

2023-24 Horace Mann PTA Meeting Agenda
Monday, March 18, 2024 (Virtual - zoom)
6:00-7pm

Agenda Item:	Who:	Time:	Notes:
<p>Welcome and Introductions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval of the February: PTA meeting notes- February 6, 2024 – Horace Mann School PTA (hms-pta.org) • PTA meetings for 2023-24 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thursday, May 16, 6-7 HMS Library - Pre-lim budget approval 	Grace	3 min	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendees: Jennifer Butwinick; Grace Hanson; Jenna Rae; Gina Corradi; Alex Stuart; Delina ; Joy Collman; Tasia Stuart; Amy Kortuem; Abigail Mosher; Mark Lindskoog; Chanda Kilgriff; Allison Broughton; Lisa Ortmann; Kaisa Johnson; Sarah Liuzzi • Final PTA meeting for the school year will be in person in May 16 in HM library • We will approve next year's slot of board members as well as a preliminary budget
<p>Principal's Forum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intro on new writing curriculum (time permitting) • Discussion: family perspective on our new phonics and math curriculum? 	Mr. Litwin	5 min	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Math program called Into Math – teachers are hitting their stride with this program and its functionalities, encourage parents to please give feedback • New reading program with a focus on phonics for youngest grades (K & 1) program supports the reading mission of HM; to make all HM students proficient readers • Adding a new writing curriculum as well • HM has amazing teachers who are do great work with the time and resources they have; both in learning new curriculum as well as presenting and teaching it to students • Keep us posted on what you are seeing and hearing at home and share feedback with us
<p>Teacher updates</p>	Mr. Lindskoog/ Ms. Kortuem	10 min	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art adventure program going great, everyone has been going to MIA. Shout out to the parents helping us prepare for our great field trip! A few more groups going this week before it wraps up! • Messages of gratitude and thanks on behalf of the teachers and staff at HM in response to fundraising efforts of the PTA • These efforts help give us the tools and support to help us be successful as we can be!
<p>Treasurer's Report</p>	Alex/Abby	5 min	<p>https://www.hms-pta.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/HMS-PTA-Treasurers-Report-March-2024.pdf</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Silent auction funds coming in next few weeks

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PTA has raised just under 54K, when you include amount from silent auction it will be over \$100K and over our budget YTD • At \$36K YTD spending, anticipate more spending but will not get all the way to our budget and cash balance will finish around 65K, we will favorably exceed budget • In addition to raising more money than anticipated, we have been conservative on spending the last few years given uncertainties related to COVID impact on costs / fundraising appetite. • Understanding the current anticipated surplus, open discussion for spending priorities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Discussion points collated under Budget Survey Results below
Review Survey Results	Sarah Liuzzi		<p>Survey sent to parents and teachers addressing PTA Spending and Fundraising. Survey results found here: https://www.hms-pta.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Horace-Mann-PTA-survey-results-3.19.2024.pdf https://www.hms-pta.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Horace-Mann-PTA-survey-results-3.19.2024.pdf</p> <p>Notes from presentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey responses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 80 parent responses to survey ○ 22 responses to teacher survey • Both teachers and parents for prioritize classroom support, enrichment, and band • Themes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Desire to improve the field ○ Teachers would like to increase PTA awareness and function to showcase the support available. ○ Better support for involvement of minority families with PTA ○ Spring Carnival recognized as important community building event • Discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A group of parents began discussion of improving the field with the district. The district is open improvements such as irrigation paired with new redraining and reseeding. Working on cost through district. Additionally, there is a standard of not installing irrigation at elementary schools. Facilities personnel constraints within the district also a challenge. Continuing discussions. ○ More field trip spending <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cost of bussing for field trips is very costly and can be a barrier (\$14 - \$20 a student for bussing) ▪ Acknowledge a need to allocate more money for bussing

			<p>for field trips, some of this may already be contemplated in current budget, more discussion needed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Spend more on artist residency <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Finding quality residencies to come into schools can be challenging. ▪ New requirements in creating contracts with outside residents is an impediment. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can PTA / Parents help teachers fill out paperwork and help with these contracts? ○ Could we look at discretionary funds for teachers for the end of this year? Start of next? ○ What are consequences of keeping excess in account (holding on spending)? ○ Anticipated Budget Cuts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr. Litwin: What direction might we take considering budget cuts for next year? ▪ Anticipate a clearer picture for the broader school community by April 26 ○ Preliminary PTA budget for May meeting
<p>PTA Team Updates (also see below)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spring Carnival - save the date: Friday, May 31, 2024. Sign up genius with multiple opportunities • Last Free Family Fun night - Ice cream social in May. + Table and special treats and info about cultures at HMS by the Lego Robotics group 	<p>Team Chairs</p>	<p>5 min</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From budget discussion, springboard to carnival • Inflatables are the most popular (cost last year was \$2700), people would like more inflatables (less waiting in line) • Exploring bringing back dunk tank • From chat: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Petting zoo? ○ Is there an electric powered option as gas generator creates harmful exhaust and noisy • Expectation to raise \$3000 from sponsorship • Budget initially \$4000, growing budget for carnival highlights need for more volunteers • Recognize much of the work gets shouldered by the same core volunteers • One idea discussed, assign volunteers for games by classrooms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Concern expressed about putting volunteer recruiting burden on teachers • Mr. Litwin recommends calling volunteers directly as this provides personal reach out, helps build community • Could high school students serve as volunteers? (last year they tried to recruit Highland HS CC team – they were unavailable) question of accountability and managing reporting structure

PTA and Volunteer Open Positions and updates Immediate needs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thank you/ Recognition committee - additional members • Carnival committee - additional members 2024-25 needs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Silent Auction Committee - additional members and leads • Board positions: Volunteer coordinator 	Chandra / Christine	3 Min	See above
Recognition/ Shout outs / thanks yous <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kaisa Johnson and Allison Broughton and entire auction committee, \$67,000 raised! 		3 Min	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Huge thank you to everyone who was a part of the silent auction! Participation across the board was wonderful! • A huge success • Great to see people wanting to be involved! • Still collecting funds from the event
Open Forum/Action Items:	Grace	5 min	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there an opportunity to highlight math program curriculum done on ipads during tours? (This is feedback from HM tours when parents question why kindergarteners are on ipads)
Adjourn - Next meeting is Thursday, May 16, 6-7 HMS Library	Grace		

Team Reports:

Silent & Live Auction Committee

Thank you to Allison Broughton, Kaisa Johnson, the auction committee and all who attended for raising funds for the school.

Plant Sale 2024

Select beautiful plants, flowers and veggies and start planning your spring and summer garden. Support our school, daydream of spring and pick up your lovely choices May 11. Pick ups will happen on Eleanor Ave by the main doors. Click [order plants to support Horace Mann](#) and feel free to forward to all your contacts. Contact mayamissaghi@gmail.com with any questions!

MEALS FOR STAFF DURING CONFERENCES: SIGN UP TO HELP!

During conferences, Horace Mann families volunteer to bring meals for the staff to enjoy during their long evenings. The meals are potluck-style, with each volunteer bringing a different element to the meal. We also are looking for volunteers to help with set up and clean up.

Family volunteers will bring meals for staff on **Wednesday, March 27th and Thursday, March 28th**. All food & supplies must be brought to school by 2:15 on each day. Set up or clean up shifts are 1:30-2:15 (set up) and 5:30-6:15 (clean up).

If you are able to help with a food item or with set up/clean up, please sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084DA5A922A7FB6-48370508-spring#/>

OR if you would like to contribute funds to purchase meal items contact one of the organizers.

Questions? Contact Organizers: Amy Johnson at amyhoeft@gmail.com or Mariah Tollgaard at mftollgaard@gmail.com

2023-24 STUDENT YEARBOOKS: WE NEED YOUR PHOTOS!

The PTA is providing a *no-cost* yearbook to all HMS students. Our theme this year is **CONNECTED TOGETHER** chosen by some of the 5th graders.

We need help **gathering student photos**, do you have photos from: Group Events, Class photos, First Day of School, Photos by the Gnome, Lego Robotics, Band, Music, Field Trips, School Spirit Day, Kindness Day, Service Group, Girls on the Run, School Patrol, Boo Bash, Read-A-Thon, Spelling Bee, Art, Make-It-Take, Movie Nights, NAAPID, or other in-school or extracurricular activities?

Photo deadline is **April 5, 2024**.

There are two secure options for sharing your photos for the Horace Mann 2023-2024 Lifetouch Yearbook:

Email photos to yearbook@hms-pta.org

Text photos to 651-336-9654

Please include a description of your photos (like 'Boo Bash' or 'first day of school').

Questions? Email us at yearbook@hms-pta.org or Delina Ferfon at dtazdragon@hotmail.com.

Thank you for sharing your photos to help capture all of the fun we've had at Horace Mann in 2023 and 2024!

Free Family Fun nights - 2023-24

Save the date for these upcoming Free Family Fun nights this year:

- MAY 2024: Ice cream social - date TBD, will align to kindergarten orientation

Horace Mann Spiritwear Store: <https://shop.game-one.com/minnesota/saint-paul/horace-mann-school>

New colors: pink and black options

Box Tops for Education::

Support the HMS PTA at no additional cost to you using the Box Tops for Education App. [Click here](#) to learn more about downloading the app to your mobile device. Be sure to select "Horace Mann School, Saint Paul, MN" as your current school.

Employer match: We also encourage families to check with their employers as many offer a company match to the cash donations made by their employees

HM PTA website: www.hms-pta.org If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions please email web-admin@hms-pta.org

Current Board Members:

President & Vice President: Grace Hanson & Gina Corradi president@hms-pta.org

Treasurers: Abby Mosher & Alex Stuart treasurer@hms-pta.org

Teacher Representatives: Amy Kortuem & Mark Lindskoog teacher-rep@hms-pta.org

Communications: Katie Bliss communications@hms-pta.org

Recording Secretary: Andrea Gleckner recorder@hms-pta.org

Volunteer Coordinator: Chandra Kilgriff & Christine Holloway: volunteer.coordinator@hms-pta.org