

Who is Pleasanton Partnerships In Education Foundation (PPIE)?

PPIE, Pleasanton Partnerships in Education Foundation, is a non-profit 501(c)(3) educational foundation supporting students and staff of the Pleasanton Unified School District for more than 24 years. PPIE provides Pleasanton schools with monetary support, volunteers, professional input, etc. Additionally, PPIE raises funds to support cut programs and provides grant funding to faculty & students supporting projects which have no district funds available. More information about the foundation is available at www.ppie.org.

Why do we need an education foundation?

- \$19.4 million has been cut from the PUSD budget over the past few years resulting in approx \$1300 less investment per student. These cuts have resulted in:
 - Eliminated 67 teachers, 25 staff and 17 administrators (30% of admin)
 - Increased class sizes in elementary, middle and high school
 - Reduced course offerings for high school students
 - Reduced support for libraries, art and music programs
 - Reduced custodial support and building maintenance
- PUSD's budget comes largely from the state which has become an unpredictable source of revenue
- One time federal funds saved \$2.4 million in programs for 2011-2012; but for 2012-2013, another significant budget shortfall is anticipated.
- 600 California school districts have an education foundation to help fill the gap in public financing. Some bay area districts are: San Ramon, Walnut Creek, Los Gatos, Palo Alto, San Carlos, Los Altos
- An education foundation can also provide:
 - Programs for students (ie- Career Day Program)
 - Grant funding to faculty and students supporting projects with no district funding
 - Partnership between business and community with Pleasanton schools

Public Education should be free, why am I being asked to donate to pay for programs and services?

Yes - public education should be and is free. Unfortunately public financing alone can no longer provide the high quality education we expect in our community. California is last in the nation for teachers/student, counselors/student and once adjusted for cost of living, last in the nation for funding/student.

What is the goal of PPIE's School Advisory Board?

Short Term Goal: *To have every PUSD family and the community get involved with helping to fund programs that directly affect our children*

Long Term Goal: *To bridge critical gaps in public education funding and enhance classroom education for PUSD students*

What programs will be supported through the PPIE Foundation?

The PPIE School Advisory Board grouped the key programs into **3 buckets** that we believe are important but at risk of elimination each year such as:

- Literacy/Student Support (CSR, Reading Intervention, Library),
- Science and Technology (Science specialists and Tech Aides),
- Health and Well Being (PE Specialists and Counselors).

Please note, we did not include Fine Arts to avoid confusion with PSEE but we do support and value that effort. Within the PPIE Foundation, there is a branch for elementary, middle and high school but the 3 overall buckets are consistent though the programs within each bucket vary by level.

How will we achieve the PPIE Foundation goal?

Currently we are suggesting a donation of \$150/student at registration day. If all students would be sponsored, we could raise over \$2 million for PUSD. Additional fundraising events which will be open to the entire Pleasanton community will occur before the end of January to try and raise as much money as we can so the list of "proposed cuts" that come out in February are ideally minimized. Business/Corporate sponsorships will also be explored to help supplement the budget gap for programs most valued.

By comparison, other bay area districts ask for donations at registration day as follows:

Surrounding Bay Area education foundations request an average of \$570 per student (\$300-\$800/student). PPIE is requesting just \$150 per student.

(Palo Alto \$650, Walnut Creek \$300, Lafayette \$800, San Ramon \$350, Orinda \$575, Moraga \$750)

I just gave a donation to my PTA/PFC, do I need to give to PPIE as well?

YES - both efforts are critical to provide a solid education to our children. All fundraising efforts support the district's broader goals to ensure district wide equity yet meet unique needs of each school site. Specifically, the parent clubs (PTA/PFC) can raise money for school specific expenses such as equipment, teaching supplies, computers/technology. PPIE can raise money to fund district wide programs and staff, such as teachers, specialists, library and technology aides to ensure equity across each school.

I just gave a donation to PPIE for the CORE Campaign, do I need to give again?

Thank you for your support and YES, you do need to donate again. We've set-up a monthly installment plan if that is more comfortable for you. The CORE Campaign will fund technology, library and student support programs for this school year (211/2012). This campaign is to fund programs at risk of possible cuts for school year 2012 / 2013.

Why are you fundraising funds now for school year 2012 / 2013?

We are attempting to get ahead of the budgeting process and provide PUSD with funding availability information prior to sending out pink slips for the following year. The budgeting process begins in mid-January once the state's budget is delivered. Thus....we will be raising funds through January to support the following school year.

Who is the PPIE School Advisory Board?

The newly formed School Advisory Board (SAB) is comprised of 2-3 representatives from each school site (appointed this year – elected in the future) including parents and / or faculty members. Representatives are grouped into 3 groups: Grades K-5 / Grades 6-8 / Grades 9-12. Each group will elect 1 member to sit on the Board of Directors (3 members total). This is a 1 year commitment. School Advisory Board Responsibilities include gathering school site input to determine what support is needed from PPIE (ANNUAL fundraising needs), communication with your group to provide recommendations for PPIE board (Fundraising goals, efforts,) development and implementation strategies to reach objectives (Marketing plan, events, etc), ongoing Communication with your school site, and volunteering for PPIE events / needs (Walk-thru registration, Kinder Round-up, Bon Appetit, Annual Luncheon, etc) If you would like to be considered for this position, please contact your school's Principal.

How do I know the program I care most about gets priority through the foundation?

PPIE and PUSD feel that all the defined programs above are important and vital to providing Pleasanton students with a quality education. The goal is to support PUSD in funding all programs, however in the case of falling short; the goal would then become to fund a number of programs and take the burden off the district allowing them to fund programs not covered by PPIE. Or...some of PPIE's funds may reduce the expenditure of a given program and allow the district to fill in the gap. The theory is that all families should support the identified programs as a whole. Funding some programs will free up district budget to fund others.

Why is Class Size Reduction (CSR) included in the PPIE foundation, is it even attainable?

Class Size Reduction for K-3 was discussed at great length with the PPIE School Advisory Board and determined that it is a priority for a quality education for our children within the Literacy and Student Support bucket. As such, it is one of a number of programs identified to be supported through the foundation. Based on the comments on the donor forms, we can determine how to prioritize all of the programs on the list and then ultimately determine how to continue to fill the gap in funding for those particular buckets receiving highest priority. The first major fundraising effort is registration day; however additional fundraising events will occur before the end of January to help provide further financial support in supplementing essential programs at risk of elimination. Given the \$1.3 million cost of CSR, it will likely be on the proposed cut list again for the 2012-2013 school year until the budget becomes more clear. However we recognize historically, it has been a top priority to bring back. As such, helping to fund as many programs as possible through the foundation frees up district dollars to supplement the remaining cost of these programs; conversely not contributing to the foundation increases the likelihood that essential programs will be reduced or eliminated for the 2012-2013 school year.