

Hearst PTA Additional Budget Meeting May 6th 2026

In Attendance: Claire Cinque, Larin Rottman, David Steadman, Emily McVeigh, Shari Rose, Sara Rastegnar, Victoria Ouelette, Sarah Knight Marvar, Leighton Delinger, Mia Olsen, Sima Gandhi, Julia Krahe, Beth Prince

Victoria Ouelette – 1st grade teacher - on behalf of Hearst teachers

There are concerns about the reduction in classroom funds to \$500 per classroom in proposed 26-27 PTA budget.

Teachers of younger grades and CES classes are concerned that they usually use all of the \$1,000 previously allocated. K2 CES Diapers and toileting supplies are expensive and they come from classroom supply funds.

Sima Gandhi – PTA wants classrooms to have what they need. The new budget isn't supposed to restrict funds. PTA can increase the classroom funds to the lower classrooms. When we look at the previous amounts used in the past the adjustments are to be more reflective of what we actually spend.

Want teachers to know this is why parents donate money because we want teachers to have the money they need.

Dave Steadman– we proposed increasing the executive boards spending account to make sure that if there are requests that come in from teachers for additional funds we can meet those needs. In terms of actual spend it is more reflective of what has been spent in the past.

The PTA agrees it will increase classroom funds for 11 homerooms: Pre-K – 1st 8 classes & 3 CES classrooms (K2, ECE, 3-5), for 2-5th initial allocation will stay at \$500 per classroom.

PTA representatives will talk with faculty meeting on Thursday 7th May

If money comes from reserves then we don't need such large discretionary funds. Expected discretionary fund use: New teacher funds, families in need

Teachers having to come forward to ask PTA for additional classroom funds may prevent them from coming forward to get money. Hopefully now using Rho and allowing teachers to use the money directly should make it easier for teachers to access funds. We will have 2 teacher liaisons (more experienced teachers) – one for older, one for younger grades to help teachers know how to use the money they are allocated and how to ask for more if needed.

Other Budget Discussion Points

Sarah Schiers_– 1st Grade teacher - Mr Sidhu has the power to authorize classroom fund spending. We hope we can spread that info. Communication is important. PTA plans to come into to talk with the teachers in 4th week of semester would potentially be more helpful. The PTA has a new teacher info sheet but needs to update and send it out before the end of the year.

Claire Cinque - Parent– The PTA being able to allocate up to \$15,000 without approval seems like a lot. In the past we've had complaints and other PTAs have had money taken. This is why we've had more generous line items to make sure that doesn't happen.

A spend of \$15,000 or more would mean a community vote.

Shari Rose – PTA Co-president– if request is for more than \$1,000 generally the EB will vote on it.

The PTA also has external accountants and auditors.

Dave Steadman – PTA Co-treasurer - What we're doing is more along the line of non-profits but we do have a more transient committee and less continuity that most non-profits. Our aim is to be more accurate with the budget. We want to more accurately let donating families know what we're spending the money on.

Last year and this year were odd and so fundraising has been impacted. Our school has grown but our fundraising hasn't. Our reserves have grown in the past and so it hasn't felt as urgent to make donating to Hearst a priority.

Julia Krahe -LSAT - There are parents considering voting no on the budget because of the increased discretionary funds. I told them that it's basically the only way to make this work given how many line items were cut, but understood their concerns.

This year we exceeded our projected budget – Owl fund raised \$105,000, Auction was \$58,000.

Shari expects that we won't see increases in our PTA fund reserves beyond interest.