

Julia Ward Howe PTA
Standing Rules: 2025 - 2026

Standing rules supplement the Bylaws and may be amended by a majority vote of the Executive Board without prior notice. Standing Rules should be updated every year following the election of officers. They may be revised and approved by the Executive Board during the year.

I. General Responsibilities:

Bylaws and Standing Rules:

Copies of Bylaws and Standing Rules shall be distributed to each member of the Executive Board. The current bylaws and standing rules will be posted on the Howe PTA website. All committee chairs and general membership can access the Bylaws and Standing Rules via the website.

PTA Meetings:

There will be seven (7) General Meetings in a school year. They will be held in the months of September, October, November, January, February, March, and May. Meeting times and dates will be listed on the School Calendar. The prior month's minutes will be made available on the PTA website. Additionally the President sets the agenda for each meeting, and the treasurer should report on the prior month's financials at each meeting.

A PTA Working Session will be held in April to share information with all chairs and set up new chairs with information and email accounts.

Executive Board meetings will be held at the discretion of the President.

Officers and Committee Chairpersons:

Each officer, in addition to regular duties, represents general membership and is expected to attend General PTA meetings. Officers are also expected to attend Executive Board meetings. Officers who fail to attend the majority of General and Executive Board meetings can be removed by a majority vote of the Executive Board. As per the Bylaws, a replacement officer shall be elected by the Executive Board.

The President may find a replacement for a chairperson who is unable to carry out assigned duties.

Officers and committee chairpersons shall keep records, which should include any

helpful information for future officers and committee chairs taking that position. They should also submit a committee chair report in Google Docs to the Historian at the end of their event or the end of the school year (whatever is appropriate). The Historian will store report copies on the electronic database for PTA records. Upon new committee chair and officer designations, the Historian will give Google Drive access to the report and any records to the next officer or committee chair to hold that position. Officers and chairpersons should keep the President apprised of plans for their office/committee and any issues that arise.

All printed PTA flyers/forms that are distributed at school should have the approval of the principal and PTA President. The flyers must have Howe PTA on them. Additional advertising after the initial flyer, in most cases, should be done using the District e-mail newsletter (Howe PTA section) and the Howe PTA website.

Officers shall be installed in May by a district or state officer at the Mt. Lebanon City Council of PTAs Installation Luncheon. All incoming and outgoing officers and the school principal shall attend this event at the unit's expense.

Miscellaneous:

The Treasurer and President shall purchase liability insurance on a yearly basis. The Treasurer and President shall meet to determine the carrier of coverage and notify the Executive Board.

Checks shall require two (2) signatures of the three (3) authorized signatures on file with the bank: according to our Bylaws, they are the President, 1st VP, and Treasurer.

The Howe PTA fiscal year is July 1-June 30.

Budget:

The School Enrichment line item in the budget can be voted on by the Executive Board via email or text message if the amount of the request is \$100.00 or less.

The School Enrichment line item in the budget must be presented to and voted on by Membership if the amount of the request is over \$100.00.

II. Standing Committees and Description of Duties

Arts in Education (Reflections) Committee:

The chairperson administers the local entries for Reflections, the annual PTA-sponsored contest for students. Some of the responsibilities of the chairperson are: advertising the opportunity to students; collecting finished pieces of work, sending entries on to the appropriate levels of judging, and notifying students who have placed at various levels of competition. Additionally, the chair organizes a social for participating Howe students and their families after all levels of judging are complete.

Birthday bulletin board/PTA trophy case Committee:

The chairperson is responsible for updating the bulletin board in the main school stairwell outside of the office building to reflect student's birthdays. Bulletin board is updated on a monthly basis, or as determined necessary by the committee.

This chairperson is also responsible for updating the glass PTA trophy case in the auditorium. It is to display the names of school contest winners such as Odyssey of the Mind teams, Reflections and Spelling Bee winners.

Community Service Representative:

The chairperson is responsible for working with the PTA Council Community Service Representative to support projects as requested. Typically, PTA Council holds a food drive to benefit SHIM in the spring. This role is responsible for communication and promotion of these efforts within Howe.

Cultural Arts Committee:

After consultation with, and approval of the principal and the PTA President, the chairperson selects assemblies to enhance the students' educational experience and their appreciation for the arts.

Directory / Membership Committee:

The chairperson leads the annual Howe PTA membership drive in the fall, encourages parents, guardians, teachers, and staff to join the PTA, and collects the Membership/Directory forms and dues.

The chairperson is also responsible for maintaining the on-line membership directory in Membership Toolkit and generating reports as requested.

Matt's Maker Space Committee:

The chairperson is responsible for coordinating with Howe librarian to maintain Maker Space supplies and request upcycled materials from families as needed.

PTA Newsletter/Communication Committee:

The chairperson is responsible for coordinating with PTA officers, PTA committee chairs, and the school to gather information for the PTA newsletter which is sent through the school district as part of Howe's newsletter. The newsletter contains school and PTA news, updates on PTA activities, and important deadlines, as well as links to school district-approved flyers from community organizations.

This chairperson is also responsible for gathering Schoology blast information from all other committee chairs as needed and coordinating with the principal and school secretary to send out Schoology email blasts to families. The chairperson is responsible for scheduling blasts in an effort to be sure families are not getting bombarded with too much information at once.

Environmental Sustainability Committee:

Responsibilities of the chairperson include promoting and facilitating environmentally sound practices at the school, supporting environmental education, and Earth Day activities, maintaining the Howe garden, cleanliness of the school grounds, and improving landscaping.

Family Fun Committee:

The committee chairpersons are responsible for planning Family Fun Nights, which can be things like a game night, movie night, book swap, etc.

The chairpersons of this committee are also responsible for organizing and promoting the annual Howe's Bookworm Bingo. The bingo may be a fundraiser for Howe PTA (such as carpets for classrooms). The chairpersons coordinate the subcommittee chairs to run Bingo games, designate prizes, help with food, sell tickets, set up a Spirit Wear sale at the event, gather volunteers, etc.

Field Day Volunteer Committee:

The Field Day chairperson plans and organizes volunteers for the event and coordinates a treat (usually Rita's ice) for students during the event.

Fifth Grade Activities Committee:

The chairpersons are responsible for coordinating the fifth-grade fundraising programs, fifth grade t-shirts, and fifth grade activities. Funds are raised to help defray the cost of the activities and the cost of attending Camp Guyasuta. Any carryover money from the prior year will go back to the PTA to be used for the next year's 5th grade activities

committee.

Friends of the Library Committee:

The chairperson schedules volunteers for Howe's annual Family Reading Night in the spring and assists the school librarian with the Special Occasion Books program as needed.

This chairperson is also responsible for selecting and purchasing books in honor of graduating 5th grade parents who have been in PTA leadership roles (on exec board or committee chairs during their tenure). These are presented/shared at the May PTA meeting and donated to the Howe library.

The chairperson works with the Howe school librarian to schedule volunteers as needed.

Homeroom Coordinator Committee:

The committee chairs organize Homeroom Coordinators for each homeroom and provide information for them at the beginning of the school year. The chairs answer questions and communicate with the Homeroom Coordinators throughout the year, give them the rules for homeroom activities, and request their help getting volunteers for various school and PTA activities.

Hospitality/Staff Appreciation Committee:

Hospitality - The chairpersons coordinate the welcome back luncheon for Howe teachers and staff in August and the Kindergarten Coffees held the morning and afternoon of the first day of kindergarten. Plus the chairpersons coordinate light refreshments for the Council PTA Meeting the month it's held at Howe (done on a rotating basis with the other Mt. Lebanon schools) as well as the PTA Volunteer Appreciation Event which takes place during the April PTA Working Session.

Staff Appreciation - The chairpersons also coordinate Staff Appreciation Week, Appreciation events throughout the year (ex. February school supply drive, Valentine's Day snack cart) and the Staff Appreciation Luncheon in the spring.

Howe's About a Gift Committee:

The chairpersons of this committee organize the annual holiday gift sale in which students can purchase small gifts, including coordinating a vendor and making handmade gifts. They also coordinate volunteers as needed.

Howe's Got Talent Committee:

The chairpersons advertise the talent show, distribute the rules, organize the talent show, and coordinate volunteers to help run the show.

Howe Spirit Wear Committee:

The chairperson coordinates the sale of Howe Elementary School clothing, including selecting a vendor, selecting items, advertising the sale, processing orders, and distributing the clothing when it arrives.

International Committee:

This committee hosts a "Bite of the World" picnic typically in May or June which is a potluck style picnic where families can bring cultural food to share with other Howe families.

Inclusivity Committee:

This committee was formed in 2023 with the goal to ensure all Howe students and families are included in PTA events. The committee chair works with other committee chairs and the school counselor to educate new chairs on inclusivity considerations. They create and maintain social stories for major PTA events, ensure any needed accommodations are set in place, maintain and distribute sensory kits, ensure a designated quiet area is set up and communicated as a part of the events.

This committee also is responsible for the annual Healthy Minds Fair, and liaisons with National PTA to implement DEI resources and programs.

Kindergarten Orientation Committee:

The committee chair helps the kindergarten teachers prepare for the kindergarten orientations held in the spring by making name tags for the incoming students, ordering any teacher needed materials, providing a small snack for them, and putting together a bag of small items for the students to take home. The chair also provides light refreshments for the parent meeting, which is held in the auditorium while the children are meeting in their kindergarten classrooms.

This committee chair is also responsible for organizing Popsicles on the Playground. In the fall before school begins, advertise to families, order popsicles and host an event with the principal to welcome new Kindergarten families to a casual event on the playground where the kids play and parents get to meet each other.

Lunchtime Clubs Committee:

The chairperson coordinates volunteers to run various lunchtime clubs for students. Clubs are held during the lunch/recess hour and run for several-week sessions, typically during winter months. The chairperson works with the building secretary to ensure all volunteers have their required district standard clearances.

Odyssey of the Mind Committee:

The chairperson's responsibilities include advertising the program and educating parents/guardians and students about the program, helping coaches and students form teams, and getting teams registered for the competition in March. The chairperson works with the building secretary to ensure all volunteers have their required district standard clearances.

Read-a-Thon Committee:

The chairpersons plan, advertise, and run the Read-a-Thon. This includes publicizing the event to students, families, and teachers, tallying the amount of minutes read per child, coordinating prizes and any money raised.

Scholastic Book Fair Committee:

The chairpersons advertise, set up, run, and take down the annual Scholastic Book Fair, organizing volunteers as needed. They also work with the principal to coordinate teacher and staff book orders.

Scholastic Classroom Orders Committee:

The chairperson sends Scholastic Book fliers home with all students then collects the orders and money for parents who haven't placed their orders on-line. When the books arrive, the chairperson distributes the books to the students.

School Supply Kits Committee:

The committee chairperson is responsible for obtaining the supply list by grade and selecting a company to provide the school supply kits for families to order. Typically, this is offered only as a convenience, and no profit margin is requested.

STEAM Fair Committee:

The committee chairpersons organize, advertise, and run the annual Science Fair--including judging--and coordinate volunteers as needed. They also organize science-related entertainment for the fair.

Spelling Bee - 4th-5th Grades Committee:

The chairpersons organize and promote the bee, and their duties include putting together word lists, coordinating volunteers, and arranging prizes. A winner and two runners up are recognized. The chairpersons register Howe's bee with the Scripps National Bee and follow its guidelines, and the chairpersons register Howe's winner, who goes to the Scripps Regional Spelling Bee in March.

Spirit Center Student Store Committee:

The chairpersons stock the Spirit Center with various school supplies to be sold during designated lunchtimes. The chairs also staff the center, training and coordinating fifth grade volunteers. All profit from Spirit Center shall benefit the 5th Grade Activities Committee. The chairperson works with the building secretary to ensure all volunteers have their required district standard clearances.

Sunny Funny Fair Committee:

The chairpersons of this committee are responsible for organizing and promoting the annual Sunny Funny Fair held in the fall. The fair is a fundraiser for Howe PTA. The chairpersons coordinate the subcommittee chairs to run games, help with food, run the basket raffle, sell tickets, help with the prize ticket redemption and prize selection, and set up and take down the fair.

Website Committee:

The chairperson is responsible for updating and maintaining the Howe PTA website. The chairperson works with the board, including the principal, as well as committee chairs and other PTA volunteers, to get the information needed to keep the site updated and help advertise PTA and school events.

Veteran's Day Celebration/Operation Sweets Committee:

Assist the school principal in planning a Veteran's Day assembly. In addition to the event, this committee also coordinates the collection of leftover Halloween candy from Howe families to be sent to troops. "Operation Sweets" includes placing boxes in the school lobby, reminding families to bring in leftover candy in the time

between Halloween and the Veteran's Day event, and then delivering the candy to the organization.

Yearbook Committee:

The chairperson asks parents to submit photos of various school events throughout the year then works with the school picture company to create the yearbook. The chairperson also advertises the yearbook, collects orders, and distributes the yearbook.

III. Special Committees

Audit Committee:

The Audit Committee is selected at the May PTA meeting and consists of an auditor (can be just one PTA member if that person is a CPA) or an auditing committee of not fewer than three (3) Howe PTA members, who are not authorized to sign checks. The audit will be conducted after the close of the fiscal year. The audit report will be presented by a member of the Audit Committee at the September PTA meeting.

Nominating Committee:

The Nominating Committee is elected at the November PTA meeting. The Nominating Committee consists of three (3) PTA members. The President may not serve on this committee nor direct its work. The committee presents the slate at the February meeting.

Budget Committee:

The Budget Committee shall meet following the election of officers in March to prepare a budget using an estimated carryover. The budget should be advertised in the Howe PTA e-mail blast two weeks prior to the May meeting and presented for approval at the May PTA meeting. The budget will be amended after the audit and adjusted to reflect the actual carryover. The amended budget is presented at the September PTA meeting for approval. The Budget Committee will consist of incoming and outgoing Presidents, incoming and outgoing Treasurers.

Calendar Committee:

The Calendar Committee shall meet in early April, after the district emails the current President and current 1st VP the template, to prepare the calendar of PTA events for the next school year. The Calendar Committee will consist of the incoming and outgoing Presidents and incoming and outgoing 1st VPs. The outgoing 1st VP is the chair of this committee and is responsible for submitting the calendar to the Bashsuperintendent's administrative assistant. Prior to submission, the calendar must be approved by the principal. Note when planning PTA events may not conflict with any Howe school event, any Mellon MS school or PTA event, or any HS arts performance.

Welcome Back Coffee for 1st-5th Grade Committee:

The Welcome Back Coffee for 1st-5th Grade Committee consists of the Executive Board, which does the planning for and attends this event. It is accounted for in the budget.

BarOther committees may be appointed by the President as needed.

Revised and updated by:

Greg Engle, President

Emily Balestreire, 1st Vice President

Liz Longo, Corresponding Secretary

Amy Grella, PTA member and Standing Rules Revision Committee member

Jordan Backstrom, PTA member and Standing Rules Revision Committee member

Approved by Howe PTA Executive Board:

Greg Engle, President

Emily Balestreire, 1st Vice President

Roxana Colaiaco, 2nd Vice President

Matt Rizzutto, Principal/3rd Vice President

Tim Kellner, Treasurer

Katy Thomas, Recording Secretary

Liz Longo, Corresponding Secretary

Aimee Danley, Historian

Date: 3/12/25

Signature



Greg Engle

Howe PTA President