

MINUTES

Howe Elementary PTA 2023-2024

Date November 8, 2023 | Meeting called to order at 7:07 pm by Amy Grella

In Attendance

Name	Children in Grade(s):
Greg Engle	1st
Marissa Johnston	1, 4th
Aimee Danley	2nd, 4th
Jen Webler	K, 3rd, 5th
Liz Longo	5th
Margeaux Everhart	K, 3rd, 5th
Belen Robertson-Cenzual	1, 3rd
Joanna Parekh	5th
Chris Neal	3rd
Tim Kellner	4th
Heather Moore	K, 2nd, 4th
Matt Rizzutto	Principal
Kassie Wadsworth	2nd
Sally Pratt	K, 5th
Ashley Flavin	1, 4th

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the October 11, 2023 meeting were reviewed and approved. Chris Neal moved to approve; Jen Webler seconded. All present voted in favor. APPROVED

PTA Officers Reports

Mr Rizzutto:

- PBIS team being instituted tomorrow, November 9, with an assembly. Asking students to wear Lebo colors/gear if possible. Students have been coloring a SKATE poster, teachers will select a number to display in front gallery.
- Friday, wear R/W/B for Veteran's Day
- PTA presented Mr. Rizzutto with a custom-designed skateboard helmet, to help support SKATE program and

Treasurer's Report

- * Question from Margeaux: Meadowcroft cost? Was \$462, check has been written

President's Report

- Asst Sup't interviewing is ongoing. 19 Applicants, 9 to submit essays (1st round), 6 interviewed (last week), top 2-3 to be interviewed soon. Tentative start date next semester
- Crossing Guard Breakfast -- Guards concerned about the risky driving they see, so Sup't and PTAs are spreading word to truly be mindful and remind friends/colleagues
- High School has a STEM Academy, looking for volunteers if any are interested.

Chair Reports/Recent Activities

- 5th GRade
 - \$2,244 raised at Bake Sale; \$50 from coffee cart - far surpassed expectations
- Spirit Center
 - Going well, kids are doing a great job and having fun. Mostly every other week, communicating through newsletter
- Reflections
 - 10 entries. Visual arts, Music, Film, Literature
 - Advancing to regional judging
 - Plans being developed to honor and recognize entrants
- Inclusivity Committee
 - Early stages, focusing on school diversity profile & where to focus attention. Nat'l PTA has a toolkit.
 - Feedback form being created for accommodation requests, suggestions, etc.
 - Being explored: Sensory-friendly times/locations at events
- Lunch Clubs
 - 2 6-week sessions planned
 - Starting beginning of January
 - 1hr timeslots for volunteers. Same vol will run for both half-hour lunch slots. Offer same set of clubs to both age groups
 - Craft, Yoga, LEGO, Art, Chess, Fit Kids, Board Games
- Odyssey of the Mind
 - 3 teams, 2 competing in Div I and 1 in Primary
 - Teams have all started practicing, have rec'd problems and tasks

- Coach training programs forthcoming
- Howe needs to re-up membership, \$\$ planning forthcoming
- Book fair - next week!
 - It's happening!
 - Volunteers wanted. Thursday has most needs, signups are in the wild
 - E-Wallet still being emphasized
 - Mrs. Karbowski suggesting a DEI/specific-needs group timeslot
- Howe's About a Gift - **Nov 30 & Dec 1**
 - 2 craft nights so far, 3rd tomorrow (Nov 9); attendance ~12-18 each time
 - Going very well! Catalog to be created/posted/distributed. Displays/layouts are being created
 - SignupGenius link will be distributed
 - Financially: Lots of donations, vendors lined up, working out the best mechanism to properly handle payments to vendors vs. accounting for donated/handmade items
- Yearbook
 - Teachers have been given options for classes to vote on, theming the majority of the book. Hopefully theme/cover will incorporate SKATE!
 - Still working to recover/compile photos from events - there's an app!
 - Query about how Schoology processes work for distributing information? Mr. Rizzutto volunteered to accept requests and info
- Spelling Bee - January 24/25
 - Materials rec'd - just for 4th/5th grade this year
 - Major deadline November 20 - every teacher will be receiving links for signups.
 - Decorations - a number of them are still saved from last year, will be re-ordering some bees to replace those that were lost
- Howe's About a Garden
 - Ribbon cutting today! Ward Commissioner Grella gave a speech, Lebo Mag in attendance, good turnout
 - Very concentrated and fast turnaround - all aligned and completed in about 10 days of labor and time. Bulbs have been planted, will be sprouting in the spring!
 - There's been a huge outpouring of support and interest. Considering a
 - \$2000 approved, has mostly been spent down. Seeking \$1000 for the spring; some potential for a grant, requires a teacher's collaboration. Exec Board decides to vote on this funding in February; hopefully be a good position to know alternate/supplementary funding sources
 - Area gardening clubs and state clubs discussed as sources for free or negligible-cost seeds, equipment, etc.

Unfinished Business

n/a

New Business

- Nominating Committee
 - Floor opened for establishment of nominating committee
 - Liz Longo
 - Maggie Peak
 - Heather Moore
 - Discussion as to eligibility of current Exec Board members to be on committee - per bylaws, any current member except President can serve on nominating committee
- Ms. Sharon, crossing guard by staff lot, is retiring. Students/school will recognize her, per Mr. Rizzutto
 - Gift of up to \$50 approved

Announcements

Next Meeting **February 7, 2023**

The meeting concluded at 8:10