

MINUTES

Howe Elementary PTA 2021-2022

Date Mar 10, 2022 | *Meeting called to order at* 7:04 pm *by* Michele Rowland

In Attendance

<u>In-Person Attendees</u>	Leah Haywiser
Aimee Danley	Tim Kellner
Michele Rowland	Maggie Peak
Michelle Murray	Jen Webler
Emily Smoller	Marissa Johnston
Steve DiTommaso	Kari Maloney
Amy Grella	
Kristen Wilson	

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the February meeting were reviewed and approved. A motion to approve minutes was made by Leah Haywiser and seconded by Emily Smoller. All present voted in favor. APPROVED

PTA Officers Reports

Treasurer's Report – Steve DiTommaso

- Balance Update for February
 - First National Bank (FNB) – ending balance was \$20,624.29
 - There were no deposits this month
 - There were 2 checks that cleared this month for 5th grade wolf conservation fieldtrip (\$200) and music department shows and supplies (\$326.21)
 - There are 14 outstanding checks at the end of February, totaling about \$4000
 - PayPal had no activity and balance remains at \$0
- New Funding Requests
 - Read-a-thon medals trophies cost more than budgeted (\$58)
 - A motion to approve the allocation of \$58 for this cost was made by Steve DiTommaso and seconded by Emily Smoller. All present voted in favor. *APPROVED*
 - Cover Camp Guyasuta costs for all 5th graders (up to \$2500).
 - A motion to approve payment for 5th Camp Guyasuta trip up to \$2500 was made by Steve DiTommaso and seconded by Emily Smoller. All present voted in favor. *APPROVED*

VP Report – Dr. Murray

- Activities are underway and the feeling in school has been very positive and upbeat.
 - Readathon was successful and terrific. Tons of parents read to classes that week in school.
 - SHIM food drive provided an opportunity for the kids to do community service project
 - Lunch clubs (chess and knitting) have been really fun.
 - Looking forward to Howe's Got Talent and Family Reading Night outside
- Spring break is coming up, then PSSA testing for two weeks, and maybe a cultural arts assembly
- 5th grade was interested in getting the Spiritcenter going for the last few months of school.
- Funding requests:
 - T-shirts for paraprofessionals
 - In recognition for Paraprofessional Day (April 6)
 - 14 shirts @ \$28 each. Total is \$424 dollars including shipping
 - A motion to approve \$424 for t-shirts was made by Leah Haywiser and seconded by Dr. Murray. All present voted in favor. *APPROVED*
 - Recess items
 - Teacher request for outside recess items: jumpropes, sidewalk chalk, etc
 - A motion to approve \$200 for recess items was made by Emily Smoller and seconded by Jen Webler. All present voted in favor. *APPROVED*
 - Nurse's items
 - Request for extra socks, sweatpants, etc to use as needed for students
 - \$ 200
 - A motion to approve \$200 for nurse's items was made by Amy Grella and seconded by Marissa Johnston. All present voted in favor. *APPROVED*
 - 5th grade teacher request for field trip to Meadowcroft village in lieu of Howe We Got Here
 - Interactive event to Native American archaeological site, tied to history curriculum
 - Cost for kids and 20 chaperones -\$820
 - Budget for this event is \$350
 - A motion to pay the \$470 overage for this field trip was made by Aimee Danley and seconded by Steve DiTommaso. All present voted in favor. *APPROVED*

President Report – Michele

- Thank you to Read-a-thon chairs, Leah and Jen. The virtual read-alouds were great.
- Council Updates – Amy Grella has been attending council meetings
 - Scholarships are out for Mt Lebanon Education Association, apply for summer camps (STEM camps, church camps, just not athletic camps)
 - Great Alumni Award applications are available on mt Lebanon website, deadline is April 15
 - A Jefferson middle school student has written a book (info can be found on district Facebook page)
 - Outreach
 - Provides mental health in our community, representative at PTA council meeting
 - As of Wednesday (3/9), counselors are full and not taking new cases
 - PTA council met Monday (3/7) with school board
 - Dialog about the opportunity for the PTA to support concerns of teachers regarding curriculum administration. Director of curriculum job position discussion.
 - Dialogue about laptops provided to teachers and one-to-one computer equipment for elementary students
 - Schoology implementation for fall – learning management system for k-12 that replaces google classroom and facilitates absences and remote snow days

- The pandemic has revealed needs in mental health support for staff and students. Guidance counselors are ramping up efforts. This is an opportunity for Mt Lebanon to be a leader in meeting mental health needs.
- Goal to have a full time nurse at every building in the district rather than shared
 - Note: at Howe there is always an RN on campus during school hours
- SHIM Update; valentines gift
 - Thank you for donations to SHIM. Megan DiTommaso, Michele Rowland, Drew and Lucy brought over 300 lbs of food. Jen Webler helped too, thank you to all!
 - Valentines gift for staff, Sari's candy bars (65) were well received

Chair Reports/Recent Activities

Howe's Got Talent

- Virtual event chaired by Emily and Mike Weber.
- March 19th videos due, email the Webers (emilywilsonweber@verizon.net).
- Link to virtual talent show will be sent March 25

Read-A-Thon

- Increase budget by \$58
- 110 super readers, over 200 medals

Yearbook

- Deadlines – get your pictures in!
- April 12 is the deadline to order
- 5th grade memory pages need to be completed , get those finished

Unfinished Business

Elections – President, 1st vp, 2nd vp, treasurer, and corresponding secretary were all nominated at the last meeting. No new nominations have been received for any of these positions.

A new nomination for 2nd must be made, since Amy Grella is moving to the President position. Nominee is Heather Moore

Vote for the slate – All in favor, none opposed. *APPROVED*

New Business

- Teacher Appreciation Week
 - Kari –Requesting additional funds beyond budgeted amount for \$5 gift card from Totopo. This will be matched by Totopo so it is a \$10 gift card in total. Request is for all teachers, staff, and crossing guards 67x\$5 plus \$50 for gift card case \$385
 - A motion to increase the hospitality budget by \$385 was made by Steve DiTommaso and seconded by Leah Haywaiser. All present voted in favor. *APPROVED*
- Fundraising Opportunities
 - Madsen donuts and Italian restaurant
- Library Books for 5th grade volunteering parents, budgeted

Announcements

- 03.25.22 – Howe’s Got Talent Virtual link
- 03.28.22 – Elementary Orchestra Concert
- 04.13.22 (Early dismissal) – 04.18.22 – Spring Break
- Weekly in May - Teacher Appreciation
- 05.09.22 – Elementary Band Concert
- 05.12.22 – Early Dismissal @ 2:15 and Open House 5:30-7:30 pm
- 05.13.22 – Kindergarten Orientation
- 05.13.22 – 5th Grade at Camp Guyasuta
- 05.17.22 – No School
- 05.18.22 – PTA Volunteer Breakfast/Meeting
- 05.25.22 – Family Reading Night
- 05.30.22 – No School
- 05.31.22 – Field Day
- 06.02.22 – Clap Out/Last Day of School

Next Meeting

There will not be an April Exec Board Meeting or PTA meeting Next meeting is May 18 and is the PTA volunteer breakfast.

A motion to adjourn was made by Leah Haywiser at 8:24 pm and seconded by Jen Webler. All present voted in favor. APPROVED.