

MINUTES

Howe Elementary PTA 2022-2023

Date Nov 16, 2022 | *Meeting called to order at* 7:07 pm *by* Amy Grella

In Attendance

<u>In-Person Attendees</u>	Heather Hathy
Aimee Danley	Katie Graybill
Matt Rizzutto	Jen Webler
Tim Kellner	Liz Longo
Heather Moore	Greg Engle
Amy Grella	Sally Berri Pratt
Maggie Peak	
Kassie Wadsworth	No Zoom attendees present.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed and approved. A motion to approve minutes was made by Katie Graybill and seconded by Maggie Peak. All present voted in favor. APPROVED

PTA Officers Reports

Treasurer's Report – Tim Kellner

- Balance Update
 - First National Bank (FNB)
 - October beginning balance was \$16,519.53
 - 4 deposits totaling \$11,840.11, which included a \$5,912.73 transfer from our PayPal account
 - 7 checks totaling \$5875.62
 - October ending balance was \$22,484.02
 - PayPal
 - October beginning balance \$5,313.54
 - Activity
 - \$661.00 in membership payments were received, which incurred \$19.18 in fees
 - Transferred \$5912.73 to FNB account
 - October ending balance was \$42.63
- New Funding Requests
 - None

VP Report – Mr. Rizzutto

- Family conferences are tomorrow and Friday. Please make sure to check the lost and found table!
- Tomorrow is Grief Awareness Day – Please see the letter from Ms. Karboswki online and wear blue to show support for any grieving students and staff
- Last Friday was a student and staff assembly in the gym to honor Veterans’ Day. The 45 minute program was organized by Mrs. Froehlich and Dr. Tabler and contained several songs and students speaking. Mike Froelich from the tech dept recorded the program and the link will be available soon. Next school year, the hope is to bring veterans in for the program. Thank you to Ms. Froelich and Dr. Tabler for an amazing job!
- Updates available on Schoology:
 - o A calendar of events is available on the right on home page
 - o Under ‘resources’, there is a ton of new info, including the Howe Happenings newsletter, a link to the district calendar, a Howe info pack, and a link to the PTA website/resources
 - o Parents are encouraged to start using Schoology to access this information
 - o It was asked if Schoology could be used to send out info about PTA events. Mr. Rizzutto said info from chairs or committees could be sent to him to be added to the weekly newsletter and/or announcements.

President Report – Amy Grella

- Lori Haller and Ms. Karboswki submitted a grant proposal for a national PTA opportunity and were awarded a \$2500 Healthy Minds award sponsored by The New York Life Foundation and the Allstate Foundation. A healthy minds assessment will be done to determine what our kids most need. Look for this in December.
- 5th grade committee put on a bake sale in front of the school on election day. It was a great success and very much appreciated by the community
- The book fair is set up in the gym and looks amazing, thanks to Jen Webler! Volunteers are still needed to help staff the fair, particularly on Friday.
- PTA Council Updates:
 - o The school district has been working on sustainability. Dr. Irvin said that all elementary are styrofoam-free. Look for the sustainability dashboard coming soon to stay up to date on sustainability metrics.
 - o All Mt. Lebanon schools have Matt’s Makerspaces and schools are working to get usage of these spaces back to what they were before the pandemic. Ritika has been working with Ms. Mader to get supplies stocked. Keep an eye out for request(s) for specific materials that are needed in this space as usage ramps up.
 - o The current Historian has resigned and there is a need for a transition on the PTA executive board. Aimee Danley has volunteered to fill the role and our bylaws state that for resignations, the executive board may vote someone into an open seat on the board. The open role would be as Recording Secretary. If anyone is interested in serving in this role for the balance of this school year, please let us know.

Corresponding Secretary – Maggie Peak

- The PTA received thank you notes from 4th grade students. Students were very appreciative for the opportunity to attend the Rivers of Steel field trip.
- Emily Rindels sent a thank you note to the PTA for funding the purchase of 3 copies of “A Rover’s Story” by Jasmine Warga for the three 5th grade classrooms to accompany the free virtual lecture by the author through the Pittsburgh Arts & Lecture Series.

Book Fair (Jen Webler)

- Volunteers are needed!!! Out of 54 volunteer spots only 20 are filled. No one, except Jen, is signed up on Friday.
- Things to consider for next year's fair: a connection between book fair and read-a-thon? For example, books bought at the fair are raffled off during the Read-a-thon.
- Donations have been coming in to assist students who may need help buying books.
- There is a need to spend some scholastic money tomorrow or Friday in order to earn a bonus 200 Scholastic dollars.
 - Teacher wish list items were the top idea to spend the money

Howe's About a Gift (Katie Graybill)

- Look for a sign-up genius to come out after the book fair, which will include volunteer hours for set up help and shopping help
- Switched to a local vendor (Holiday Lamb Kid Shop) for the novelty items and the delivery of these items is coming on Tuesday. People are busy making the handmade items.

Odyssey of the Mind (Leah Haywiser)

- No update

5th Grade Committee (Heather Hathy)

- Thank you for recognizing bake sale in the President report. Emily Heineman did most of the organization and items were sold out by 1 pm. The bake sale made over \$1000. Thinking of also doing a spring election day event.
- T shirts were distributed. The t-shirt design came from a competition over the summer, that resulted in four designs that were voted on by the 5th graders. The t-shirt has all signatures from all 5th graders on it, which meant tracking down any new students. The biggest barrier was getting the t-shirts due to supply chain issues.
- The committee organized a PJ day that coincided with reading Tuck Everlasting. Typically, these type of special theme days have been organized by the student council, but there hasn't been a 5th grade student council for a few years due to covid. Student Council is run by teachers and staff and it would be great to get it going again. The 5th grade committee will continue to plan theme days for now.
- There are plans for a Madsen's donut fundraiser, probably with the half day on Feb 10 as distribution day
- Mentioned how 5th graders are usually used as emcees for talent show, talent show chair was present to get this info.

Spirit Center (Heather Hathy)

- Spirit Center is in the 4th week and doing very well. Nikki McBride has been very helpful. Keep an eye out for a sign-up genius for parent volunteers to help, particularly those with younger children in the school who would be interested in chairing this event in the future.

Howe Spirit Wear (Stephanie Kellner)

- Profits from spirit wear sales were higher than projected. The original estimate of revenue was \$1000, but we received a check from Commonwealth for over \$1300. There was an issue with an order that has been resolved. The next sale is planned for spring and will include some new merchandise, including travel mugs and hats. It was suggested that tall socks would also be a welcome addition.

Membership Committee (report from Megan DiTimmasso read by Amy Grella)

- The total number of members stands at 155, which includes 130 families and 25 faculty. PayPal has been used for membership due to the easy link with Membership Toolkit. We will no longer be able to use PayPal, since Membership Toolkit is switching to a new system called LumaPay. One benefit of LumaPay is that it accepts Apple Pay. The transition must happen before the end of January.

Family Fun Night (report from Anvita Rana ready by Heather Moore)

- Movie night was a great experience. About 75 people attended and enjoyed the movie Ratatouille and snacks. Special thanks to Amy Grella and Mr. Rizzutto for coming to cheer on the kids.

Matt's Makerspace (Ritika Dogra)

- No update

Lunchtime Clubs (report from Cassandra Glevicky read by Amy Grella)

- Info about lunch clubs can be found in the PTA newsletter. Lunch clubs provide engaging activities for students to do at recess during cold weather. There are several fun things planned, Joyce Divine, the former chair of this committee, will be coming back and running some of them.

Spelling Bee (Sally Berri Pratt)

- A payment needs to be sent so Howe can officially join the spelling bee organization and get to the word lists. It was determined that the payment would be handled tonight.
- The spelling bee is just for 4th and 5th grade students. The historical context of this is the younger grades have an emphasis on phonetic spelling and, in the later grades, those skills have progressed to where students are spelling accurately.
- Dec 23 is the sign-up deadline and a recurring blurb in the newsletter would be useful to remind people to sign up. A google form will be used to collect sign up info from families and a gmail account was set up for the spelling bee specifically. The spelling bee will be held on Jan 26.
- There is a free app (Word Club) that has word lists and games to practice words.
- It was discussed that we need to find the lanyards that have been used in the past, that trophydepot.com was a good place for medals, and that a consolation prize for all participants was a good idea.

Scholastic Reading Club

- In this program, points are earned for the school when families buy books through Scholastic. Howe earned 12000 bonus points and purchased more than 50 books for the school, including a 21 pack of I survived books. This program allows Howe to pool points as a school and all points can be used by any classroom.

Science Fair

- Plans are underway for the Science Fair and the chairs are talking with Howe science teachers to help plan the event and connect the event to the Howe science curriculum. Look for a flyer with more info before winter break.

- A plug was made for the Girls on the Run program, because they are desperate for volunteers to run the group. This is a running club for 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade girls that meets for 6-8 weeks starting in March. The club meets two days per week from 3:30-5 pm. The deadline for coaches to be identified is January and the team will not happen if volunteers don't come forward.

Unfinished Business

- Approval of nominating committee (Liz Longo and Joanna Parekh)
 - o A motion to approve the nominating committee was made by Sally Berri Pratt and seconded by Jen Webler. All present voted in favor. APPROVED

New Business

- o None

Announcements

- Nov 17-18 – Scholastic Book Fair
- Nov 17-18 – Family conferences
- Nov 18 – No school (K-5 only)
- Nov 23 – Noon dismissal
- Nov 24-25 – No school – Thanksgiving
- Dec 01-02 – Howe’s About a Gift
- Dec 23 – Noon dismissal
- Dec 24-Jan 1 – Winter Recess

Next Meeting

Feb 08, 2022 at 7 pm.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:19 pm.