, so we would have no where to put her. We would need another classroom and more students, and she would have to teach more than just Spanish. That is just the way it is.

Can I just say something about Spanish anyway? Spanish is just memorization and students can do well just by doing flash cards. Spanish will never again be taught here at the Zoo campus.

Linda: UTLA should be concerned that there is overcrowded Spanish classes at NHHS though.

Leonard Daly, Zoo website developer:

I must thank Jessica for outdoing all the adults in getting some content to me about the Zoo Crew for the website. I still need some words from Lee, Linda, and anyone else who wants to write something for the site. Send your text to me at [leonard.daly@realism.com](mailto:leonard.daly@realism.com). We are making progress but still need content for the various pages. Please contribute. Visit <http://zoo.dalyrealism.com> to see what will be coming up on the web.

Nora: The Princeton Review is offering free SAT and SATII's this weekend. They will be unreported so no stress involved. It is great for practicing. Just visit their website at [princetonreview.com](http://princetonreview.com) for locations and times.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Linda: Instead of a Pancake Breakfast we would like to have a school-wide picnic on Sunday June 10. I was thinking of having some sporting events, such as the parents/teachers vs. students? Is anyone in favor? Who is willing to coordinate these events?

Tiles: Could someone coordinate the fundraising for the tiles? To keep track of how much money we collect from each family for the tiles? Michelle volunteers.

Nora: What if parent donates their time? Is there a way to count some of that toward a tile instead of just how much money they donate? No, let's keep it as a monetary donation only.

Linda: I propose getting an accountant, either an EA or CPA so we can establish the ZMPC as a non-profit and get our rightful tax refunds. Also maybe we should consult a non-profit tax attorney to make sure we are following the law. We are obligated to file a 501C3 even though we never have made more than \$25,000 during the year. We still need to file with the IRS to retain our non-profit status.

Jessica: I have an idea: we could ask the (alums) Katz twins' mom, who is an EA. I would be happy to contact her, I am sure she will help us.

Linda: We have never filed tax returns and I think to keep our non-profit status we need to do it.

Lee: I would like to propose giving \$90/yr to Mr. Owsley to pay for the web hosting. All in favor? Ayes all around.

Linda: One last thing: Could we authorize say 10 monetary scholarships for graduating seniors, based on teacher recommendations, gpa, and essays?

Lee: Long ago one of the teachers who founded the Zoo Seniors gave monetary scholarships from Sugar Shack proceeds, but I noticed that they always tended to go to the same students. I suspected it might have even been illegal at the time. Anyway, instead of money, I suggest that you see if you can get organizations, companies and businesses to donate either monetary or in-kind scholarships to the students.

Bruce: Jeannie Barton asked me to ask Cherilyn about getting a marketer for the Zoo Magnet. For example, putting one of our parents like Nora on a retainer to act as a publicist for our school? We will need to be careful about "inurement", which is when a board member profits from a parent council.

Lee: I would like to promote ourselves in the media more, like Earth Day activities, etc. We need to get our name out there any way we can.

Also, new subject: we are not an ethnically diverse parent council. We need to find a way to reach out to communities that are not represented here. Let's think of some ideas to include the Latino communities from East Los Angeles, San Fernando Valley, and South Central Los Angeles for instance.

Marcia: We could invite them to the picnics and stuff. But some families do not have computers or email.

Lee: I would like to see you form a committee to explore this issue.

Linda: All those in favor of giving the Zoo Crew \$300 to purchase another BBQ say aye: Ayes all around.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Next meeting: W April 4, 8-9pm after the Zoo Magnet Open House.