

PTA Meeting 2/11/2026

Horace Mann Library

Minutes

Guest: Bailey from Mathnasium

- Mathnasium is a math-only tutoring center, serving K-12 kids who are behind or ahead.
- Located on Snelling Ave, by Pizza Hut
- Mathnasium has 10 Horace Mann students
- Mathnasium is an Auction sponsor and is willing to get involved in future events as volunteers
- They work with individualized learning plans and can also act as a math study hall for homework support
- They would propose doing a math night – math games at the school

Treasurer's Report

- We are halfway through the year. Two of our main fundraisers (Give to the Max (GTTM) and Read-a-Thon (RAT)) had strong numbers, with GTTM \$6k over budget. We tend to view these income sources in aggregate because they come in at the same time.
- Auction ticket sales and sponsorships are starting to come in
- PTA led a fundraiser for solidarity – added as a line item to track, raised over \$12k, spending on food and hygiene items for families across SPPS
- Band program – 80 kids signed up this year, compared to 40 last year. If more money is needed for instrument repair, Ms. Bella can ask for more. Katie will reach out to Ms. Bella to let her know.

School Solidarity Team:

- To join the team – fill out the Jot Form, and then be plugged into the Signal chat (link in the Perspectives)
- Emergency food drive fundraiser: \$12,900 to date. The excess is used to support other schools across SPPS who need more support.

- Partnered with Brightside Produce to provide four weeks of fresh fruit and vegetables
- Salvation Army is also partnering with east side schools
- Current fundraising will allow for 3-4 more weeks at this level
- School patrols are outside at drop-off and pick-up
- The Family Service Committee is brainstorming ways to keep supporting higher need schools into next year

Teacher Updates:

- Midyear assessments just finished
- Classes are working on silent auction class gifts

School Supply Proposal:

- A committee has looked into the possibility of purchasing school supplies in bulk through a vendor. Families would contribute money and the vendor would deliver the supplies to the school.
 - **Benefits:** Reduce waste, improve equity, as each child would receive the supplies regardless of their ability to pay. Teachers will not know who has or has not paid. We will not need to pay sales tax.
 - **Drawbacks:** Some families prefer choosing their own school supplies.
- Vendor: The committee selected EduKits as vendor because they offer high quality brands and their cost estimate was below what we would pay on our own.
- Costs:
 - \$18,000 to EduKits
 - \$5,300 for supplies we can get at Costco instead
 - \$23,300 total
 - Average cost per student: \$52.50—we would advertise it as \$50 per kid.
- Payment logistics:
 - The PTA will pay up EduKits within 30 days of placing the order in late spring or early summer
 - Families will pay the PTA, but the amount families contribute is uncertain. This creates risk for the PTA. As an example, if 20% of families contribute nothing and none pay extra, PTA will have to cover \$4,000.

- Payment platforms generally have a 3% fee for credit cards. We could brainstorm any ways around that.
- Advertising: We will advertise – families will pay what they can, not pay at all, or pay extra
 - We will not track who has or has not paid
 - We will advertise extensively and repeatedly, including in the Perspectives and at Meet the Teacher Night.
 - We can start collecting at the end of this school year
 - We could consider promoting it at the Auction (e.g. paddle raise)
 - Stacey Tsantir, Solena Fleming, Katie Bliss, and Sarah Liuzzi will work on this
- Distribution of supplies: Supplies would ship directly to the school. Bulky reams of paper will be delivered at regular intervals rather than all at once at the beginning of the year. The committee will coordinate with teachers to ensure smooth delivery.
- Feedback: Email feedback to the PTA President email

Robotics Team

- Coaches Polly and Laura have been coaching for several years. We are very grateful for their support! Our capacity to continue supporting Lego Robotics relies heavily on support from coaches. Ms. Tennyson has also been supporting.
- At Horace Mann, 47 students were interested in participating, we were able to select 20 to participate.
- During the meeting, the Robotics team presented their proposal for expanding access to archaeology education in St Paul (this was not Lego-based). They also did two runs of their Lego robots for the PTA. Each run scored over 300 points.
- State competition is Sunday 2/15. One Horace Mann team is advancing to the state competition, another Horace Mann team was very close but did not qualify. Only six teams advanced from the Saint Paul competition.

Volunteer Updates:

- Next year's auction committee will need new volunteers

Auction Updates:

- Tickets are on sale – live event is Friday, March 6th

- We need more Great Gatherings!
- Silent auction – online bidding starts March 1st

Family Service:

- Tomorrow night is family volunteer night!
- Working on arranging offsite volunteer opportunities for next fall

Directory:

- Want to send out a reminder for directory updates mid-year – Katie is working with teachers to update with new students, and put a reminder in Perspectives

Carnival:

- Planning starts in March
- Open to feedback for new ideas to be sensitive during this time – one suggestion is to create prize bags for families who can't participate
- The event is free, but families do need to pay for anything they buy from food trucks
- If anyone thinks we should reduce spending on Carnival during this sensitive time, please let us know