

2023-24 Horace Mann PTA Meeting Agenda
 Tuesday, November 14, 2023 (In Person - HMS Library)
 6:00-7pm

Agenda Item:	Who:	Notes:
<p>Welcome and Introductions</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Approval of the Sept. Minutes: PTA meeting notes- September 27, 2023 – Horace Mann School PTA (hms-pta.org)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> PTA meetings for 2023-24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday, Feb. 6, 6-7 virtual <input type="checkbox"/> Monday, Mar 18, 6-7 virtual <input type="checkbox"/> Thursday, May 16, 6-7 HMS Library 	Grace	Introductions
<p>Speaker: Ms. Sarah Bosch Science specialist</p>	Ms. Bosch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do i spend the PTA funding? Kits from Teacher Geek.com -- throw away the directions and give the kids a challenge. 1 kit per kid and they are able to take home their projects at the end. • Why is there no science fair? More of an event for older children. There are a lot of rules and it can be pretty intense. Not many organizations for elementary schools, but there are insect fairs for this age. • Is a science teacher a newer thing or is this for SPPS? SPPS first had magnet schools that had science specialists and it worked out well, so they moved the program to public schools. When the state began testing for the MCA's, they realized that they would have to teach science.
<p>Principal's Forum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open forum for questions 	Mr. Litwin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there an update on the tree canopy project presented last year?

		<p>The tree project is being led by a district consultant. There are no updates at the moment. They aerated the field and they will not be seeding it. They would have to fence off the area and not let the kids play on it.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Budget engagement sessions. Has anyone been to one? Have they indicated if there will be a feedback loop? There is a meeting this Friday with the chief of schools just to inform the principals and staff. Nothing directed towards the families. The district will likely send out the summarized results of the engagement sessions.• How does the school use that results data of the MCA tests? Principal PTA Presentations - Google Slides MCAs are not hugely helpful for educators - this is last year's data. They look at the start of the year to see what trends are for the last several years. How do we compare to St. Paul and the state. Also look at it by student groups and EL students. EL students also take an additional test to the MCAs. Speaking portion is done one on one. The data does help to identify trends and if there are certain groups within the school population that are behind for targeted interventions.• Pr. Litwin question for PTA-protest went by – (Pro-Palestine protest of St. Kates students, and Jewish families were concerned about that happening) Did receive a response from St. Catherines.
--	--	--

		<p>What kinds of conversations do you have with your kids at home when things like this happen?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use it as an opportunity to teach kids about free speech. (non-Jewish family) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Try to focus on taking different perspectives - Difficult to know what to discuss at school and what to leave to discuss with your families
<p>Teacher updates</p>	<p>Lindskoog/ Kortuem</p>	<p>Ms. Kortuem reporting lots of gratitude and gratefulness from the teachers for recent PTA activities. Grateful for the meals during conferences, the clean up, set up and everything involved. Book fair - grateful for work that went in to that and promotion to buy books for classroom. The staff is aware that they are very fortunate to work in a community where teachers are valued. She wants to spread the awareness that the MN Wild has been very generous to us for years now. Families should know how much they contribute and how lucky we are that they have chosen us. The 4th grade class was sent to the Childrens theatre to see the Grinch.</p> <p>Thank you to new band director, he has been working hard to get the kids instruments and making sure that the kids get the right instruments. Thank you to the PTA for sponsoring this.</p>
<p>Treasurer's Report / update to 2023-24 Budget</p>	<p>Alex/Abby</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Received thank you card from Ms Bowren for all the support from PTA. • Revised budget (third column) need vote to adopt revised budget. Increases expenses by 3K compared to what we had

		<p>listed before. Reason for change is the district changed their approach to fund the music teacher. Found extra-curricular items to fund instead - additional supplies for specialists. Increased the amount for reading and math core. PTA voted to approve.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actual numbers are actual expenses against what is now our revised budget. We are well within the budget. Most of the revenue is from read-a-thon and silent auction – which hasn't come in yet.
<p>PTA Team Updates (also see below)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Free Family Nights - JAN 25, 2024: Indoor movie night <input type="checkbox"/> Read-a-Thon is underway - month of November <input type="checkbox"/> Give to the Max Day - November 16 	<p>Team Chairs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read-a-thon is up and running. kicked off with a singer that did a little dance party for the kids. Will come back at the end of the event. Principal challenge this year is for Pr. Litwin to either dress up as Taylor Swift or a cowboy. • New this year - every student has an anonymous donor - this will bring in around \$6000 • In the past, there used to be more teacher involvement - do we want to try to get the book buddies to create themes and challenges for the students? After this read at hon, they will sit with Pr. Litwin to discuss the future.
<p>PTA and Volunteer Open Positions and updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Family Volunteer Service Chair <input type="checkbox"/> Thank you/ Recognition committee - additional members <input type="checkbox"/> Carnival committee - additional members 	<p>Chandra/Christine</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will not have a FVS this year unless a volunteer is willing to take on planning. • Volunteer team will reach out via Facebook posts and then via email to parents if needed to get volunteers.

<input type="checkbox"/> Silent Auction Committee - additional members <input type="checkbox"/> Board shadowing or engagement for Budget 24-25 planning		
<p>Recognition/ Shout outs / thanks yous</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thank you to Amy Johnson and Mariah Tollgaard for coordinating and planning teacher conference meals • Thank you to Maureen Hartung for coordinating the Book Fair • Thank you to Gina Corradi, Samira Afzali, Josh Layfield, Karen Vander Sanden, Katie Bliss, and Grace Hanson for working on the 23-24 School Directory! 	Gina	
<p>Open Forum/Action Items:</p>	Grace	
<p>Adjourn - Next meeting is Tuesday, Feb. 6, 6-7 virtual</p>	Grace	