

Hearst PTA Executive Board meeting - October 2nd 2025

In Attendance: Shari Rose, Dave Steadman, Sima Gandhi, Dawn Gray, Monia Lucas, A Hills, Timothy Staffa, Sara Rastegar, Larin Rottman, Beth Prince, Sarah Knight Marvar

General PTA Updates (Shari Rose - PTA Co-President)

Back to School Night re-cap

Thanks for a successful Back to school night. 160 kids signed up for aftercare, 15 on the day, 13 childcare providers. The safety vests were great and hopefully they'll last 3-5 more years.

2026 Hearst Auction

We have confirmed two new Hearst auction chairs: Maggie Hart and Cassie Anderson and they're already starting to work on the next auction.

We will probably continue to use ClickBid as the auction platform used for previous 3 auctions which has worked well.

Community Day - (Claire Cinque)

Another notice will go out to the community with more information particularly for first timers in the weekly update. There are currently 8 members on the planning team. The event is not a fundraiser but we aim to break even. There'll be a signup sheet for day-of volunteers.

Claire raised the following points

1. Will there be custodial staff around that day to let us into the school that day? To be confirmed with AP Rottman/ Hills
2. Trunk or treat - room parents to remind kids to come in costume
3. Can we let people drop off materials at Hearst earlier in the week to store at the school?
4. Currently the materials for pumpkin carving have gone missing (no longer in PTA cupboard) and will need to order more if not found.

There will be pumpkins, donations, 4th and 5th grade entrepreneur booths, trunk or treat, book swap, Hearst gear table for purchase & swap, more food this year.

Claire will seek photos from last year to send out to promote the event and proposed having an official photographer to document the day this year. Organisers can use pre-paid credit card to order supplies for the event eg. pumpkins

Screen on the Green update - (Tim Staffa)

The vendor is available on either Nov 7th or Nov 14th. On Nov 7th DPR has permit until 8pm and on Nov 14th until 7pm. The weather may be better on Nov 7th, so we either start at 8pm or hold it on the basketball court starting at 7pm.

The student council will choose the movie.

Tim will wait for the quote and then submit for permits from the ANC. He will work for the Winter term 3 session at the same time.

Upcoming PTA Meeting, Oct 16th

Principal Hills will speak about her first 100 days the milestones and connect to her entry plan.

Financial Updates (Dave Steadman and Sima Gandhi - PTA Treasurers)

PTA Budget

Updates on transfer to Rho bank and new process is being tested with room parents

The new process allows teachers and room parents to have a pre-paid credit card they can use for expenses then receipts uploaded to the Rho app or email them for purchases over \$75.

Teachers would get the \$2500 gift card and they would spend it and provide receipts. Any unused funds will go back to the PTA. We will still conduct oversight and so far no issues.

Should reduce math errors. We can still send cheques if necessary.

Instructions will be sent out to teachers and room parents. Make note that buses aren't paid for using these funds but from the field trip funds.

Owl Fund

Owl Fund has started - raised \$28,000 so far. Using the new app Give Butter and is anonymous.

Plan to remind people on Bloomz and increase reminders nearer the end of the month.

Deadline is the end of Oct. Room parents will also send a reminder.

15% of Owl fund goes to Care Brookland but there is an option to just donate to Hearst (not part of Owl Fund). We will have a future discussion regarding the Care Brookland relationship.

Room Parents - (Monica Lucas - room parent coordinator)

All classes have room parents and some grades already have meetups planned. Plan to partner the two CES classrooms with their buddy classes.

Monica suggested and many EB board members agreed that this year teacher gifts will be centralized so parents can give to the school-wide staff collection and gifts will be distributed among all staff equally.

Monica is getting a final list of staff and teachers from AP Rottman.

Shari recommended using the auction software to collect money.

Immigration Enforcement Concerns

Researching approaches taken by other DCPS PTAs (eg. open letters to the mayor, walking school buses, know-your-rights training)

We will communicate to the community and connect to resources through Hearst listserv.

Planning to connect with Empowered for potential community 'captain' to lead communications

Free DC has good resources on this <https://freedcproject.org/event-list/kyr-amica-oct10>

Other resources for families:

Safety Tips for DC Families (AJE-DC)

Multilingual guidance, recommendations, and steps families can take during the school year.

https://www.aje-dc.org/2025/09/01/safety-tips-for-dc-families-this-school-season/?utm_source=c_hatgpt.com

Redcard Orders

Online legal & immigration document preparation and support services.

<https://www.redcardorders.com/>

Other Topics Discussed

CLS scholarships - No current requests from CLS for scholarship aid. We will revisit for a more thorough review before next year

Wait until 8th campaign - We will aim to host them at a future PTA meeting and work with room parents from 4th & 5th grade to engage parents.