

2025-26 Horace Mann PTA May Meeting Minutes

May 6th, 2026 (In Person - HMS Library)

6:00-7:00pm

Agenda Item:	Who:	Time:
Welcome and Introductions	Katie and Alex	6 pm 5 min
St. Paul Mathnasium updates - Bailey is checking in with the PTA and community and is looking forward to attending the carnival - Mathnasium offers summer camps UMTYMP: U of MN Talented Youth Math Program - This is a math program for youth offered through the University of Minnesota - It starts in grade 5 and students must test in - Testing is offered in February and April - Students come to the U once a week, usually Thursdays 4-6. These students then don't take math at their regular school.	Bailey Foss	5 min
Treasurer's Report - The PTA is in great shape - Bank balance is \$178,845 - Anticipate spending \$62k still this year - Then we would have \$116k left - We have some bigger items still to come, including the plant sale happening this weekend with anticipated revenue of \$10k	Sam	5 min

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FY27 Proposed Budget (for 2026-27 school year) • The budget uses the same assumptions as last year for estimated income • We will be spending \$23k on school supplies and to be very conservative, we have included \$0 for parent contributions but in reality, we expect parents to donate a lot of the \$23k. • The proposed budget will go up on the PTA website. We will approve the budget in the fall, but we can continue to discuss and modify the budget between now and then. • Budget implications of the school supply pilot (described in more detail below): If about 25% of families do not contribute, this would lead to a funding gap of \$6,000 for school supplies, which would need to be covered by the PTA. However, this also may be offset by families choosing to contribute more than the suggested amount. • Suggestion to pre-approve school supply proposal spending, \$500 for a welcome back to school meal for staff, and Read-a-thon spending	Sam/board	15 min
Principal's Forum <i>Pinworms</i> • Pinworm information was sent out. • Our district follows the Health Department protocols. • We don't always send a notice out unless it's something considered serious. • In this case, families heard about pinworm and were frustrated that there hadn't been a notification. <i>iPad usage</i> • Parents have raised questions about iPad use, particularly during Friday Free Time and indoor recess, and about consistency across classrooms.	Pr. Litwin	10 min

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• iPads are used primarily for learning rather than play. Common uses include math practice (Poggle, Waggle), writing and research, phonics, career exploration (Zello), art (AutoDesk Sketchbook), animation, review games (Kahoot), and introducing fifth graders to Schoology before middle school. • Reading on iPads has been reduced and is now used only occasionally, mainly for response activities in older grades. • Students use district-approved, vetted resources (including PebbleGo), and all apps or games must go through the district's "Self Service" approval process. • Most teachers do not offer iPads during choice time. Free-time iPad use is generally limited to no more than about 20 minutes, though there are no formal time limits. • Teachers monitor iPad use through Apple Classroom, which provides real-time views of student screens, search history, and the ability to lock students into specific apps, though active supervision is still needed. • The school addresses inappropriate iPad use (such as unkind messaging or misuse of photos) through its discipline process and by working with families when issues arise. • Students are taught to conduct online research, evaluate the reliability of websites, and avoid copying information. District internet filters block inappropriate content but can also restrict legitimate sites. Students can access Google's AI-generated summaries. • Principal Litwin noted that, overall, staff prefer students to complete work without using iPads whenever practical.		
Teacher updates • Teachers are very appreciative of the fun activities planned during Teacher Appreciation Week. Teachers felt the love!	Mr. Lindskoog/ Ms. Kortuem	5 min

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- Teachers also share appreciation on behalf of all the staff for the PTA's support for various activities, like the Heart of the Beast residency and roller skating. - Every grade has a fun end-of-year field trip planned		
PTA School Supply Proposal - This is a pilot program. The PTA will place a bulk order for school supplies for all students in the school. Families will be asked to contribute \$50 per student, but this is optional and families may contribute less or more. The PTA will not track who has contributed. - Anticipated benefits: less work for parents, who won't have to shop for school supplies. More efficient financially and environmentally to buy in bulk and to buy just what the school needs. The bulk order will be customized to each teacher's supply list. Ordering as a school, we do not have to pay sales tax. - The PTA will deliver bulky items a few times a year so classrooms don't have to store them all from the start of the year. This includes paper, tissues, wipes, paper plates, plastic utensils, paper towels. We'll buy these items from Costco for about \$5k. We have a network of papers who will drive to pick up supplies that classrooms need mid-year. - We will also have an opportunity for supply recycling and reuse. Parents will volunteer to do this for teachers. - We don't have USB-C headphones on the supply list. - What if we raise more than we need? We could spend it on other PTA items. We could consider contributing extra funds to support our buddy school (The Heights, a school that was identified to support during solidarity efforts earlier this year).	Katie, Stacey and Solena	5 min

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Payment for the supplies is due 30 days after we receive the supplies, so, late September.		
PTA volunteer open position updates Recorder, treasurer, and vice president (who would take over as president in the 2027-28 year). Treasurer would need to learn everything about how this works so Sam can step down at some point. Auction co-chairs. This is a critical need. We encourage individuals to reach out if they are interested or want to suggest we reach out to. People who are interested in a board position should always feel free to reach out to Katie or others on the PTA, even if they're interested when there is no open position.	Annie and Emily	3 min
Recognition - Thank you to Brigitte Smith for organizing the spring clean up and for once again putting on a record breaking plant sale - Thank you to Mariah Tollgaard and Tasia Stuart for another amazing teacher conference meal spread - Thank you to Tasia Stuart, Solena Fleming, Amy Sack, and Katie Bliss for organizing the staff appreciation week festivities going on right now - Thank you to Jean Eich and Christine Holloway for completing the yearbook and submitting it		
Open Forum/Action Items:		5 min
Adjourn		7pm

Team Reports:

Yearbook: The Yearbook committee Jean Eich and Christine Holloway have finished the yearbook and submitted it on time. This is Jean's last year on the committee and we would like to thank her for all the work she has done on the yearbook these last couple of years.

Free Family Fun Night: Join families on the Horace Mann Playground for an ice cream social on Thursday, May 14th at 6:30pm.

Plant Sale: Plant sales have closed for our 2026 fundraiser, selling over \$21k in plants. We receive 15% on gift cards and 30% on plants and will receive our portion in June. Our plant pick up date is scheduled for Saturday, May 9th from 12pm-3pm with ample volunteers already signed up to help organize! We used only one vendor this year which made for very smooth organization.

Landscaping: Our spring garden clean up was a great success with many volunteers of families and staff on a 'feels like 13 degree' morning. We cleaned garden beds and spread fresh mulch. Our final project for the school year will be to replant two of the garden spaces near the front of the building (directly to the right of the front door and the space above the retaining wall). We have planned this for Saturday, May 16th splitting existing plants from the school grounds, supplementing from a few family gardens, and using some of the Gardening Committee's funds already allocated to them from the PTA last year. We know this will revitalize the front of our school and cut down on weeds and mud! Horace Mann will be working with the Tree Trust in 2027 for further planting.

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

HM Spiritwear and Merchandise Store <https://shop.game-one.com/minnesota/saint-paul/horace-mann-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

Current Board Members:

President: Katie Bliss, president@hms-pta.org

Vice President: Alex Stuart, president@hms-pta.org

Treasurer: Sam Smith, treasurer@hms-pta.org

Recorders: Sarah Liuzzi and Bethany Hyde, recorder@hms-pta.org

Volunteer coordinators: Emily Phelps and Annie Mach, volunteer.coordinator@hms-pta.org

Communications: Amanda Prutzman, communications@hms-pta.org

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