

Hearst Elementary School PTA

Executive Board Meeting Minutes 6th November 2025

In Attendance: Shari Rose, Larin Rottman, Monica Lucas, Dawn Gray, Tim Staffa, Andral Hills, Beth Prince, Alessandra Carozza, Sima Gandhi

Community Day Review – (Shari Rose PTA Co-President)

The day was a big success with an excellent turn out of families. Banner to be taken down and stored in PTA cupboard.

Owl Fund – (Dave Steadman & Sima Gandhi PTA Co-Treasurers)

Today is the last day of fund – great response this week leading into the deadline, almost \$80,000. 147 families have donated so far. A family donated \$10,000 which we're using as a bonus to encourage others to donate. The money will be donated either way.

It has been a tough year for fund raising but we have done well and as well as last year despite the government shut-down etc.

PTA Bank Transition – (Dave Steadman & Sima Gandhi Co-treasurers)

PTA funds Transition from Wells Fargo to Rho – Sima and Dave presented at Hearst staff/faculty meeting today to introduce staff to using digital cards to spend classroom funds.

Dave recommended that PTA visits faculty meeting – good opportunity to connect PTA with the teacher community. We will remind teachers we have funds and if they have ideas that they need funds for. Digital paper trail may help PTA see where funds are used by teachers.

This week – treasurers wired most of the PTA funds from Wells Fargo to Rho (Webster Bank). Leaving some in Wells Fargo for next 3-6 months to pay any outstanding costs.

Currently a Rho treasury account gets 4% interest and is liquid, that would yield \$10,000 a year in interest. We could discuss at future EB meetings if we wanted to invest in higher interest accounts.

Screen on the Green – (Tim Staffa)

November 7th 8pm. The student council chose 'Sing' as the movie. The vendor will arrive at 6.30pm. We will have popcorn and hot chocolate. The vendor sets it all up and cleans up.

Tim plans to document the process behind setting up the movie nights. We currently have a certificate to show films \$650. Also have to apply through DPR and attend ANC meeting. The next movie night will take place in Term 2 in the gym.

CLS Scholarships – (Shari Rose – PTA Co-President)

We have heard back from CLS regarding the additional scholarship needs. Based on the approved scholarships, the funding provided directly by CLS and the PTA's current budget of \$10,000 for scholarships will result in a shortfall of funds of approximately \$5,000 for approved scholarships. The PTA will take this issue to the community and propose a vote to move an additional \$7,500 from PTA reserves into the PTA's SY 25-26. The \$7,500 would cover the shortfall for approved scholarships and provide a cushion for additional scholarship funds, if needed. Shari will present this issue to the community at the November PTA meeting and the EB will host a special zoom on 11/20 for community discussion and input. The vote will be held at the December PTA meeting.

For next year the PTA will work with the school and CLS on formalizing an equitable vetting process and assessing family need for CLS scholarships

Read-a-thon Gift Cards – (Dave Steadman PTA Co-Treasurer)

The Read-a-thon raised \$12,000 this year and 17 families have been identified to receive them through applying and in consultation with the Hearst Social worker. Families will receive Walmart gift cards for essentials 3 times throughout the year. There was some discussion as to when the best times were eg. Before the start of the school year for supplies, before the holidays and in the Spring.

Ms Prince – Discussed a program currently in place at LaFayette school where parents can anonymously sign up for need for help eg. Food or clothing. This information is then shared with the school social worker. We may adopt a similar anonymous form to collect requests for support from the Hearst community.

Clothes donation – perhaps we could arrange a clothes donation program at Hearst

Staff Holiday Gifts – (Monica Lucas – Room Parent Coordinator)

PTA has decided to collect donations from parents and divide it equally among staff to ensure equality among teachers and staff to make sure to include all members. Room parents will send a message out to class lists that we will collect all holiday gift donations and divide it out equally to staff.

Andral Hill mentioned that teachers can't receive more than \$10 from a single donor. We could list the max donation as \$30-\$40 per family which distributed between 3-4 staff would fall within those dcps guidelines.

Last year we had 3-4 staff members per classroom for holiday gifts. Included custodial staff and cafeteria staff.

Shari proposed issuing the staff a Rho card for the holiday gift. Dave suggested using Venmo and Paypal to also collect donations.

Staff Holiday Lunch –PTA will ask for parent volunteers. Ms Prince will find out where staff want lunch from eg. Nando's.

Winter Enrichment – (Dawn Gray – Staff)

CLS sent a request for teacher-led enrichment classes with a very short turn around and no information.

Shari will liaise with CLS to encourage them to give more notice. PTA will request an extension for teacher class submissions and a sample proposal.

There is a parent who has offered to work as a liaison between CLS and school community.

Upcoming PTA Meeting – (Shari Rose – PTA Co-President)

On Nov 13th. The chorus concert starts at 6.30pm. PTA meeting will start at 6.15pm. Doors will open at 6pm.

Care Brookland will present at the January 2026 PTA meeting.