

Whitney Ave Elementary Parent Teacher Organization Meeting
Thursday March 19, 2026 at 4:00-5:00 P.M. Room D6

Next meeting details: Monday April 13, 2026 at 2:30-3:30 P.M. Room D6 or online

In Attendance: Suha Salman (interpreter), Sofia Andreichenko (interpreter), Yousuf Javid (interpreter), Hazur Sanchez Ruiz (interpreter), Julie Sagara (teacher), Chelsea Spier (parent), Brian Fohl (parent/staff), Nicole Santillan (parent) Mary Cardoso (interim principal), Luis Cruz Solache (FACE team)

Agenda (notes shown in purple, action items highlighted in Blue)

1. **Welcome and introductions** (5 minutes)
2. **Request from PBIS committee for PTO to help provide granola bars for teachers to hand out to kids that need snacks.** (5 minutes)
 - Everyone is supportive of this. Start with a couple of Costco boxes.
3. **Whitney Ave Elementary Family Cookbook** (5 minutes)
 - Update on number of submissions so far. (13 submissions as of the meeting).
 - The deadline will be extended by one more month.
 - Julie got one more paper copy submitted. 3 other art submissions turned in to the office
 - Chelsea will make a new flyer with contest for the cover to be distributed next week.
4. **Revitalizing the campus garden** (10 minutes)
 - Sacramento Perennial Plant Club grant awarded \$1200 to add fruit trees, grapes, perennial herbs and improve irrigation. Evelyn Margolin will be our mentor.
 - Paint and art supplies ordered through prop 28 funds for beautification of the garden
 - Parent/teacher garden workday(s). Think about what days/times would work best. Tasks could include mowing, adding cardboard and/or weed fabric and mulch to area outside of garden beds, painting base layer on garden beds, adding additional drip lines, digging holes for new trees/grapes, adding trellising for grapes.
 - Classes started visiting the garden Friday's in March. We are looking for more volunteers for this.
 - Bridges is interested in visiting the garden over the summer and has an enrichment budget that might be able to help with garden supplies.

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- Worm compost might be an idea for the San Juan education foundation's greening grant, due April 1st. We may apply, but may not depending on time to put the application together.
 - Volunteer day in the garden will be scheduled for April 15th 8 -11am. Luis will look into having others join like Kiwanis club. Chelsea will make a flyer to advertise. Mary said no risk management forms needed if we are not using power tools or building something.
 - Julie will check into free wood chips from Home Depot check if school maintenance if they can deliver Friday April 17th after school.
 - FACE team will be hosting a community care hub at Whitney June 12 from 10am-noon. This would be a good time to have the garden open for the community.
 - Tiffinie would like to volunteer in the garden.
5. **Next family night event (5 minutes):** Family Fun Day on April 15 at 3:30-5:30 pm. Details TBD. Parent Volunteers will be needed.
- This will include the garden being open for families to visit. Activities will include a scavenger hunt, planting seeds to take home, and possibly painting rocks.
 - Chelsea will make a list of supplies for Julie to order (4inch pots and maybe a few additional seeds).
6. **Budget and Future fundraisers (15 minutes)**
- Current funds: Current funds: \$972 in cash and \$1751 in the school's donation account. Skip's Kitchen raised \$120 and this includes the garden grant
 - Future fundraiser ideas:
 - Decorating school pawprint with a spring theme (maybe start on first day of spring Friday march 20th and laminate/save to display at the 4/15/26 family fun night). Request optional \$1 donation with entry. Prize for winning class. Chelsea will update the template to distribute in classes after spring break
 - Tattoo your teacher (same day as 4/15/26 family fun night). Julie got 10 teachers interested. Would purchase tattoo sheets and kids could buy them at the family night (and the week before) and apply them Thursday April 16th. Julie will do a little more research on pricing and purchase the tattoos with PTO funds.
 - March/April restaurant fundraiser (none scheduled yet). Panda again or other ideas? Luis knows the owner of California Burrito and will ask if they are interested. Nicole suggested Menchies frozen yogurt.
 - Possibly ask for sponsors for the school cookbook. On hold until we see how many recipes are submitted after next month.

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- One more penny war fundraiser. Likely in May to get some funds for next year's PTO
- Whitney Ave t-shirt sales. FACE team is looking into this and may be able to sponsor it through the community engagement grant the school has.

7. Teacher appreciation week. (5 minutes)

- Ideas for the PTO to support.
- Encourage the students to be a part of it (make a card for your teacher, bring a flower from your yard, etc.)
- At least one lunch. Include everyone together, all staff. Luis will ask California Burrito about catering prices.
- Many ideas: something simple on some of the days like a candy bar, one day lunch, one day the principle leads.
- Breakfast spread is an easy one to do and we could likely get some donations to help with this.
- \$5 coffee card, maybe we could get a match.
- Nicole has catering experience

8. Fun Community building activities (5 minutes)

- Picnic in the park: sometime in the Spring. Possibly at Gibbons park.

9. Next steps and closing, next meeting details: Monday April 13, 2026 at 2:30-3:30 P.M. Room D6

10. Adjournment

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Photos of class visits to the campus garden



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