

PTA Meeting Minutes April 9th 2026

Student Council Presentation

Hearst Student Council members presented on their achievements this year and their future plans.

Together with Ms Hu they have placed a composting bin in the cafeteria at lunchtime to collect food waste and will use compost in Hearst gardens. This effort will significantly reduce landfill waste.

Upcoming Events and Future plans

Student Council is planning a popsicle party during Spirit week

Student Council have organized a silent disco to take place after 5th grade graduation

Student Council will also form a committee to help with the 5th grade graduation.

Other plans and ideas include – starting student clubs and organizing a clean-up day at Hearst to beautify the school grounds and other service activities such as collecting stuffed animals to donate to WWF

Student Council hopes to plan to host a 5K to raise funds and build school spirit – want parent volunteers to help in the event – this will take place next academic year.

Upcoming Hearst Events

Hearst Community chat with the Principal will take place on 4/10/26 from 8.30-9.45am

Hearst Auction will take place on 25th April

CAPE Testing– April 27th-May 1st Info session on April 20th – 4.30-5.30pm will be recorded

Re-enrollment – Really like people to do it before Spring Break. DCPS deadline is April 29th. It would help LSAT for planning purposes.

Screenagers – April 28th – tech use film targeted to elementary schools. Showing it at Avalon. Tickets available through newsletter.

Early staff appreciation week is May 4th-8th– Breakfast on May 5th. Friday lunch May 8th – will need lots of volunteers. Look out for a sign up genius.

May

PTA budget vote on May 14th

International Festival May 15th 3-4pm

Science Fair 3rd-5th grade May 21st

June

Spring Musical performance of Moana June 6th

Screen on the Green, date and movie TBD

5th grade promotion – there's a parent group already formed and sign up. Need to communicate with PTA to get funds and 4th grade parents to help on day of.

Other Items

PTA Executive Board Vacancies

PTA needs volunteers for Executive Board – we already have a number of volunteers for most roles

Co-president – 2 volunteers

Co-recording secretary – 1

Vice president – 1

Co-treasurer – 1

Election will take place in May

A new committee is forming - Family engagement committee – tasked with finding opportunities to build community and connections between families and staff.

Budget FY 26-27

Funds raised by the PTA has not increased with the growth of the school despite additional needs in our community

PTA currently has healthy reserves of \$249,000

PTA us looking for areas that we can fund through reserves to make a sustainable budget.

PTA hopes that seeing funds being used in the Hearst community will encourage people to donate.

PTA is aiming to keep to 2 annual large fundraisers, the Owl fund and Auction

PTA plans to use some reserve funds this and next year.

PTA Funds Supporting Teachers and Students

- Classroom funds – eg field trip support
- After school tutoring program – growing and has been very successful – 36 kids in ELA and 30 in Math served. Spring 60 in ELA and 48 currently enrolled. There is some overlap. PTA is paying teachers going rate so teachers are happy. Looking to spend \$17,000 this year \$25,000 next year.
- Schoolwide assemblies – 3-4 x a year.
- School operating expenses – eg. Custodial supplies \$9,000, office supplies \$7,000.
- New line item – Floating budget support positions (PE support), CLS partnership – piloting a program where PTA pays for an adult to help support the PE teacher 3 hours a day to help meet PE requirement. Using CLS avoids PTA having to hire someone. We will run this year and see if parents are willing to support financially again.
- CLS scholarships – working with social worker and CLS to make sure financial awards is equitable. May be partial scholarships
- PTA discretionary funds - \$15,000. To be able to meet needs quickly when necessary and report to community when funds are spent.
- Care Brookland – we voted in 2025 to support them for 2 years so will review in 2027.
- PTA operating budget – we pay a professional book keeper and tax preparer

Questions from PTA meeting attendees

Readathon – funds used to go to families in need directly in the form of gift cards for grocery stores eg. Walmart. Next year we are going to use the readathon money in another way too, to fund CLS afterschool care scholarships to those who qualify.

Last year we gave to 10 families about \$1000 per family in gift cards. Historically it was meant to help provide for kids that received free lunch daily to be fed over school breaks.

We want to increase visibility or resources available to families in need. Discretionary funds can also help support this effort.

Identifying families that need support from PTA efforts

Teachers can help communicate with families and also PTA to help identify families needing support. Teachers don't realize that the PTA provides this support. Ms Soloman will post a QR code advert to get families to reach out.

Principal Hills commented that there are families that need support but they don't report that need.

There is potential for other ways to support families eg. Clothing pantry

The new PTA budget better reflects how money has been used in reality. Eg. Teacher funds weren't being used so we reduced them.

Field trip busses have become more expensive and there are probably fewer trips taken.

Question- does reducing line items prevent people from taking field trips. So far we've paid \$8,000 this whole year so \$20,000 should be sufficient.

The Owl fund ask hasn't increased in a few years there was discussion of increasing the ask from \$750 to \$1,000 per child.