

MINUTES

Howe Elementary PTA 2021-2022

Date Nov 17, 2021 | *Meeting called to order at* 7:00 pm *by* Michele Rowland

In Attendance

<u>In-Person (Howe Auditorium)</u>	<u>Online (Zoom)</u>
Michele Rowland	Joyce Divine
Heather Hathy	Ritika Dogra
Steve DiTommaso	
Michelle Murray	
Aimee Danley	
Emily Smoller	
Heather Moore	

Approval of Minutes

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

PTA Officers Reports

Treasurer's Report – Steve DiTommaso

- Balance Update
 - The First National Bank (FNB) account had a balance of \$12,010.33 at the end of September
 - Total payments for October were \$4,049.07
 - Includes Sunny Funny Fair expenses at \$3,008, 5th grade t-shirts at \$663.20, two reimbursements, one for Welcome Back activities (\$57.96) and one for a sympathy gift (\$29.49), and \$290 for the Josh & Gab virtual event
 - Total revenue for October was \$8,648.53
 - Includes \$8,352.25 in Sunny Funny Fair revenue, \$296 from 5th grade fundraising efforts, and \$0.28 interest
 - Final FNB balance as of October 31, 2021 was \$16,609.79
 - PayPal account had a balance of \$2,010.73 at the end of September
 - Total revenue for October = \$2031.48

- Includes \$330 (net after \$17.38 in PayPal fees) in revenue from 22 new memberships (now 180 total members) and \$1718.86 from Sunny Funny Fair presale and day of sales
 - Final PayPal balance as of October 31, 2021 was \$4,042.21
- There is an excess of funds as we budgeted revenue of ~\$4,000 and actual revenue was closer to \$9000
- It was asked if the check for spirit wear had been received and it has not yet. It was also noted that the amount budgeted for spirit wear was spot on for the actual revenue generated, which is already in the budget (<https://howe.mtlsd.org/pta/budgets>)

VP Report – Dr. Murray

- Emily Rindels was very appreciative of the books for the 5th grade and said the books were making kids so excited to get started reading them.
- The Covid vaccine clinic on November 12 went well, with over 1300 signed up and a steady stream of kids all day. The second clinic will be December 03, which will be an asynchronous day for all elementary students.
- Family conferences were well-attended and most families opted to meet with teachers in person. Teachers were very positive and it was nice to achieve a level of normalcy.
- The current playground structures are aging and there is an empty spot where the kindergarten playground was. Playground equipment is very expensive, with estimates to replace equipment at around \$20-30,000. Traditionally, the PTA has paid for playground equipment expenses. Discussions were had at the administrative level and Dr. Steinhauer will have facilities assess the current playground structures. Dr. Steinhauer agreed that funding may be needed to support any updates and it's being looked into.

President Report – Michele

- Updates from PTA Council
 - The playground concern mentioned above was discussed.
 - PTA council is seeking nominations for Community Volunteer of the Year
 - Last week was the safety and security update with Dr. Steinhauer and Chief Lauth and it can be viewed here: <https://www.mtlsd.org/about-us/district-news/details/~board/district-news/post/dr-steinhauer-mtlpd-chief-lauth-welcome-the-community-for-safety-and-security-conversation>
 - MSA-CESS recently recognized the music department as a program of distinction
 - Parent U will be coming back in spring. These are workshops geared towards the interests of parents of school-age kids.
 - October is principal appreciation month and each principal received a basket of Smiley cookies from Eat'n Park to thank them for all they do
- Thank yous
 - A note was received from Jen Lawrence thanking the PTA for the book donated to the Howe library. As an avid reader, it meant a lot.
 - Michele Rowland and family sent a thank you for the sympathy card and Primanti's gift card. It was greatly appreciated.

Chair Reports/Recent Activities

Spirit wear

- No update

Howe's About a Gift

- Howe's About a Gift will be held on Wednesday December 1 and Thursday December 2, which is a date change from the originally scheduled dates. Parent volunteers are needed, please sign up here if you are able to help out: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B4EACAD2BABFC1-howes1>. There is also a need for sewers to make some of the items. Contact Katie Graybill (ashgray528@gmail.com) with any questions or to volunteer to sew.

Lunch clubs

- Joyce Divine updated on lunch clubs. It's been a while since they have been held due to the pandemic, but parents are now able to be in the school again. Joyce asked if there were any restrictions and Dr. Murray advised to consider the new lunch split into three 20 minutes when planning lunch clubs.
- Lunch clubs are optional fun activities for students during the winter to provide additional recess options during the cold months. They are parent led and have covered a range of topics, including fitness, yoga, playing games, chess, and using the maker space. Joyce pointed out that anything could be a lunch club.
- Parent volunteers are needed for lunch clubs. Volunteers need to have full clearances (not just the causal affidavit). Info can be found at: <https://www.mtlsd.org/family/volunteer-clearances>. If you are interested in volunteering for a lunch club, please contact Joyce at jkdivine@gmail.com.
- This will be Joyce's last year as the chair of lunch clubs, and she would be happy to have a future chair shadow her this year to learn the role.

Cultural Arts Committee

- Two parents, Dhanya and Megan, are looking for ideas for culturally diverse programming. Their preference is for an in-person performance, but would also consider virtual experiences as well. Reach out to Michele Rowland (michele.rowland29@gmail.com) for their contact information.

Unfinished Business

Nominating Committee

- No additional volunteers for the nominating committee came forward, so the proposed committee consisted of Steve DiTommaso and Heather Hathy. A motion to approve this committee was made by Aimee Danley and seconded by Emily Smoller. All present voted in favor. APPROVED.
- Michele Rowland requested \$150 for a teacher appreciation breakfast. Heather Hathy made a motion to approve this request and Steve DiTommaso seconded. All present voted in favor. APPROVED.

New Business

- Dr. Murray asked if the Spirit Center would be active this year. Amy Grella and Shana Slaybaugh are combining forces to chair both the Spirit Center and the Maker Space. Michele Rowland will reach out to them for an update.
- It was asked if there was a student government at Howe. Dr. Murray said there is no student council this year, but that the 5th grade would be doing a schoolwide service project in the second semester.
- Funding requests:

- The ABA Life Skills class is in need of some supplies (playdough, crayons, etc) totaling ~\$225. This class has a line item in the PTA budget for \$200, so this motion was to approve an additional \$25. *COST= \$25*
- The 5th grade found a virtual fieldtrip to Jamestown that is focused on the Powhatan Indian tribe and colonists. This is a nice complement to *Blood on the River*, which they read in 5th grade. *COST= \$150*
- A motion to approve these two funding requests was made by Emily Smoller and was seconded by Steve DiTommaso. All present voted in favor. APPROVED.

Announcements

- Noon dismissal on Wednesday 11.24.21
- No school due to Thanksgiving Break on Thursday 11.25.21 and Friday 11.26.21
- Howe's About A Gift on Wednesday 12.01.21 and Thursday 12.02.21
- Asynchronous day on Friday 12.03.21
- Winter Concerts (virtual event, link to be shared on 12.18.21)
- Holiday Parties on 12.22.21 (PM Kindergarten) and 12.23.21 (AM Kindergarten and grades 1-5)
- Noon dismissal on Thursday 12.23.21
- Winter Break begins Friday 12.24.21 and goes through 12.31.21. Students report to school again on Monday 01.03.22

Next Meeting

Wednesday Jan 12, 2022, 7 pm in person and virtual

A motion to adjourn was made by Steve DiTommaso at 7:40 pm and seconded by Dr. Murray. All present voted in favor. APPROVED.