

Howe PTA Meeting Minutes
March 18, 2026 7PM
Howe Auditorium

Call to Order 7:01pm

Attendance Katy Thomas, Roxana Colaiaco, Liz Longo, Emily Balestreire, Matt Rizzutto, Amy Zierath, Keke Ventura, Jen Webler, Kalie Tomiczek, Jess Robertson, Kassie Wadsworth, Missy Sullivan, Jordan Backstrom, Margeaux Everhart, Amy Grella

Google Meet Attendance: Betsy Miller, Greg Engle, Nidhi Agarwal

Approval of February Meeting Minutes: Motion Jordan Backstrom, Second Kalie Tomiczek - *APPROVED*

PTA Officers Reports

- Treasurer's Report – Amy Zierath
 - Balance Update - \$32,169.52
 - Expenses - teacher purchases, assemblies
 - Outstanding checks of \$2,847.19
 - Amy recommends spending balance down further
 - Turn in any receipts for reimbursement ASAP
 - New Funding Requests
 - 9 metal picnic tables and 3 benches to go outside K doors and near (or on) playground area- NTE \$13,000
 - Motion from Liz Longo, Seconded by Kalie Tomiczek - *APPROVED*
 - Field Day t-shirts- NTE \$3,500 for staff and students @ \$7 a shirt plus any fees from Commonwealth. Roughly 450 shirts.
 - Motion from Amy Zierath, Seconded by Melissa Sullivan - *APPROVED*
 - Kindergarten Field Trip to Aviary on 4/22- \$742
 - Motion from Katy Thomas, Seconded by Kalie Tomiczek - *APPROVED*
 - 5th grade teacher end of year celebration supplies- NTE \$175
 - Motion from Liz Longo, Seconded by Jess Roberston - *APPROVED*
 - Free Kona Ice at Open House on April 8th- NTE \$2,500 (\$2.50 each)
 - Motion from Jordan Backstrom, Seconded by Melissa Sullivan - *APPROVED*
 - Betsy's Ice Cream for participants at Family Reading Night (floats and cakes)- NTE \$1,000 (\$4 an ice cream)
 - Motion from Katy Thomas, Seconded by Jess Robertson - *APPROVED*
 - Items to support PBIS- NTE \$350

- Motion from Kalie Tomiczek, Seconded by Amy Grella - *APPROVED*
 - Teacher Wishlists- NTE \$2,500 (see Spreadsheet)
 - Dictionaries, rugs, floor chair, sensory items, floor cushions, acrylic sign, sporting goods, book pouches, keychains, snacks, paint sets, etc.
 - Motion Cassie, Second Melissa
 - Readathon by Kalie Tomiczek - request of NTE \$1000 to cover additional costs incurred for prizes. (May not even need, checking into budget item lines)
 - Motion from Jordan Backstrom, Seconded by Liz Longo - *APPROVED*
 - Amy Grella - NTE \$300 for Connect Four game, \$100 for additional sensory kits (does not need to be voted on, already on budget line), calming water bottles for second grade.
 - Motion from Kalie Tomiczek, Seconded by Jen Webler - *APPROVED*
- VP – Matt Rizzutto
 - Lunchroom updates
 - Two 4th grade classes moved to 3rd grade lunch to free up space.
 - Transition time adjustments and traffic adjustments
 - Seeing positive results
 - Go-zone
 - Big difference with staff presence.
- President – Emily Balestreire
 - Paper Plate awards
 - Margeaux Everhart, Jen Webler, Kalie Tomiczek, Roxana Colaiaco
 - New PTA items
 - 10 8.5x11 in white frames and 6 new acrylic slanted signs (labeled Amazon box on auditorium shelves) available for use
 - National PTA Convention in June
 - Melissa Sullivan (free) and Emily Balestreire (paid) are going
 - Givebacks - may transfer from Membership Toolkit. Will discuss at council meeting later in the month.
 - Walk throughs before and after events (especially at another facility). Take pictures and send them to President if you see damage.
 - ie: Bingo, Talent Show
 - ADA compliance- Newsletter and PTA website content (new website coming this summer)
 - Committee Chairs for 2026-27: Applying via Google Form & April 14th Working Session/Volunteer Appreciation. Need chairs for:
 - Talent Show
 - Newsletter
 - Family Fun (co-chair with Jordan Backstrom)

- Accessibility (previously Inclusivity)
 - Spirit Center (Katie Worthy will assist in transition)
 - Birthday Bulletin Boards (Keke)
 - 5th Grade Committee
 - Family Reading Night
- o Bylaws review
- o District Updates:
 - Class sizes
 - Possible relief in 4th and 5th with larger K and 1 classes
 - Staffing
 - Likely not adding any new teachers just shifting them around
- Other officer reports-
 - o Liz Longo (Corresponding Secretary)- correspondence received
 - Jojo, student, sent a thank you for the cool stuff for their classroom.
 - Mrs. Lombardo - sent a thank you card
 - Staff appreciation card - from all staff
 - o Amy Grella (Historian)- committee reports

Chair Reports/Upcoming and Recent Activities

- STEAM Fair (Kassie Wadsworth and Jess Robertson)
 - o Facilities request is in, Emily has permit and gave to Kassie
 - o Mad Science will be doing 2 shows
- PTA Council Meeting notes (Amy Grella/Amy Zierath)
 - o April 7th Budget Forum - can watch
 - o Lebo University is approaching, deadline to register is the 20th, this Friday.
- Healthy Minds Grant (Amy Grella)
 - o Howe sponsoring grief and anxiety presentation from The Caring Place, moving beyond 5 stages of grief model
 - o HM Fair during Open House
 - Teen Outreach, Caring Place, Resolve, Mindful Matters will be attending
 - Still working on spending grant money
- Spirit Wear (Jennie Rahimzadeh)
 - o \$537 in sales at Bingo Night, will be selling at Open House and FRN
 - o Field Day t-shirt try on event at Open House
- Hospitality (Kari Maloney and Alison McKown)- Recess for teachers May 15th?
 - o Luncheon dates
- Bingo Night (Emily Balestreire)
 - o Approximately 420 people attended
 - Molly's, Vocelli's, and Nick's Pizza provided the pizza
- 5th Grade Committee (Margeaux Everhart)

- o Pool party, pizza night upcoming
- Read-a-Thon (Jen Webler and Kalie Tomiczek) -
 - o \$19,211 before fees
 - o Bulletin Board - discuss with Mary
 - o Prizes are coming!!!
 - o Feedback - at spring party the class winners will get donuts
- Lunch Clubs (Cassandra Glevicky)
 - o Kalie Tomiczek will be assisting and taking over
- Howe's Got Talent (Janet Slagel)
 - o New chair needed
- Kindergarten Orientation (Michelle Duffy)
 - o Playdate 8/11 on the playground, AM and PM (raindate 12th)
- International Committee/Bite of the World (Roxana Colaiaco)
 - o Sign ups are out, please spread the word
 - o Playground (gym in case of rain)
- Reflections (Roxana Colaiaco)
 - o 10 kids participated, 8 regional awards, 4 state awards
- Yearbook (Katy Thomas)
 - o Request for photos

Unfinished Business

- Nominating Committee- vote on the PTA Executive Board slate for 2026-27 (Katie Worthy, Jennie Rahimzadeh, Melissa Sullivan)
 - o Pres- Emily Balestreire
 - o 1st VP - Katy Thomas
 - o 2nd VP - Jordan Backstrom
 - o Treasurer - Nidhi Agarwal
 - o Recording - Keke Ventura
 - o Historian - Greg Engle
 - o Corresponding- Melissa Sullivan
 - Slate officially approved by vote

- President, 1st VP, and Treasurer all have full access to bank account per Bylaws*

Announcements

3/24 - CLO Assembly

3/26 - STEAM Fair 5:30-7:30

3/27 - Spring Parties

3/30-4/3 - NO SCHOOL Spring Break

4/8 - Open House & Healthy Minds Fair

4/14 - **PTA Working Session/PTA Volunteer Appreciation 7:00 pm**

5/4 - **Next PTA Meeting 7:00 p.m - MONDAY**

Adjournment Liz Longo, Kassie Wadsworth at 8:06pm