

### **PTA EB Meeting Sept 3<sup>rd</sup> 2026**

In attendance: Leighton Dellinger, Stephanie Resnik, Sara Rastegar, Monica Lucas, Ned Waters, Glenn Stanley, Sima Gandhi, Sarah Knight Marvar, Shannon Doyle, LaToya Hutchins, Beth Prince

#### **Introductions & Tasks for PTA This Year - Sara Rastegar – Co-President**

The role of the PTA EB is to support the Hearst admin, teachers, and students to help them all flourish.

Sara & Glenn met with Principal Hills in July – to see what her vision is for Hearst. She has 3 things she wants to focus on. Our Family Engagement Committee (FEC) chaired by Anthony Lucas and Dave Steadman are leading initiative to help organize and improve family engagement. They've been looking at calendar to schedule and plan events to see what needs to be done, that the PTA can support.

Calendar on Hearst website is constantly being updated. FEC will come to PTA for support. Want to amplify message of support between PTA, the families and Hearst admin.

#### **PTA activities during Summer 2026 - Sara Rastegar – Co-President**

PTA has always organized teacher welcome breakfast and lunch for pre-service week. At open house we had Clay Boys there to make it more fun.

Signed off on agreement with CLS that we're funding a PE aide this year. They have been hired and approved by CLS. Will work 5 days a week from 12-3pm. 1 hour in cafeteria supporting lunch and recess and then go into gym to support PE coach. The need came up last year because we needed 2 PE teachers and DCPS didn't provide sufficient funds to hire 2, so PTA is paying for this PE aide.

#### **Administration attendance at PTA EB Meetings - Sara Rastegar Co-President**

PTA role is to support vision to fulfill mission. The Principal of Hearst according to bylaws is a non-voting member of EB. Principal Hills sent an email to say she won't make it to EB meetings this year. We would like someone from administration to be at the meetings to help them be familiar and give feedback to PTA on what they need and sometimes their input is needed. The principal is in the position to make decisions for Hearst and help the PTA. At times during PTA meetings, we will need to receive feedback and more information on, specifically the operational side of things, having a member of the admin team would prevent an extra meeting to fill them in on what was discussed during EB meetings. We have teacher liaisons present at the meetings who could relay information. For us to have PTA EB meetings that are fruitful it would be good to have Principal Hills present. Understand that her family obligations prevent her from attending.

Suggestions were made for AP Rottman attending in Principal Hills place, or they could alternate attending, or we could change the time or just invite her to specific meetings. Other potential times were suggested eg 12pm or 4pm.

Sara believes it will be difficult to organize another meeting with Principal Hills in addition to the EB meetings. Sara will reach out to P Hills and Larin to ask if they can alternate attending the meetings or if another time could work.

Last year Principal Hills generally attended about half of school wide PTA meetings last year and we assume she will continue to do so.

### **Back to School Night – Sept 10<sup>th</sup> 5-7pm – Sara Rastegar Co-President**

Moved an hour earlier than usual.

5-6pm First PTA meeting of the year 15 min presentation in Gym.

6-7 second half of evening for classroom visiting.

We couldn't find enough childcare providers from 5-6pm so children will be with parents in gym. We will provide childcare from 6-7pm on playground and pizza available. Monica will order pizza.

### **Compost – Sara Rastegar Co- President**

Continuation from last year. Ms Jenn Hwu as part of Strength in numbers, a DCPS partner and math literacy non profit. They come into school and help teachers with kids needing math literacy skills. She started using math skills and composting to teach. She is going to continue composting throughout the year and has been approved by Principal Hills. There are 4 large compost bins and adding 2 more. Collected 300lbs of food waste last week. She's asking for \$250 a month from the PTA. PTA voted to approve the use of PTA fund. The program will be funded through the PTA discretionary line.

### **PTA Budget – Sima Gandhi – Co-Treasurer**

Reviewing budget – updated and tried to be more accurate with what we spent. We will have a reserve of \$150K at end of this year. It'll be interesting to see how it goes this year. Stephanie asked why we had such large reserves. Because in previous years we collected a lot of money to fund a partner teacher and DCPS said we couldn't hire a partner teacher (DCPS employees cannot be hired through the PTA). We will eat into reserves if we spend what we have allocated in our current budget.

### **CLS financial Aid – Sara Rastegar Co-President**

9 families currently using the scholarships. CLS is providing financial aid which amounts to 7% of enrolled students and PTA set aside \$15,000 to fund CLS scholarships for aftercare and before care. Vetting and decisions are made through CLS. Last year it was first come first serve and so PTA had to provide additional funds midway through the year. This year they aren't doing first come first serve and keeping back %15 for midyear requirement. If families arrive mid-year and they qualify there will be reserves to be given to them.

**Current CLS Scholarships reported by Suzanne Mackay (CLS):**

| Category                                              | Figure                   |
|-------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Current recipient families                            | 9 (11 children total)    |
| Aid level — 80%+                                      | 3 families               |
| Aid level — 32%–50%                                   | 3 families               |
| Aid level — 10%–20%                                   | 3 families               |
| Pending applications (post-deadline, awaiting review) | 8 families (10 children) |

Sara, Glenn and Dave Steadman met with Sara Solomon over the Summer to understand what the community needs are eg. backpacks. We need to talk further with Ms Solomon about what other community needs there are that the PTA or Hearst community can help with.