Thursday, December 4, 2025

HKIMS PTO Meeting Minutes

Attendance

In-Person:

Nicole Harlow, PTO President	Julie Peryga, PTO Vice President	Mariah Miesel - PTO Secretary
Kelly Drajewicz	Eric Larson, IS Principal	Heather Persson, MS Principal
Paige Callahan, Teacher Liaison	Jaci Paulson	

Remote:

Steve Fitzgerald, MS Asst. Principal

Meeting Start: 6:01pm

Previous Business

- Review of November 6, 2025 minutes.
- Heather noted a spelling error of Oct 9th Previous Business, Principal was misspelled Principle. This has been corrected in Final Minutes.
- Motion to approve minutes, with note of spelling error to be corrected, made by Kelly, seconded by Julie; no objections.

President's Report & Vice President's Report

- Cougar Color Challenge
    - Nicole has worked with Mrs. Rodbourn, HKIS winner, and they are doing their photobooth prize Monday 12/8/25..
    - Nicole noted the HKMS winner, Mrs. O'Rourke class, has not scheduled their movie day. During the meeting, Paige texted with Mrs. O'Rourke and she will show the movie before Winter Break. Potentially a Silver Day, 12/19 is tentative. As for PTO providing snacks, Mrs. O'Rourke will check with the school nurse for any food allergies first and get back to Nicole.

MS Principal's Report (Heather Persson)

- Heather thanked the PTO for a successful Veterans Day Breakfast, noting it was the smoothest she has ever seen it and the servers were enthusiastic.
- Heather and Mr. Fitzgerald noted that the slime battle was so fun and thanked the PTO for the event. Having all 687 students in the auditorium was a sight to see, but went very well.
- Heather noted the Book Fair was going well.
- Heather noted that MS Sports are underway. Girls & Boys Basketball, Swim & Wed Wrestling has started. Wrestling has more girls this year which is great to see.
- Heather noted that MS Clubs have started. She wants to work on getting more membership into the clubs. She is looking for suggestions on how to get the memberships up.
    - Kelly noted that scheduling/day of week for the clubs seems to be an issue with other local sports.
- The 6th Grade Band/Chorus concert is Jan. 14th.
- Auditions for the MS Drama Club show, Matilda, are scheduled for Jan. 7th and 8th.
- The first MS Dance of the year is scheduled for Jan. 16th. MS is working on a theme and kids

are very excited.

- HKYFS will be doing a youth voice survey to get data among students. The survey will be Dec 18th for 7th & 8th Grade students. The Climate Survey copy will be coming out Dec 5th. These surveys will be used to help the Advisory Committee. Nicole asked if the Advisory is weekly; Heather noted it is monthly.

IS Principal's Report (Eric Larson)

- Eric thanked the PTO for all the support and work lately.
- Eric thanked the PTO for a great Veterans Breakfast. He thanked Mr. Fitzgerald as many loved the live band.
- Eric noted the IS Drama Club did a wonderful job in the Claw Musical. The students from the drama club had an opportunity to visit the Legacy Theater Dec 3rd, to see the world premier of Marley & Scrooge. The Director of that show wrote a great letter to the school on how great the kids were, well behaved, and how engaged they were with the show. Eric noted that the HKIS Theater is an exciting and integral part of IS and he is so proud of the students and staff.
- Eric noted that the 5th grade chorus will going to the Senior Living Center next week to sing to the residents.
- Friday Dec 12th, IS will be joining the elementary schools to see the HKHS perform.
- Eric noted a Holiday sing a long will be Dec 23rd at 10:15am, before the winter break. All are welcome to attend and join in.
- Eric noted that they welcomed the superintendent on a two hour tour of the building. The kids were excited to meet her.

PTO President/Vice President's Report

- Nicole expressed thanks and appreciates all the opportunities for the kids to cross schools. Example, the IS and Elementary going to HKHS. These type of school crossover events are really important to see where students came from and where they are headed for inspiration. Years ago the schools felt more siloed and dissociated. It is starting to feel more cohesive. The Interim Superintendents calendar on the newsletter with all the schools information was great and the PTO hopes that continues.
- Nicole noted that Jaime Sierpinski will assist the PTO with the Glow Party at IS. Jaime is doing the Burr Valentines Dance and has a flyer set up for the PTO to use.
- Nicole noted that Adam Wallenta will utilize the Glow Party to kickoff his book fair event. He has a flyer for kids to get ahead of time to pick out their items they want. Kelly and Paige suggested to make the flyer digital for parents to get an email and pick out items instead of a flyer, which may not make it to the parents. Jaci noted she will look at this book fair with Adam and bring the flyer to the KES PTO as the age range is good for some of the books listed.
- Nicole noted that Maggie Amaio is interested in selling snacks at the Glow Party and the student council to run it. In discussion, it was suggested instead of all student council students, to look for parent volunteers as well for a 1-1 ratio. One student to One parent. Heather suggested to sell snack tickets ahead of time so students do not need to worry about money at the event. Hand in a ticket for a snack.

Treasurer's Report

- Nicole noted the spreadsheet needed to be updated and she would discuss with Kristi.
- Nicole noted that the PTO can not use Venmo as you have to have a business account and be linked to a personal account. Having a personal account tied to the Venmo is a liability. The prior PTO President was the primary on the Venmo account, she tried to move everything to Nicole but it is not working. Because we can not move personal accounts, the PTO will look at other online donation sites. Julie noted that Zeffy, which we already use for other events and have set up, has a donation section, so the PTO is looking into that online site for future.

Committees

Veteran's Day

- Nicole thanked everyone for the event and their time.
- Nicole had volunteer feedback. A few volunteers questioned their donations, what was used or purchased with my donation? Nicole noted the flags and decor were part of it. For next year we do have a $150 budget, and the PTO is going to look at adding more breakfast options and getting more decor for the room, like buntings. Then we can see what is needed to update the donation flyer.

Bus Driver Appreciation

- The bus drivers received their gift cards and cookies the Wed before Thanksgiving.
- Kristi received the checks from Burr and KES.

Staff Appreciation

- Nicole noted the PTO is trying to do smaller things more frequently based on feedback that large luncheons are hard for all staff to get to.
- Nicole noted we want to get the cafeteria staff chocolates as a thank you for always assisting with the washing after all the PTO events.

Book Fair

- Nicole noted the book fair is ongoing. So far it seems to be well received and the kids are liking the titles this year. A lot of MS books are selling this year. Kids were coming in with e-wallet setup funds this year.
- Nicole noted that we have Scholastic money that will be expiring. The PTO wants to try to get all kids in the spring $5. Leanne H is doing a wishlist to buy now for a March event.

Cultural Arts/Assemblies

- Julie noted A&R sounds of Music can't do Jan 10th. They are on tour in Jan. They sent a list of dates in Feb. Julie to send the list to Heather and Eric to pick.

Yearbook

- Nicole noted that all the classes voted on a theme but one teacher was missing on the vote. As soon as that vote is in, the winning theme will be announced.
- Paige had a question getting photos uploaded for the yearbook. She suggested using Tree Ring. Get the parents/volunteers/photographers of the events name and email and set them up on Tree Ring so they can upload directly to that site. If that will not work, as a volunteer, she feels we need to work on a better process to get photos uploaded or submitted to PTO. Nicole noted there is a yearbook email account, yearbook.HKIS@gmail.com, she suggested to send their photos here. PTO to review and look into photo sharing ideas.

Cup Committee

- For winter Kelly will be doing one design to keep up until the Spring. Snowflakes or Snowman.
- Kelly noted that the 9oz cups work better as the flag design stayed up much longer with them.

Welcome Wagon

- Paige noted there was one new 7th grade student. Heather confirmed and will get details to Kelly.

PTO Leadership/Spirit Wear

- Nicole noted the new Superintendent wants to do a get together soon.

New Business

- No new business

Meeting adjourned 7:01 pm by Nicole