Thursday, January 8, 2026

HKIMS PTO Meeting Minutes

Attendance

All Remote:

Nicole Harlow, PTO President	Julie Peryga, PTO Vice President	Kristi LiDonni, PTO Treasurer
Kelly Drajewicz	Eric Larson, IS Principal	Heather Persson, MS Principal
Robin Duffield, MS Teacher Liaison	Kathleen Egan, IS Teacher Liaison	Sarah McMillan

Meeting Start: 6:01pm

Previous Business

- Could not review previous minutes; will do at next meeting

PTO President's Report & Vice President's Report

- Appreciation
    - Nicole mentioned that there seemed to have been a coordinated effort for staff to thank the PTO; received many messages of thanks in the PTO mailbox and it was a pleasant surprise to find after taking winter break off from PTO business and it was greatly appreciated!

MS Principal's Report (Heather Persson)

- Middle school dance permission slips will go out in the newsletter (were also sent home with students); administration is aware of a wrestling match conflict and affected students will be permitted to arrive at the dance past 7:30pm; dance ticket sales will end Tuesday, Jan 13.
- Musical tryouts for Matilda Jr. are underway.
- 6th grade chorus and band concert coming up Wednesday
- Honor Society field trip this Friday
- Winter testing for SBAC and iReady, plus Algebra 1 midterms are coming up
- Excited for the David Flood assembly in March
- Winter sports are underway; high school wrestling team came to support MS wrestlers and recruit for next year; swim and basketball also in progress
- Kelly D. asked a question about whether or not the MS has a volleyball team; Heather answered that there is not a team, but there is a volleyball club which takes place between winter and spring sports seasons; she has proposed making it an official team and will update in the future if this happens.
- Robin D. shared the following:
    - MS dance tickets are on sale
    - Honor Society will be doing a crayon recycling community service project; students put collection boxes around town (at the library, elementary schools, HS–will be handled by the HS art club); Staples ships the collected crayons for free; they will also do an outdoor service project with HK Parks & Rec at Eric Auer Park in Killingworth including trail blazing, and students will lead a Saturday clean up day; honor society will also plan the spring dance.
    - MS yearbook is on sale again; will place order in early February and will order only a few extras, so parents are encouraged to get their orders in.

IS Principal's Report (Eric Larson)

- Hosted new superintendent and assistant superintendent recently
- Spirit week happened and will likely have more coming up
- Holiday Sing Along was fun; Kelly D. gave a shoutout to Mr. Tedeschi for a great program and mentioned that it would be great to see more parents there for it in the future
- Student council will attend a leadership conference next week
- Kathleen Egan said that she and Ms. Barse will attend the Highly Reliable Schools Summit in San Antonio, TX next week; last year they reached level 1 and this year are hoping to reach level 2, which relates to the quality of teaching.
- Looking forward to the engineering assembly (1/16), Glow Party (1/23), and winter band and chorus concert (1/28)
- Winter clubs (5) are currently running, plus Unified Sports, which is year-round; cooking club is popular and a good use of the resources available by sharing space with the middle school.

Treasurer's Report

- Balance: $53,901.78

Committees

Veteran's Day, Bus Driver Appreciation, Staff Appreciation, Cup Committee, Welcome Wagon

- Nothing to report

Book Fair (Nicole H.)

- Nicole H. Is stepping down as the Chair and Stephanie Ruth will not stay on either, so a new chair is needed for this committee.
- Sarah M. suggested that maybe kids could get involved in the planning and thought students would like to be able to select titles; Nicole said Scholastic doesn't allow us to make requests that specific, we just get a sample of titles for each age and that we have been receiving a middle school fair for the last couple of fairs in order to have more titles for the older students.
- December fair had $11,486.55 in total sales, which is typical for the fall fair.
- PTO took $1,367.64 in cash and $3,000 in Scholastic Dollars
- Spring fair will coincide with AAFA night in May, and we will offer $5 to every student again.

Cultural Arts/Assemblies (Julie P.)

- 1st assembly (Engineering) is next Friday for intermediate school students.
- Sounds of A&R, for both schools, will be Feb 20 at 1pm for MS and 2pm for IS; Julie will be there to represent the PTO at MS assembly, and Mariah will be there for IS.
- David Flood will be March 3 at 9:25am; this is for MS only and Nicole will be there to greet speaker at 8:25am.
- Corey the Dribbler will come on IS field day

Yearbook (Nicole H. reporting for Kelly Inga)

- Nicole met with Kelly Inga; she is up to speed and working on the book; Nicole will assist as needed and handle the portrait sections
- Custom pages are due April 30

New Business

- Family Night
    - Samantha Harvey had some suggestions, including a dance and Twister night; these ideas are being covered by the upcoming Glow Party
    - Julie P. likes the idea of doing BINGO again; the PTO has most of the supplies from last year and it was well attended.
    - Game night was suggested; Kelly D. said Burr has rented giant games, possibly from CT Rental Center; Robin suggested picking 4 specific games and having pre-printed games or a QR code that drives to a simple video so families can stop at whatever station they want and quickly start to play.
    - Tentatively planning on March 20 (can't use the school on March 6; there is no school on March 13, and March 27 is the MS musical).

Meeting adjourned 6:59 pm by Nicole