

PTA Meeting Minutes

Howe Elementary School Auditorium

January 13th, 2026 | 7:00pm

Attendance:

Google Meet virtual meeting concurrent - Liz Longo, Katy Thomas, Matt Rizzutto, Amy Grella, Jordan Backstrom, Kari Maloney, Kalie Tomiczek, Emily Balestreire, Amy Zierath, Janet Slagel, Margeaux Everhart, Isabelle Torassoli, Claudia Caruso, Debra Byrnes, Jess Robertson

Called to Order at 7:02pm

Approval of November Meeting Minutes - **APPROVED** unanimously - Motion by Janet Slagel, seconded by Liz Longo.

- Officer Reports
 - Treasurer's Report from Amy Zierath:
 - Balance Report - ended the month with a \$38,876.80 balance and \$823 currently in outstanding checks.
 - New Funding Requests:
 - "Field Trip" for the 1st grade traveling planetarium show on June 2nd. World in Motion presentation. The total cost is \$580 for all four classes. 1st grade is requesting 50% of total - \$290.
 - Motion by Kalie Tomiczek, seconded by Jordan Backstrom
 - **APPROVED**
 - The Hospitality Committee is requesting not to exceed \$3,000 for the school supply drive.
 - Motion by Kalie Tomiczek, seconded by Liz Longo
 - **APPROVED**
 - BMX Assembly in May - not to exceed \$1900.
 - Motion by Katy Thomas, seconded by Jen Webler
 - **APPROVED**
 - CLO assembly "Young Washington" on March 24th.
 - Motion by Janet Slagel, seconded Amy Grella
 - **APPROVED**
 - The Hospitality Committee is requesting \$250/month (\$1,200) to stock the teacher's lounge with snacks and drinks.
 - Motion by Jen Webler, seconded by Kalie Tomiczek
 - **APPROVED**
 - The Hospitality Committee is requesting not to exceed \$800 for Lebo Subs catering for the teachers on Open House.
 - Motion by Amy Grella, seconded by Janet Slagel
 - **APPROVED**
 - Howe's About a Gift is requesting \$1,500 for additional craft expenses.

- Motion by Kali Tomiczek, seconded by Kari Maloney
 - *APPROVED*
 - Abby Neal Grant - Mt Lebanon Community Foundation is funding a grant of \$1,300 to add a special garden or playground memorial in Abby's memory. We are not spending our own PTA money on this.
 - Motion by Janet Slagel, seconded by Jordan Backstrom
 - *APPROVED*
 - The Bingo Committee is requesting not to exceed \$3,000 to cover the entire cost of food for participants.
 - Motion by Jess Robertson, seconded by Kari Maloney
 - *APPROVED*
 - The 5th Grade Committee has requested \$107 for Card My Yard signs for the front of the school at summer break.
 - Motion by Katy Thomas, seconded by Janet Slagel
 - *APPROVED*
- VP Report from Matt Rizzutto
 - Mr. McCormick has requested dates for their band concert. Matt is currently looking into it.
- President's Report from Emily Balestreire:
 - Flex space proposal was briefly discussed, which entails renovating the current auditorium by removing chairs and flooring and replacing flooring and adding in removable cafeteria style tables and chairs. Proposals are coming in and the PTA is discussing with the district for options. Next year is more likely.
 - PTA is planning to buy picnic tables to go outside K rooms and a few potentially near the playground as well.
 - PTA is also planning to purchase a few more cafeteria tables in expectation of the flex space happening at some point.
 - MTLSD will be launching a new website in July 2026.
 - PTA Amazon Business Account, share your amazon list with Emily if you want to use the PTA card.
 - New PTA Resources:
 - 3 new locking cash boxes - separate from Spirit Center
 - Blue bin "PTA Events" tape, etc. needs for events
 - 2 Samsung Tablets
- Other Officer reports:
 - Correspondence Secretary, Liz Longo: Thank you cards received from St. Winifred's Food pantry, Jess Robertson (School Supply purchase), teachers, and from Mrs. DiNardo.
 - Amy Grella, PTA Historian: Electronic annual report working on something to get up and running for next year.

- Chair Reports & Recent Activities:
 - Howe's Got Talent from Janet Slagel
 - Roxana or Katy will be in charge of taking photos for the yearbook.
 - Volunteers needed! Amy Grella volunteered.
 - Sensory story needed from Mrs. Karbowski
 - Will be using sandwich boards to promote outside the building.
 - PTA Council Mtg from Liz and Amy Grella
 - 2028 - 100 years celebrating Howe
 - Day of Service for MLK day
 - Healthy Minds Grant from Amy Grella
 - If you complete the survey you are eligible to receive one of a few gift cards.
 - Spirit Wear by Jennie Rahimzadeh via Emily
 - Online sale will run from 1/26 to 2/6 and will be delivered to school.
 - Inventory will be available to sell at events.
 - \$1k profit so far
 - REQUESTED:
 - +\$350 increase for her budget to increase to \$1200 total
 - Motion by Kari Maloney, seconded by Kalie Tomiczek
 - *APPROVED*
 - Hospitality Committee from Kari Maloney
 - Funding requests made during the Treasurer's Report.
 - Cultural Arts from Megan Williams via Emily
 - BMX Assembly scheduled for May 7th at 1:30
 - CLO performance assembly scheduled for March 24th
 - Saltworks Assembly "Wellness Warriors" scheduled for Feb. 27th at 1:30.
 - Parker Basketball Jones assembly was a big hit with students and teachers! Planning to schedule another assembly for the fall.
 - Bingo Night from Emily
 - Working with a \$3700 budget
 - Games and food will be free
 - 500 people maximum at the HS Center Court
 - Spelling Bee from Sally Pratt
 - Scheduled for the week of January 27th.
 - 5th Grade Committee from Margeaux Everhart
 - Totopo fundraiser scheduled for January 28th.
 - Memory Books are being taken care of separate from the yearbook.
 - They are hosting a 5th grade Valentine's Day dance.
 - Howe's About a Gift from Jen Webler
 - \$4,000 profit
 - Requested additional funds for \$1,500 for additional craft expenses.
 - Scholastic Book Fair from Jen Webler
 - Sales of approximately \$5,700, earning each teacher about \$200 to spend in Scholastic Bucks.
 - Read-a-Thon from Kalie Tomiczek and Jen Webler
 - Charlie and the Chocolate Factory theme

- Community Service from Andria Glock via Emily
 - Arlington Elementary School (PPS) food drive will take place in February
 - Beverly's Birthdays is another foundation they are planning to assist this school year

- New Business
 - Nominating Committee
 - There are 4 open positions
 - 2nd VP, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, Historian

- Announcements
 - 1/16 NO SCHOOL
 - 1/19 NO SCHOOL MLK DAY
 - 1/27 Spelling Bee 1st Round 4th grade 4:00pm, 5th grade 6:30pm
 - 1/28 Spelling Bee Finals 4:00pm
 - 2/10 NEXT PTA MEETING 7:00pm

- Adjournment at 8:10pm

****The next PTA Meeting will be held on 2/10/26 at 7:00pm in the auditorium at Howe.**