

# MINUTES

## Howe Elementary PTA 2021-2022

*Date Feb 9, 2022 | Meeting called to order at 7:02 pm by Michele Rowland*

### In Attendance

<b><u>In-Person Attendees</u></b>	Jen Webler
Michele Rowland	Marissa Johnston
Heather Hathy	
Steve DiTommaso	<b><u>Virtual Attendees (Zoom)</u></b>
Michelle Murray	Leah Haywiser
Aimee Danley	
Emily Smoller	
Amy Grella	
Tim Kellner	
Maggie Peak	

### Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the January meeting were reviewed and approved. A motion to approve minutes was made by Dr. Murray and seconded by Steve DiTommaso. All present voted in favor. APPROVED

### PTA Officers Reports

#### Treasurer's Report – Steve DiTommaso

- Balance Update
  - Beginning balances
    - First National Bank (FNB) – \$21,150
      - There were 6 deposits, including box tops (\$19), spiritwear (\$1050), decals sold at Sunny Funny Fair (SFF) through spiritwear (\$30), a \$25 donation, PayPal transfer, and interest
      - There were 3 checks written to MTLSD for PTA copier use, and reimbursements for Howes About a Gift (\$183) and Spiritwear (\$27) expenses
    - There are outstanding checks for PTA dues and the 5<sup>th</sup> grade wolf conservation fieldtrip, both of which are budgeted items.
    - PayPal - \$37 from membership payment and SFF revenue transferred to FNB. Ending balance \$0

- With the budget surplus of the SFF, Dr. Murray mentioned doing something special for the 5<sup>th</sup> graders
  - For example, pay for all of Camp Guyasuta or buy a yearbook for every fifth grader.
  - Steve will reach out to 5<sup>th</sup> grade committee with the ideas.

### VP Report – Dr. Murray

- Feb 16 is the 5th grade live virtual wolf field trip
- Upcoming in-person concert events:
  - March 1 – Elementary Tiered Choral Concert
  - March 29 – Elementary Tiered Orchestra Concert
- National Random Acts of Kindness Week (Feb 14-18)
  - There is a building-wide service project to collect nonperishable food for SHIM
  - Please drop off cans, cereal, pasta, etc by the building doors
- Feb 18 will be a noon dismissal day
  - All K-12 staff will listen to guest speaker Ali Michael, who is an accomplished Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion speaker, author, and blogger
  - On Sunday Feb 21 there will be an event at the high school with Ali that is open to the community
- In addition to COVID pool testing, Test to Stay will also be starting up soon. This offers the chance to get a rapid test at school and, if negative, the child can have the option to stay rather than be sent home.
- PSSAs are coming up April 25 - May 6 and preparations are underway. Schedules are being arranged, so that testing can be in the morning. Lists for small group testing are also being prepared where appropriate.
  - It was asked when 2021 PSSA results would be available. They had just been received by the school and will be mailed out next Friday.
- Upcoming events:
  - The virtual talent show, concerts, Read-a-thon.
  - No science fair this year.

### President Report – Michele

- Updates
  - Nominations:
    - PTA Council is looking for a volunteer for the treasurer position
    - Mellon PTA is looking to fill some exec board positions.
  - The situation with aging infrastructure of some playground pieces continues to be discussed by the school board and administration.
  - **Volunteers are needed** on Friday Feb 18 to deliver SHIM donations.
- Upcoming Events
  - Kids and Social Media Forum (listed as Social Media Safety Event on district calendar) – Hosted in partner with Dan Miller and the PTA council. Feb 16 at 7 pm at the high school. It will also be live-streamed, look for the link in the weekly PTA newsletter.
  - Valentine’s Day Parties – Monday Feb 14.
  - Kindness Week

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## Chair Reports/Recent Activities

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### Howe’s Got Talent

- Virtual event chaired by Emily and Mike Weber.
- Watch for info coming soon about submitting videos. Tech-challenged parents, feel free to contact the Webers ([emilywilsonweber@verizon.net](mailto:emilywilsonweber@verizon.net)) for help with taking video.
- Link to virtual talent show will be sent March 25

### Read-A-Thon

- Leah Haywiser and Jen Webler gave an update.
- Theme is “Reading Across the Universe”, so prizes will have a space theme.
- Jen is making bookmarks for each student at Howe. There will also be virtual Readaloud events with teachers/staff/parents. The details of the Readalouds are still being worked out.

### Science Fair

- No report – off the calendar.

### Yearbook

- Purchasing a yearbook for every 5<sup>th</sup> grader:
  - Motion to approve \$976.50 was made by Steve DiTommaso and seconded by Dr. Murray. All in favor. APPROVED
  - Teachers can tell parents not to purchase any more, since a link to purchase the yearbook has already gone out.

### Lunch Clubs

- Two lunch clubs will be offered: Chess on Fridays, and Knitting on Tue/Thu. The Tuesday knitting group is for beginners and the Thursday group will be for those more advanced.

Michele Rowland would like to purchase a small token chocolate bar for the staff with a note attached. 62 chocolate bars, so request is for \$100

- Motion to approve \$100 for chocolate bars was made by Amy Grella and seconded by Emily Smoller. All in favor. APPROVED

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### Unfinished Business

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None

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### New Business

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- Nominating Committee
  - Heather and Steve updated about the four open positions on PTA board.
    - President nominee = Amy Grella
      - Amy is currently serving as 2<sup>nd</sup> VP, which will need to be filled
    - 1<sup>st</sup> VP – Marissa Johnston
    - Treasurer – Tim Kellner
    - Corresponding Secretary – Maggie Peak

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### Announcements

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- 02.14.22 – Valentine’s Day Parties
- 02.18.22 – Noon Dismissal (PM Kindergarten is IN session)
- 02.21.22 – No school
- 02.25.22-03.07.22 – Read-A-Thon

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### Next Meeting

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Thursday Mar 10, 2022 at 7 pm.

A motion to adjourn was made by Steve DiTommaso at 8:02 pm and seconded by Dr. Murray. All present voted in favor. APPROVED.