Thursday, April 2, 2026

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

Remote:

Steve Fitzgerald, MS Asst. Principal		

Meeting Start: 6:00pm

Previous Business

- Review of February meeting minutes.
- Kelly made a motion to approve minutes, seconded by Julie; no objections.

President's Report & Vice President's Report

- Nicole thanked all for a fun Bingo Night. Parents have noted they enjoy the event, noting it is lots of fun and being able to have family night with friends and family is great. PTO will look to do it again next year. All snacks that were left over after the event are going to the Band/Chorus for snacks on the bus during their upcoming trip.
- Nicole advised that the HKYFS team are borrowing the PTO's inflatable start sign and bubble machine for their Run a Muck event.
- Nicole and Julie asked for the group to start thinking about what fundraising campaigns/events should be done next year. Does the school want to continue with the color run, the largest fundraiser the past two years, or do some smaller events to offset the color run throughout the year? PTO asked group to bring ideas to the next meeting.

MS Principal's Report (Heather Persson)

- Heather thanked the PTO for a great Bingo night, snacks during Parent-Teacher conferences and for the assembly with David Flood. The Assembly was wonderful with great content for the kids, she hopes we can do more of these types of assemblies in the future.
- MS Honor Roll came out this week. There were some online glitches but emails are coming out soon to all as well.
- MS Drama club had their Matilda show performance weekend of March 20th. The kids and team did a wonderful job, thank you to all who helped and participated.
- Spring sports and spring clubs started this week. Heather noted she is looking into what non athletic clubs are doing well this year and hopes to take a survey on what kids are looking for so they can have a comprehensive list for next year clubs, to entice more participation. Kelly suggested trying to poll the current 5th graders as well who will be going into 6th grade.
- The MS Band/Chorus are taking a music trip Wed to NYC to see & Juliet on Broadway and eat dinner at Bubba Gump Shrimp.
- Friday 4/10 is drop everything and read day. Students are encouraged to bring a book and blanket to get comfy the last 30 minutes of the day Friday before spring break to read.
- MS State testing is the last week of April, reminder emails to parents coming out soon. Heather

asked PTO if they can provide snacks during the testing like last year. Granola Bars/Clementines/Nutri Grain bars etc were requested.
- The MS Dance is May 1st. The National Jr Honor Society is putting on the dance.
- Coming up in May the AAFA shows and spring concerts are happening.
- The 8th grade trip to Washington DC room assignments are happening right now. Medical Forms are going out and need to be signed by a Dr. If not, no medications, even OTC medications, are not allowed.

IS Principal's Report (Eric Larson)

- Eric thanked the PTO for a great Bingo night.
- Eric noted that the IS music department is fully staffed now while Nick is out. Mr. Fritz is helping with band along with the MS Music teachers and substitutes. The kids are handling the transition well. Due to all the strain, there will be no select choir the rest of the school year.
- All spring clubs are up and running. The clubs have a higher volume of attendance than in the fall as there are no IS spring sports. Nicole noted she asked the kids in fall sports or clubs to take a picture for the yearbook. Eric noted he did get a picture of unified sports for the PTO and that IS will be hosting another unified sports team during the MS 8th grade Washington DC Trip.
- Next week Eric and Ms. Scoppa will go out to meet the 3rd graders at KES. April 23rd at 630pm will be the parent/student meeting for all 3rd graders going into 4th grade next year. May 3rd will be 3rd grade tours of HKIS.
- Eric noted that James Ponti, the author who came to the school, won the schools battle of authors during Read Across America.
- Eric asked everyone to get the word out to come out and vote at the upcoming budget referendum May 5th, 2026 6a-8p.

Treasurer's Report

- Nicole and Julie reviewed the starting and ending budget from the spreadsheet Kristi sent.

Committees

Staff Appreciation

- Nicole noted the PTO used up the Staff Appreciation budget however PTO wants to do something in May. PTO suggested sending out a google form asking the staff to fill out what their favorite things are, i.e. candy/food/classroom items/store to shop etc. Then we will collect the data and send out a sign up genius to families to help donate any items listed on the donation form for May.

Book Fair

- Nicole the spring book fair is scheduled for May 18-21st. Ending on AAFA night the 21st. .

Cultural Arts/Assemblies

- Julie noted that she was glad the keynote speaker David Flood was able to reschedule after missing his original date due to snow storm. She noted that David gave her a list of other keynote speakers that PTO will look into for next year. Mr. Fitzgerald noted he really liked the message during the assembly and noted that many students stayed after the assembly to ask questions and that he was very engaging.
- The final assembly will be in June, Cory the Dribbler.
- PTO asked for the group to bring ideas to the next meeting on what they are looking for in assemblies next year. IS noted they would like more cultural assemblies next year.

Yearbook

- Nicole noted that custom pages are due April 30th. Year over Year sales are currently down for yearbooks. Nicole asked Eric to send out another email reminder of dates and how to purchase.

Cup Committee

- The snowman cups are down and will be replaced with a flower design for spring.

Welcome Wagon

- MS will have a new student arriving in May, Deb to give name and details to Kelly..

New Business

- Nicole asked both IS and MS Principals for feedback on the climate survey results. Eric said it was overall positive but there were areas of growth, and those are what the teachers are discussing in the classroom to help improve and set goals for. Both noted that in May a climate survey will be coming out for parents to take. Once all data is collected, the school will review next steps.

Meeting adjourned 7:13 pm by Nicole