

MINUTES

Howe Elementary PTA 2023-2024

Date March 13, 2024 | Meeting called to order at 7:07 pm by Amy Grella

In Attendance

Name	Email
Marissa Johnston	marissa.e.johnston@gmail.com
Michele Rowland	michele.rowland290@gmail.com
Emily Balestreire	emilybal79@gmail.com
Tim Kellner	treasurer@howepta.org
Sally Berri Pratt	sally.berri@gmail.com
Jen Webler	jen.webler@gmail.com
Margeaux Everhart	margeaux_15@yahoo.com
Amy Grella	president@howepta.org
Kari Maloney	kari.l.maloney@gmail.com
Aimee Danley	aimeedanley@gmail.com
Matt Rizzutto	mrizzutto@mtlsd.net
Heather Moore	heathermsmoore@gmail.com

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the February 7th, meeting were reviewed and approved.

All present voted in favor. APPROVED

PTA Officers Reports

- Treasurer - Report will be for the period of November 2023 through February 2024. No paypal activity during these months.
 - Balance update: November opening balance was \$20,670.55 and closing balance was \$18,183.34. December closing balance was \$24,671.37 (proceeds from Healthy Minds Grant and Howe's About a Gift). January closing balance was \$22,058.07. February closing balance was \$20,772.10.
 - Read a thon proceeds: \$14K!!
 - New Funding Requests:
 - Howe Garden: \$1500 for pollinator plants, supplies, veggie plants, more flower beds and deer protect fencing
 - 5th grade: \$85 for bandanas for field day
 - School enrichment: \$450 for eclipse glasses, this still has to be discussed with teachers to decide if it is something that will be possible to do during school.
 - Spirit Center: \$400 for cash register app and 3 android tablets
 - Hospitality: \$350 increase (was to be included in the budget)
 - Lunch Club: \$300 increase (was to be included in the budget)
 - Read a Thon: \$822.16 (to cover the cost of prizes/medals)
 - Mrs. Pryor- \$40.65 (refills for reusable markers)
 - Meadowcroft- \$462 for October trip
 - Grand total of: \$4,409.81- Jen motioned to approve, Ashley seconded, and all funding approved!
- Mr. Rizzutto- PSSA's are scheduled for April 22-May 10. ELA for Grades 3-5 will be April 22, 24, 26. Math grades 3- 5 are scheduled for April 29 and April 30. Grade 4 Science will be May 2 and 3.
- President- Committees have been hard at work. The read a thon raised a huge amount of money and the Zoom calls were so much fun! Lunch Clubs are finishing up this week- 12 weeks of 10 clubs per week! Steam fair was a great event and went smoothly and the committee purchased 24 fabric tablecloths that will be available for future table use. Thank you to everyone! Reminder to committee chairs that have events this spring that we will need to make our own copies of fliers. Reach out if you need help making copies! Please respond back to Maggie Peak if you are a committee chair to confirm if you are coming back. If you are a committee chair and you are not returning, please start organizing your files for the next chair's use. There is a handout being prepared for dissemination on how to organize your committee's files on Google Drive. Healthy Minds Grant- there will be a training session next month on 4/17 at 6:30 (here at Howe auditorium but will be open to all district families) on anxiety resources for families. Childcare will be available but you will need to register for it in advance. We will be having a Healthy Minds Fair at the end of year Open house on May 15th. PTA Council updates- School district has implemented School Based Behavioral Health through the Bradley Center. This is a county provided resource that will allow referrals of students thru the district's student assistance program. Benefit to students is that meetings can be done during the school day and a referral resource for counselors to ensure students

receive the behavioral health support that they need. It was rolled out in the MS and HS and working on state approval for elementary schools. District was elected to host the Eradicate Hate Summit- event stemmed from the Tree of Life shooting and will be held on May 21. Elementary curriculum updates- Into reading will be the new Elementary ELA curriculum and will be voted on at the June School board meeting. Science will be the next new curriculum updated to current standards. April 8 will be the school board budget forum. The budget will then be voted on at the April meeting on 4/15.

Chair Reports/Recent Activities

- 5th grade Activities (Margeaux Everhart)- Totopo fundraiser moved to April 17th due to conflict with Talent show dress rehearsal. Another Kona ice maybe for next month.
- STEAM Fair (Kassie Wadsworth)- Fair went well, and the special performances from Mad Science during the event were well received.
- Kindergarten Orientation (Emily Balistreire)- Enrollment may be up - numbers are not fully in. PTA was asked to provide crayons and snacks for the event.
- Read-a-thon (Jen Webler)- Howe readers read over 300,000 minutes!! Evening zooms were fun and popular!
- Hospitality (Kari Maloney & Alison McKown)- Planning in underway. Date selected for the teacher/staff appreciation luncheon - May 9, 2024 .
- Yearbook (Joanna Parekh)- Group portraits for the yearbook will be on March 20th 1-3. Students and parents need to finalize their 2 custom pages in their yearbook by April 23rd. Parents and teachers can continue to upload photos to the Treering platform, however there is no guarantee that the photos uploaded after April 23rd will be in the yearbook. Yearbook will be submitted for printing by April 30th. Yearbook orders can be placed after the deadline (April 23) but free shipping is not available for orders after.
- Family Reading Night (Michele Rowland)- looking for a new chair for next year, so anyone wanting to work with her this year to take over for the following year is welcome.

Unfinished Business

- Election of 2024-25 PTA Board
 - President: Greg Engle
 - 1st VP: Emily Balestreire
 - 2nd VP: Roxana Colaico
 - 3rd VP: Mr. Rizzutto
 - Treasurer: Tim Kellner
 - Recording Secretary: Katy Thomas
 - Corresponding Secretary: Liz Longo
 - Historian: Aimee Danley

New Business

Committee Chair Openings (likely more to come): Field Day Parent Volunteer Organizer, Fifth Grade Activities, Friends of the Library, Membership/Directory, STEAM Fair Co-chair, Sunny Funny Fair

Announcements

- 3/20: Group portraits for students in Howe organizations & clubs
 - 3/22: noon dismissal
 - 3/25-29: Spring Break
 - 4/8: Dress rehearsal for Howe's Got talent
 - 4/10: Next PTA meeting at 7 P.M.
 - 4/12: Howe's Got Talent
 - 4/17: Healthy Minds Training on Anxiety Resources for Families; Totopo fundraiser
 - 5/22: Family Reading Night
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Next Meeting

April 12 at 7 P.M.

Meeting Adjourned 8:33