

Hearst Elementary School Executive Board Meeting Feb 5th 2026

In attendance: Sarah Knight Marvar, Shari Rose, Dave Steadman, Tim Staffa, Sima Gandhi, Sara Rastegar, Monica Lucas, Alexandra Carozza, Larin Rottman, Andral Hills, Beth Prince & Dawn Gray

Upcoming Events – Shari Rose PTA – Co-President

Upcoming PTA meetings

PTA meeting Feb 12th - 'Wait until 8' presentation

March PTA meeting - Ms Ratigan & student council will present

2026-27 PTA budget will be introduced to community

April PTA meeting – tagged on end of art night.

Budget discussion & Voting

Principal Hills – fireside family chat Feb 19th 9-10am for families – will be recorded and will post slides. Meeting will be focused on the introduction to themes. Feb theme is 'Love' communications. Will also discuss Bloomz and Smores.

Principal Hills will also meet with Room Parents currently being organized by Monica – room parent coordinator.

Black History Bowl Feb 25th- Ms Marzden – math coach has been sharing trivia for a Black History trivia bowl event.

Black history month community meeting Feb 27th 9am

Rescheduled Screen on the green Feb 27th – Secret lives of Pets movie

March open house – 1st Friday in March

Snow situation update – Beth Prince – Kindergarten teacher

Ms Prince requested funds from the PTA to remove 'Snow mountain' in Hearst car park to allow up to 4 more teacher cars to park –Executive board voted to approve funds up to \$2,000 for snow removal. Ms Prince will work to get quotes for snow removal and reach back out to PTA.

Ice on steps to gym was removed by DC DGS

Snow falling off school roof is dangerous and limiting access to at risk locations. 1 car in Hearst car park experienced a broken windscreen from falling ice.

Report on PTA funded after school tutoring program - Larin Rottman - Assistant Principal

After school tutoring 1st wave has finished – presenting mid-year data

67 students enrolled in ELA and Math afterschool tutoring – some overlap, eg. 1 child receiving both ELA and math.

37 ELA and 86% students made great progress towards end of year. 64% made their 50% or more stretch. Students 1-2 grade levels below grade level. Lot of students have met their stretch goals.

31 students in Math, 91% made great progress. 61% made stretch goals. More teachers want to be part of tutoring. They're planning to expand the program.

NTSS process and blended learning (computers). Decrease in students who are 1-2 years below grade levels.

Larin Rottman thanked the PTA for supporting the program by paying Hearst teachers to tutor after school and allowing them continue the after school program.

Also still using computers in the small group sessions.

After school tutoring is currently serving up to 20% of Hearst community.

According to DCPS rules the PTA can't fund partner teachers but we can do tutoring to improve class time for all learners.

Last year we spent \$9,000. This year we're spending \$19,000 and projecting \$25,000 for next year for tutoring.

2026-2027 PTA Budget – Dave Steadman – PTA Co-Treasurer

Dave Steadman and Sima Gandhi have gone line by line through PTA budget and consulted with teachers to really analyze each line item.

Use of Classroom funds by teachers has fallen – Teachers aren't using classroom funds for buses because there is a separate line item for buses.

PTA treasurers will talk to teachers to let them know they can reach out to PTA for more funds.

Dave Steadman – what has changed about the budget since previous years

Tim Staffa – questioned accuracy of the PTA budget matching spending suggested that perhaps we could get quarterly read-out to see how the money spending is going. Dave commented that at the end of the year is when it's easier to tell what budgeted funds have actually been spent.

Treasurer has sent out a monthly expenditure report in the past and we could start doing that again. Trying to move away from the end of year crunch by using Rho system.

PTA Fund Reserves –\$200,000 account earning about 2%. We should review what we want to do with the reserves. Could look at higher earning or should we look into expanding programs and spending down the reserves. We want to have conversations with community to get input on how to spend down that money. We should spend it thoughtfully.

PTA should discussing with AP Rottman and Principal Hills what ideas they have. Are there necessary capital improvements needed for Hearst? What does the school need? Should we expand our scholarship support? One suggestion was to expand the community events such as school performers that are very popular with the kids. PTA has added \$15,000 line item for that. Eg Step Africa came last year for \$5,000. Target for quarterly community meeting sponsored by PTA.

Potential for grant opportunity for teachers eg. Special project grant that teachers could apply for PTA funds. What about enrichment opportunities?

Perhaps some funds could go to student council money to pursue their projects.

Reserves not being spent may impact how much money is given. Tough sell to ask for money when we have substantial reserves. For many years our budget has exceeded our revenue but we never actually spend all of the money budgeted and so our funds don't fall. This year we could spend more than money raised because we're spending more on CLS aftercare scholarships.

Want to lean into impacting more students than few, while recognizing that lifting 1 student helps all students. We need to review if we are we meeting all needs. Hearst is growing and perhaps the population of kids needed financial support may have increased.

CLS Scholarships

CLS scholarships from PTA increased to \$17,500 in 2025-26 and projected to reach \$25,000 next year. There is a limit to what we can do. We suggest we cap that at \$25,000 next year.

Want to be proactive and start early to advertise to families that they will need to provide info to CLS. We need to recognize our needs may change. We will serve all members of community with the resources we have. We will work with social worker to take financial status into account. Want to see a fair process that's transparent and sustainable. Identify a portion of \$25,000 come from reserves.

Readathon

Organized by community volunteers. Money raised is used for gift cards are going to families in need. We should review if that the way we want to serve families are there changes necessary that will still meet intentions of program eg. Buying school supplies.

Perhaps give other things eg. Backpacks and save money for on demand purchases.