

Hanson PTO Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 3, 2025

6:30 PM

Indian Head Library



+ Approval of March 2025 Meeting Minutes

- Alison D. motioned to approve
- Jess seconded

+ Board's Welcome & Business

- Outdoor classroom plans update – the footings have been poured but there is no substantive update since the last meeting. The fence has been picked up and we could get a refund. The plan is for SS VoTech to build in the fall unless a client cancels and we can get moved up.
- Erin Barr – School Budget information sessions – Erin gave some info as a parent attendee and is not speaking for the Finance Committee. Noted that Hanson has a webpage dedicated to the town budget at hansonbudget.com. There is also an anonymous survey and FAQ on the webpage. The town override is \$3 million. The town has used free cash in the past few years. This not sustainable. The standard 2.5% increase is not enough to cover the increased expenses so an override is needed. You can go on the webpage to calculate how much you will pay based on your home's value. Part of the \$3 MM override is to fund an IT employee as the town has no one for town IT. They want to hire 2 people. The conservation agent would be full time. There is an item for municipal buildings. There is one person right now and this would allow a new facilities manager. There is an increase for public safety – police – the Chief is retiring – and police vehicles. The fire department would like to hire 3 employees because they are understaffed. SSVT enrollment went down so the line item is down. The WHRSD budget is increasing 9.8%, as the funding sources are down and expense reimbursements are up. This includes federal grants of \$2 million but that's included right now. The library would like to hire one plus increase the director's salary. The total budget is \$39.186 million for the whole town. Free cash is \$2.5 million. Also, Camp Kiwanee is no longer self sustaining and the transfer station operates in a deficit. If the override fails, and the school budget doesn't budge, town budget will have to be cut. Whitman and Hanson each have to pass their budgets. The override amount of \$3 million should carry us for 2-3 years because the school budget is not expected to increase in the next couple years. May 5th is the town meeting to vote.
- Board elections for all positions will be held at our May PTO meeting. Email HansonPTO@yahoo.com to add your name to the ballot. Andrea and Tina will not be running again for Secretary and Co-treasurer. No one has put in for any positions yet.

+ Principals' Update

- Not much discussion has been had with Josh (middle school interim principal) on the PTO proposal.
- April is busy with parent teacher conferences with a new online program. Afternoon will be virtual meetings and night will be in person meetings.
- The student council will present to the school committee on April 16.

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- Good Friday is a half day. The Brain Show is April 15.
- The kids attended Funkjam at the high school today.
- There are some changes to the district wide kindergarten event this summer for entering K students. The cost per each PTO will be \$600 not \$1700. The PTO will just be paying for tshirts. For the other events, the parents will be asked to pay. The PTO could still pay for our traditional K events at the welcome night as an option.
- MCAS ELA will be concluding this month. Treats are paid for by the PTO. MCAS for May will be for math. MCAS is still required but is not a graduation requirement.
- Discussed the book fair and how it will be held in the lobby and not the library or the sensory hallway. Also discussed that parents of K students can purchase books since they will be coming through there for K screening that week. When the cases get delivered, Ms. Costa will make sure they fit.
- Discussed that we have 28 slushies still left from the Raise Craze award. They will be given to the top class for Raise Craze for the most acts of kindness.
- Tina mentioned in regards to the PTO meetings, that teachers are welcome to attend, as this is a parent/teacher organization. They can let us know what ideas they have.

+ Treasurer's Report: Balance Update and Outstanding Obligations

- See report
- Raise Craze brought in \$9329 total. The PTO spent \$1466 on the prizes.
- For scholarships, we will be cutting the checks to the recipients that night instead of after their first semester.

+ Post Event Review

- Raise Craze fundraiser (Chair: Tina Arsenault) – we did not have as many participants. Around 100 kids registered. Tina handed out stickers for teachers to reward AOKs too. Total logged AOKs were 934 but 300 were in the system as intended but not checked off so Tina counted those. The net gain is \$9329. Raise Craze takes 3% as a fee. Raise Craze also sends a thank you email to donors.

+ Upcoming Events / Fundraisers – voting requests to follow

- Brain Show – April 15th
- Teacher Appreciation week – May 5th-9th - need ideas, Sign Up Genius, and volunteers. We need a committee chair. The PTO will post on Facebook. We could do a poll for ideas for teacher appreciation week. Noted we are collecting gift cards again for the raffle. The PTO will also be donating gift baskets using Scholastic Dollars. We also discussed donating book packs for a raffle for each grade using Scholastic Dollars.
- Book Fair (Chairpersons Andrea Cipolla & Heather O'Neill) – week of May 19th – more info to come in April via email and Facebook regarding Sign Up Genius, e-wallets, volunteers

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+ Voting Requests (\$8679.00)– ALL ITEMS PASSED

- PTO – Staples printing cost for half-page flyers for Board elections for all students (250 copies, black and white print on colored paper) - \$64
- PTO – Countdown to Kindergarten events to be organized by WHRSD for all elementary schools; each PTO is asked to contribute \$1700 - \$1700
 - This was changed to \$600 per Mr. Tranter – the PTO voted to approve \$600
- Cost for K tshirts submitted by Mr. Tranter, included in above \$1700, totaled \$600
- PTO – budget for Teacher Appreciation week – \$2000
- Administration (all grades) – communication folders for next school year – \$915
- Administration (all grades) – field day tshirts - \$4,000

+ School Committee Rep Update

+ Future Events/Fundraisers (to be discussed at future meetings)

- Teacher Appreciation week volunteers – May 5th-9th
- Book Fair volunteers (Chairpersons Andrea Cipolla & Heather O'Neill) – week of May 19th
- Kindergarten welcome event - August

+ Chairperson/Committee/Volunteer Opportunities

- Outdoor Classroom Committee (Chairperson Chris Peffley)
- School Committee Rep (Maria Robbins)
- School Store Coordinator Erica Burke and volunteers: grade 1-4 once per month, 2 days per week
- Holiday Shop Chairperson and volunteers (Chairpersons Kaity Crowley & Tiffany Taber)
- Polar Plunge Committee and volunteers
- Sweetheart Dance Chairperson and volunteers
- Book Fair volunteers (Chairpersons Andrea Cipolla & Heather O'Neill)
- Teacher Appreciation week volunteers
- Box Tops leader
- Various other volunteer opportunities at events and fundraisers throughout the year

+ Open Discussion/Questions

- Noted that spring pictures will be sent home.
- Next week the kids will be creating designs for the field day tshirts (4th grade only). A winner will be chosen. The design should be black and white, with no words and a simple design.

+ Next meeting: May 8 at 6:30pm