

# Howe PTA Meeting Minutes

2-13-18

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- Meeting called to order: 7:04p.m.
- November 2017 Minutes Approved

## PTA Officer's Reports:

- Treasurer's Report: Jamie Gaglione
  - Balance Update: will be presented at next meeting
  - No new funding requests.
- Principals' Report: Dr. Murray
  - Spelling Bee:
    - Younger grades exceeded expectations; 40 participants who went 30 rounds.
    - 4/5 graders – low attendance (9 kids)
    - Dr. Murray asked to think about continuing as this is not the way spelling is taught now; it is more about teaching spelling patterns in the context of reading/writing.
  - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Student council: entry into the council consists of completing an application and writing a letter; 10 kids are chosen and represent Howe as student leaders; they assist with Fun Friday's, Veteran's Day, and Family Reading Night; the Council also chooses 2 community service projects to work on

“Bucks for Buddies” currently happening to raise money for local animal shelter.

- Maker’s Space

- Dr. Murray presented at a conference held at the Ellis School, which was well received to help other schools understand the purpose of the spaces.
- At the district level, discussion about the sustainability of the spaces given the grant ends after 3 years; they are seeking additional grants and want to retain concepts all though not all school may be able to have the same “tools”
- Remake Learning Days: happening across Pittsburgh in May – opportunity to network with organizations through open houses at all elementary schools.
- Impact Surveys – what impact are the spaces having on the school, learning, and children’s attitudes towards learning – these accompany Grant Proposals – perhaps high school students taking video of elementary student “making.”

- STEAM

- Encompasses the entire district K-12<sup>th</sup> grade at the high school on 2/22 from 6-9pm; open house/showcase of grade level displays completed in Maker’s Space, etc.

- March School Board meeting

- Howe is scheduled for the Pledge of Allegiance and a short presentation, which will be about the Maker’s Space and conducted by the Student Council.

- Science Fair – takes place 2/20; Amos Glenn is Chair – the PTA brings a program from the Carnegie Science Center – looking for judges perhaps through the high school students as a community service project; last resort, will make a call out to parents
- Lunch Clubs – Dr. Murray thanked all volunteers for this year’s clubs (yoga, science, create) as they have been well received by students.

### President’s Report: Joyce Divine

- PTA Council – Howe PTA feeds up to the district council which consists of an information meeting with representatives from the community, recreation department, Police, library, etc.
- SHIM – food drive with each school being assigned a particular category for collection will be coming soon.
- Go Zone – concerns still exist despite Dr. Murray reaching out to parents – Howe has 4 crossing guards but double parking, crossing in between cars, still continues; after her email, Police did ticket but this can’t be a constant; discussion about perhaps volunteers wearing crossing gear to assist moving people along, but this might also create tension between parents
  - Valda Kawecki, Juvenile Protection, called for all concerns to be sent to both her and Dr. Murray and they can take it further into the district.
  - Overall concern throughout all the elementary schools.

- Chair Reports:
  - Nominating committee: there were no floor nominations; the below slate will sit for 30 days and voting will occur at the next meeting
    - President – Wendy liberty
    - 1<sup>st</sup> VP – Chris Cerci
    - 2<sup>nd</sup> VP – Emily weber
    - 3<sup>rd</sup> VP – Dr. Murray
    - Recording Secretary – Jamie Gaglione
    - Corresponding Secretary – Trisha Kinderman
    - Treasure – Dennis Gorski
    - Historian – Shana Slaybaugh
  - CLO – Roberto Clemente Story – great activity last week; kids were engaged and responded well by asking questions; 2006 Howe alum (Gabe) was one of the actors and really enjoyed the opportunity to come back in this capacity.
  - Box Tops: Wendy Liberty
    - Collection has begun this week; easier using the collection sheet; student who brings the most wins a prize; Subchair has agreed to become Chair given Wendy’s new role as President
  - Odyssey of the Mind: Joyce Divine
    - Howe has 2 teams competing on 3/3 at Moon School – primary team with 7 kids and a team with 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders.
- Unfinished Business: None
- New Business:

- Thank you notes received from students on Josh and Gab; Mrs. Halaja for sensory room items; and Mrs. DiGiorno for Reflex Math.
- Announcements: None
- Meeting Adjourned: 7:48pm
- Next Meeting: 3/6/18 @ 9:15am