

Horace Mann School PTA Minutes – Thursday, May 15th, Horace Mann Library

Agenda Item:	Who:	Time:	Notes
<p>Welcome and Introductions</p> <p>Call Meeting to Order</p> <p>Welcome and Thank You</p> <p>Review last meeting's minutes:  <a href="#">February 2025 PTA Meeting Notes</a>  <a href="#">– Horace Mann School PTA</a></p> <p>Upcoming meetings: (All meetings in HMS Library)</p>	Grace	5 min	<p>February minutes were reviewed</p> <p>This is the last meeting of the year. Fall 2025 meetings will be scheduled in September</p>
<p>Teacher updates</p>	<p>Mr. Lindskoog</p> <p>Ms. Kortuem</p>	5 min	<p>Mr. Lindskoog:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eagle Bluff is coming up next week and lots of field trips are happening</li> <li>• Overall things are going smoothly</li> <li>• Classrooms are starting to use the new gardens</li> <li>• Teachers were appreciative of the teacher appreciation activities – shout out to Katie and the team</li> </ul>
<p>Treasurer's Report and Proposed 2025-26 Budget</p>	Alex/Sam	15 min	<p><b>Current year budget:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expenses: tracking close to plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Carnival expenses coming in</li> <li>○ Field trips, band teacher payment, others still outstanding</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Revenue: going well <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Plant sale was very successful, money still coming in</li> <li>○ A few dribs and drabs from the auction still trickling in</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Preliminary budget for 2025-2026:</b> Notable changes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional classroom – increased teacher funding</li> <li>• Additional field trip expenses per discussion last time</li> </ul>

Horace Mann School PTA Minutes – Thursday, May 15th, Horace Mann Library

Agenda Item:	Who:	Time:	Notes
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Field improvement project was removed – listed as \$0. The PTA or others would plan to do targeted fundraising and or dip into PTA savings if we are able to take action on the field.</li> </ul> <p><b>Projecting a surplus</b> of \$30k at the end of next year, beyond our required safety margin of \$30k, based on preliminary estimates.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Will finalize the budget in September</li> <li>Katie Bliss is gathering ideas to spend down</li> </ul> <p>The PTA is not allowed to carry a large balance for multiple years. The group discussed the following ideas for spend down:</p> <p><i>One-time items:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All-school field trip – estimate \$10k – discussion consensus was to de-prioritize this item</li> <li>Projector / sound system for Holleran Hall - \$15k</li> <li>Replace broken furniture - \$7,500 – this was highly prioritized by staff</li> </ul> <p><i>Possible Recurring Items:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EDL discretionary fund for teachers - \$1300</li> <li>Special request fund for teachers who may exceed classroom budget - \$8k</li> <li>Instrument repair: increase from \$1500 to \$3000 – discussion around if instruments are dedicated to Horace Mann or shared across the district?</li> <li>Lego Robotics honorarium: \$2k – this will support the coaches as well as could increase opportunities for student participation if it increases recruiting for Lego Robotics coaches</li> <li>Increase classroom budgets by \$300/class - \$5,400 additional</li> </ul> <p><b>Reading support specialist</b> position is no longer funded. Lots of interest in the PTA helping with reading support in some way.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PTA cannot fund a teacher, per district policy</li> <li>Explore a “Reading EDL” with Amy Kortuem because there may be more options for the PTA to support EDL staff.</li> </ul>

Horace Mann School PTA Minutes – Thursday, May 15th, Horace Mann Library

Agenda Item:	Who:	Time:	Notes
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The PTA would prioritize this if it could be funded.</li> </ul> <p>To further refine 2025-2026 budget ideas, <b>recommend engaging the broader community</b> in discussions to get ideas for prioritization.</p> <p><b>Evaluating the switch from a PTA to a PTO</b> – still in evaluation. Switching to a PTO has some pros (such as more flexibility regarding what the PTA can fund) and some cons (such as losing access to their insurance).</p> <p><b>Field updates:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exploring a grant application to the Tree Trust for trees alongside the west side</li> <li>Need to formalize a landscape committee for ongoing tree support</li> <li>Kids could help plant trees</li> <li>Re-engage with the water conservation district –</li> <li>Bob the Grass Guy could recommend a grass type</li> <li>Recommend formalizing a Field Committee to track ideas and initiatives.</li> </ul>
Swear in new Board Officers 2025-26:			<p>The group approved the following <b>slate of new and continuing PTA officers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>President: Katie Bliss</li> <li>Vice President: Alex Stuart</li> <li>Treasurer: Sam Smith</li> <li>Recorders: Sarah Liuzzi and Bethany Hyde</li> <li>Volunteer coordinators: Emily Phelps and Annie Mach</li> <li>Communications: Amanda Prutzman</li> </ul> <p>Thank you outgoing Board members!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>President: Grace Hanson</li> <li>Vice President: Gina Corradi</li> <li>Recorder: Andrea Gleckner</li> <li>Volunteer rep: Christine Holloway</li> <li>Communications: Lisa Ortmann</li> </ul>
PTA Team Updates	Team Chairs	10 min	See updates listed below

Horace Mann School PTA Minutes – Thursday, May 15th, Horace Mann Library

Agenda Item:	Who:	Time:	Notes
<p>News/Updates</p> <p>HM School Website (see below)</p> <p>Horace Mann Spiritwear Store:</p> <p><a href="https://shop.game-one.com/minnesota/saint-paul/horace-mann-school">https://shop.game-one.com/minnesota/saint-paul/horace-mann-school</a></p>		5 min	
<p>Recognition/ Shout outs / thanks yous for our Committees and Committee chairs for Spring events – See below</p>			<p>Carnival needs more volunteers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May have to cut games if we don't have enough volunteers</li> <li>• 85% full for over 200 slots</li> </ul> <p>Art Adventure: extra budget for this in next year for art-adjacent projects?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Add to list of ideas</li> <li>• Current Art Adventure budget is primarily bussing</li> </ul>
Open Forum/Action Items:		5 min	None
<p>Adjourn</p> <p>HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!</p>			

**Team Reports:**

**SPRING CARNIVAL – Jennifer Duda Butwinick and Molly Mons**

The Carnival Committee is very excited to put on a spectacular year-end carnival for all of our Horace Mann Families! Special thanks for the countless volunteer hours of the Readathon and Auction committee members for raising the funds that make Carnival happen! We are grateful to be able to turn that into a community celebration. We currently have 75% of our volunteer spots covered, with 49 slots left to fill. Please consider signing up for a shift or two, and spread the word to anyone who may be interested! [Sign up at this link!](#)

Horace Mann School PTA Minutes – Thursday, May 15th, Horace Mann Library  
**YEARBOOK – Christine Holloway, Jean Eich and Maggie Pittelko**

The yearbook is complete and will be delivered before the end of year and provided free of charge to all students. Thanks to those that contributed photos and the yearbook committee of Christine Holloway, Jean Eich and Maggie Pittelko.

**SPRING PLANT SALE – Brigitte Koepke Smith and Ann Olsen Samms**

We had a very successful plant day pick up last Saturday and an awesome crew of volunteers. We had a total of almost 800 plants and gift cards all of which were accounted for and distributed. Thank you to all the donations of gift cards and plants to Garden Committee to provide plants for the schools planter boxes.

**SILENT AUCTION – Allison Deep, Virginia Ryan and Sarah Haley**

- The auction has raised just over \$68,000 this year!
- Great Gatherings are still available and will remain open until sold out
- Mug sales will remain open until the end of the school year
- The co-chairs plan to implement subcommittees next year to help with planning workload
- Allison Deep and Sarah Haley are working on an "Auction Playbook" to help with future planning

**RECOGNITION – Katie Bliss, Solena Flemming, Amy Sack**

**STAFF APPRECIATION WEEK: THANK YOU HMS STAFF!**

On behalf of Horace Mann students and families, the PTA would like to thank all the staff members that work tirelessly each day to make our school community inviting, exciting and safe. Thank you to our teachers, specialists, teaching assistants, support staff, nutrition service staff, engineers, custodial staff, administrators, clerks, health staff, Discovery Club staff, and anyone else who works in the school. We appreciate you and are honored to be part of the same community! THANK YOU!

To show our appreciation to our wonderful staff, the PTA provided a week of fun activities, food, and treats~

- All week: staff “snack bar”
- Monday: relaxing chair massages from Awaken for Wellness massage therapist
- Tuesday: lunch from Davanni’s
- Wednesday: staff appreciation gift goody bag
- Thursday: grab-and-go breakfast
- Friday: pizza lunch from Davanni’s

Horace Mann School PTA Minutes – Thursday, May 15th, Horace Mann Library  
Special thank you to Ms. Judy Browne for her assistance in coordinating this fun week.

Thank you to the recognition committee Solena Fleming, Amy Sack and Katie Bliss for making this all happen.

**FREE FAMILY FUN NIGHTS – Kristan Nolan and Meghan Rodriguez**

No updates this month.

**CONFERENCE MEALS – Mariah Tollgaard**

No updates this month.

**ART ADVENTURE – (year long) - Sam Gorblirsch**

No updates this month.

**HM PTA website:** [www.hms-pta.org](http://www.hms-pta.org) If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions please email [web-admin@hms-pta.org](mailto:web-admin@hms-pta.org)

**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