Thursday, May 7, 2026

HKIMS PTO Meeting Minutes

Attendance

In-Person:

Nicole Harlow, PTO President	Julie Peryga, PTO Vice President	Kristi LiDonni, PTO Treasurer
Mariah Miesel, PTO Secretary	Kelly Drajewicz	Eric Larson, IS Principal
Steve Fitzgerald, MS Asst. Principal	Steve Fitzgerald, MS Asst. Principal	Robin Duffield, MS Teacher Liaison
Tim Houlton, IS Teacher Liaison		

Remote:

Heather Persson, MS Principal		

Meeting Start: 6:00pm

Previous Business

- Motion to approve minutes made by Kelly, seconded by Tim; no objections
- Review of April 2, 2026 minutes. Minutes approved.

President's Report & Vice President's Report

- The PTO thanked all the teacher liaison's that came to the PTO Meetings this year. Nicole handed out thank you cards with amazon gift cards to the teachers for each month.

Treasurer's Report

- Julie reviewed the budget report.

IS Principal's Report (Eric Larson)

- Eric thanked the PTO and all the parents that volunteered for teacher appreciation week.
- Eric noted the 5th grade step up will be June 16th.
- Eric noted the kids and team at IS are looking forward to the Haddam Historical Society coming in next week to talk with the 5th graders.
- The state testing for IS students is ongoing, and the team is so proud of the students.
- The IS AAFA night is Thursday May 21st from 6p-8p.
- The IS Chorus concert is Tuesday May 26th at 7pm and the IS Band concert is Thursday May 28th at 7pm. Eric gave a huge thank you to the music department and all the staff/teachers that have helped in Mr. Tedeschi's absence.

MS Principal's Report (Heather Persson)

- Mr. Fitzgerald thanked the PTO and parents for helping make teacher appreciation week a success.
- Mr. Fitzgerald noted that the students had a great time at the Spring Dance, it was a very successful night.
- The state testing for MS students is ongoing, and the team is so proud of the students.

- All spring sports are up and running. The season is going well.
- On Friday May 22nd MS will have a memorial day assembly.
- The 8th grade field trip to Washington D.C. is Wed May 27th through Friday May 29th. Trip details for parents & students will be coming out Tuesday 5/12.
- Wed May 13th is the MS Band Concert at 7pm. The MS Chorus concert is Wed May 20th at 7pm.
- The HKIMS AAFA show is Thursday May 21st from 6p-8p.
- Mr. Fitzgerald noted that MS is starting a recognition project, where students will get recognized during announcements on Fridays. A form is going out to teachers and staff which need to get turned in during the week before Friday announcements.

Committees

Staff Appreciation

- Nicole wanted to thank Julie, for suggesting and putting together the sign up genius for teacher appreciation. Thank you to Heather Scanlon for helping to get the school items and ensure all staff received something.
- Feedback from Nicole and Teacher Liaisons was positive. The staff were surprised and pleased. When having snacks during conferences, it is better to be in the teacher stations, and drinks in coolers is preferred over in the staff refrigerators, any other time, it is fine to have snacks in the main office for a central location.

Book Fair

- May 18-21 to overlap with AAFA night on 5/21- NEED VOLUNTEERS! Setup is Friday May 15th 9-11a.
- Each student will have $5 to spend at the fair, using PTO Scholastic Dollars; no physical coupons, just provide their name at checkout.
- PTO is looking for a Book Fair Chair & Co-Chair for next year.

Cultural Arts/Assemblies

- Julie is stepping down from this committee and Nicole will chair the committee next year.
- Nicole will send both IS & MS Principals suggested dates for next year assemblies so they can start looking at suitable dates/times and we can start booking events this summer.
- Eric noted that they are having a calendar meeting this coming Tuesday, and will review dates that will fit after that.
- June 3rd is the final assembly, Cory the Dribbler, who will perform after field day.

Yearbook

- Almost done! The IS yearbook is going to print next Wednesday May 13th.
- Custom page deadline has expired.
- The MS yearbook will be going to print after they collect final sports pictures, the deadline is Friday May 8th for the photos.
- The MS has presold all but 25 books. There were 4 scholarship requests that PTO will pay from the budget and provide books for those students.

Cup Committee

- Kelly will start working on a year end design that will represent “congratulations cougars”.
- After graduation, Kelly will then do a summer design to stay up all summer and will work on a back to school design during the summer.

Welcome Wagon

- No new students.

New Business

- PTO told MS to please go through the PTO closet and take all leftover snacks and waters for the 8th grade bus trip.
- At April meeting it was asked to come back with ideas for our fundraising efforts next year. Consensus was students really look forward to the color challenge, Eric noted the third graders coming for the tour were asking about it as word has spread. There are still some concerns over the powder and how it gets spread though. Other suggestions were to make it a bubble run only next year, as we added that this year as an option for students, and those that did do it, enjoyed it. Other option was to look at doing a much larger track like run so the color run was more spread out and not as concentrated when thrown. Another suggestion was to do the color run/large fundraiser every other year and do smaller fundraisers in between. The PTO will review all options and come up with ideas to present to the new superintendent for next year. The PTO noted that the Zeffy model for collecting donations is working well and we will stick with that platform for next year.

Meeting adjourned 7:09 pm by Nicole