Thursday, February 5, 2026

HKIMS PTO Meeting Minutes

Attendance

In-Person:

Nicole Harlow, PTO President	Julie Peryga, PTO Vice President	Kristi LiDonni, PTO Treasurer
Kelly Drajewicz	Joe Markim	Heather Persson, MS Principal
Becky Rodbourn, IS Teacher Liaison		

Remote:

Eric Larson, IS Principal	Mariah Miesel, PTO Secretary	Robin Duffield, MS Teacher Liaison

Meeting Start: 6:00pm

Previous Business

- Review of January 8, 2026 minutes.
- Kelly made a motion to approve minutes, seconded by Kristi; no objections.

President's Report & Vice President's Report

- Dr. Patricia Sullivan-Kowalski stopped in quickly to our meeting, thanking the PTO for all they do and noting she will see us at the Budget PTO Meetings March 18th. Nicole then noted the next March 5th PTO meeting will be cancelled as the PTO will be attending the March 18th Budget meeting with the Superintendent. This meeting will be held at the HKIMS Cafeteria.
- Nicole noted that HKYFS reached out to see if the PTO wanted to partner on their run a muck event. PTO opted out of volunteering at the event, but will work with HKYFS to promote it.
- Nicole discussed the upcoming Family Night. It will be held on Friday, March 20th from 6-7pm in the cafeteria. LY there were about 100-150 people. We are expecting a similar outcome. PTO will do Bingo with Prizes. Heather volunteered to be the Bingo caller during the event. PTO will secure prizes for the winners. PTO will utilize what is in stock for prizes and snacks as well as purchase pizza and cupcakes for the event. Nicole can not attend this however the rest of the PTO will be present.
- Nicole thanked Eric for the positive remarks on the Glow Party and that the kids did have a wonderful time. Nicole brought up concerns and questioned should we do it again next year.
    - PTO confirmed the space in Aug through the proper paperwork and scheduling platforms, however the Basketball MS team was scheduled over the same time as the start of the Glow Party. Heather noted the MS Athletic Director was not using the same calendar as the rest of the school. Heather noted, as a work around, until the calendars are synched, any activity booked after 6pm with sports will now go through the Admin team to review and approve in the school calendar.
    - There was a lack of volunteers for this event. Need to secure more volunteers for parties in the future like this. Robin made a suggestion, perhaps combine the IS party with the MS dance next year to have extra volunteers. Do the IS after school 345p-545p and then quick turnaround for MS 6p-8p perhaps.
    - Nicole noted that Adam Wallenta, who did the bookfair, told her it was a big loss for him. He feels that a day event would be better next time for him as interest was there. He will do a percentage of his sales back to PTO, the PTO decided they would like to refuse his percentage of sales.

MS Principal's Report (Heather Persson)

- Heather praised the 3 MS Robotics teams. They had their competitions this past week and two teams made the finals. There were over 30 teams in attendance from 7 schools.
- Heather noted the Matilda musical has been cast and rehearsals are underway.
- Heather noted the MS Dance was a success with about 150-200 in attendance. 6th and 7th graders were very excited as 8th graders did not attend as much. They do see more attendance at the Spring Dance.
- Heather noted the Winter sports have ended. They are gearing up for Spring sports like Baseball and Track and Field to start.
- Heather discussed the NY Times bestselling author, James Ponti, is coming Friday Feb 13th to discuss his new City Spies book with the MS and IS Students.
- Heather noted they are excited for the upcoming Sounds of A&R PTO Assembly. They will be here to spread a music journey from Jazz to Hip Hop for IS and MS students Friday Feb 20th.
- Heather discussed the 8th grade field trip to Washington. There will be an informational meeting Tuesday the 10th for parents and the details will be in Heather's upcoming HKMS newsletter. She also noted the room assignments have not yet been assigned. Robin then explained the room assignment process where students are 4 to a room and are asked to work together to decide their group of 4. If students only turn in a group of 2 or 3 they want to share with, the teachers will then work with those students to come up with a group of 4 from other 2 or single groups. Students are participating in room assignments and groupings.
- Heather noted scheduling season is starting for the Admins. They are working on scheduling events for 6th to 7th and 7th to 8th. Math pathways will be coming out at the end of February.
    - Kelly asked when the orientation would be for 5th to 6th. Both principals were unsure on a specific date but it is on the books to be scheduled. Kelly then noted that a lot of Burr Elementary parents are asking if the 5th grade step up day can be picked, and potentially not be the same day as the 3rd grade graduation, as many parents have 3rd graders and 5th graders, and prior years it was the same day and parents had to split where they went. Mr. Larson noted it is tentatively scheduled for Mon 6/13, but that is tentative and may change with snow days.

IS Principal's Report (Eric Larson)

- Eric thanked the PTO for all the work on the Glow Party and that many students came up to him noting it was a great time.
- Eric thanked the PTO for the Jan Engineering Wonders Assembly. Becky Rodbourn talked about how the students loved it and it was just the right amount of time to capture the science with the fun of the magic to spark the students' imaginations.
- Eric noted that the IS teachers were working with Literacy How on how to help the IS Students with writing.
- Eric praised the IS Music department for their Winter Concert on 1/30. It was a great time and he has never seen the auditorium so packed. He thanked all the parent volunteers as well.
- Eric noted he had met with the new superintendent and that she will be back next week to meet with staff to get to know them more.
- Eric noted that the teachers and students are excited for the Sounds of A&R assembly coming up, thanking the PTO for putting that together.
- Eric noted that the IS winter testing is ongoing and the kids are doing well.

Treasurer's Report

- Krisit noted that the PTO has started using Quicken but she is still learning the system and reports. Next meeting she will try to have reports from the new system.
- Kristi reviewed the starting and ending budget.

Committees

Staff Appreciation

- Nicole noted the PTO will do Pies again for the March 11th and 12th parent/teacher conferences, this coincides with Sat 3.14 Pi Day.

Book Fair

- Nicole noted that she has two potential parent volunteers willing to take over this event next year.

Cultural Arts/Assemblies

- Julie noted Sounds of A&R will be arriving Friday Feb 20th. Next event scheduled for March 3rd, is Keynote Speaker David Flood.

Yearbook

- Nicole noted that custom pages are due April 30th for IS, she asked Eric to send out a reminder email. The theme has been selected for the yearbook, it is Dream Bigger. Nicole noted the 5th grade survey questions will be going out very soon.

Cup Committee

- Snowman is up and doing well. That design will stay up until the winter/snow is over.

Welcome Wagon

- No new students.

New Business

- Eric noted that the new Campus Security Officer, Mr. Hatchell has started. He is a retired New Haven police officer. He is great with the students and staff.

Meeting adjourned 7:14 pm by Nicole