



# PTA MEETING MINUTES



Hermon Elementary General PTA Meeting  
September 6, 2016 ~ 6:00 – 7:00 PM  
HES - Room 11

**Attendance:** Shannon A., Melissa O., Jennifer V., Cindy P., Jenny P., Tiffany B., Donna S., Lisa R., Mellony C., Amanda D., Betsy P., Sarah K., Michelle G., Autumn A., Jessica L., Liza M., Erica B., Heidi F., Crissia F., Michele T., Kris S., John S., Sarah R. and Kris (?) D.

**Welcome and Introductions** - Shannon and Melissa

**Principal's Report** – Mrs. Perry

- The normal agenda schedule was modified to allow Mrs. Perry to speak first, since she had to leave early to attend the school committee meeting. She addressed some of the parental concerns that were noted on the agenda.
- Mrs. Perry mentioned that she has discussed with the teachers regarding communication with parents on social media, such as Facebook. Teachers can join and participate in the HES PTA page, but are discouraged from joining the parent class groups (i.e. Hermon Class of 2025 Parents), unless they have a child in that particular class group.
- Mrs. Perry wants to get feedback from the teachers/staff first before making any decisions regarding allowing student groups, such as Girls Scouts, Boy Scouts, etc. to meet at the school.
- Recess and lunch have both been extended to 25 minutes each.
- Discussed the new behavior expectation policy – both positive reinforcement (earning Hermon Hawk wings for individual, classroom and school-wide rewards) and negative behavior consequences (minor behavior handled by teachers, major behavior handled collaboratively with principal, student and parents).
- There was some discussion on who is responsible for the maintenance of the playground, since it was noted by some parents (on the PTA FB page) that there was some broken equipment, unsafe areas where the woodchips had been washed away, etc. Mrs. Perry will follow up with the school board and/or the municipal office.
- Homework policy is a hot topic. Research indicates that reading every night is absolutely essential for students to develop strong language skills. Math homework should be practicing skills that students have already learned in the classroom. If students are struggling with homework, parents are encouraged to write a note to the teacher explaining the difficulties their child is having. If no resolution after contacting teacher, then contact Mrs. Perry.
- In response to a question about when the school expansion will occur, Mrs. Perry said that the school committee is still in discussions and she is hopeful that the topic will be on the November ballot.

Hermon Elementary School PTA

2016-2017 PTA Board

Shannon Arce (Co-Chair), Melissa Overlock (Co-Chair), Jennifer Violette (Treasurer), Cindy Pellett (Secretary)

- Another parent inquired about having school events (concerts, graduations, etc.) during the evening so that working parents can attend. Mrs. Perry said she'll try to mix it up a bit in having both day and evening events. There will be a holiday concert this year.
- The PTA presented Mrs. Perry with a "Welcome to HES" gift – a potted houseplant.
- Mrs. Perry left the meeting.

**Approval of June, 2016 minutes** – Cindy (Accepted as read.)

**Treasurer's Report** – Jennifer (Reviewed financial reports for July, August and September).

**Feedback on recent events:**

1. Open House
  - Not a lot of PTA involvement, other than having a table in the lobby.
2. Kindergarten Boo Hoo/Yahoo breakfast
  - There was a good turn-out for the breakfast.
  - Jennifer V., mentioned that some Kindergarten parents thought it was asking too much to be asked to volunteer to bring in food for the breakfast, but Shannon A., clarified that she made the announcement on the Class of 2029 page to remind parents of the event, but did ask for volunteers on the PTA page. Next year, perhaps be clearer that the K parents do not need to bring in food.
  - Autumn A. inquired if the PTA will have a booth set up at Hermon Recreation's "Harvest and Homecoming" 9/15/16 event, being held at HES. The board wasn't aware that we are participating. Cindy will follow up with the Rec Director.

**New business and announcements:**

1. Review and vote on the tentative 2016-2017 PTA schedule and budget.
  - A motion was made to accept the tentative schedule and budget for the year, it was seconded, all in favor, motion carried.
2. Charleston Wrap fall fundraiser will run from September 19<sup>th</sup> – October 3<sup>rd</sup>.
  - The fundraising packets have arrived and will be distributed on the 19<sup>th</sup>.
  - For those that do not wish to purchase items from the catalog, there will be an option to do a direct donation.
3. New keyboard was purchased for the Music Department and should arrive this week.
4. Spirit Wear
  - By show of hands, there seems to be great interest in having the PTA look at options for selling Hermon Hawks clothing.

- Donna S., Crissia F., and Erica B. expressed an interest in forming a committee for Spirit Wear project.
5. Box Tops monthly prizes – call for volunteer(s) to collect prizes.
- Jessica L. has offered to help with this. She'll get in touch with Shannon to get the necessary information to get started on this.
6. Curriculum nights:
- The dates provided by Mrs. Libby in June are as follows: Kindergarten (9/19 at 6 PM), 1<sup>st</sup> grade (9/22 at 6:30 PM), 2<sup>nd</sup> grade (9/14 at 6:30 PM), 3<sup>rd</sup> grade (9/28 at 6 PM), 4<sup>th</sup> grade (9/7 at 6:30 PM).
  - **Note:** After the meeting, the PTA was informed that the 4<sup>th</sup> grade night has been postponed (date to be announced) and there is a question on if the Kindergarten date is correct.

#### **Public Items or Comments**

- A question was asked inquiring if there is a central place (calendar) to see when the different after-school events are scheduled (i.e. soccer, Cub Scout meetings, etc.). She mentioned that several other parents had wanted to attend the PTA meeting tonight, but had conflicts with other activities.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 7:35 PM

**Next general PTA meeting: October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016**