



General Membership Meeting
October 7, 2025
Hamilton Avenue School Cafetorium

Attendance	Board: Dawn Wistrand, Tisha Canzoneri, Lauren Bokmeyer, Kristi Castellon, Shannon Cook, Maya Sharan-Stephens, Gina Graf, Michelle McGuire, Maria Paulina Torchon Leadership: Diane Fox (Principal) *Regular in-person attendance sign-in sheet attached; 7 attendees over Google Meet
Handouts	• Minutes from May 13, 2025 provided for approval • Meeting agenda • 2025-2026 HAS PTA proposed budget
Call to Order	Dawn Wistrand, PTA Co-President, called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM, Pledge of Allegiance
Minutes	Approval of Meeting Minutes • Dawn Wistrand made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 13, 2025 meeting. Motion passed. Membership Updates • Currently at about 14% HAS family PTA membership & 15% HAS faculty/staff membership • People can join via Membership Toolkit site OR paper form that was sent home in backpacks Principal Updates • Test score improvements for grades 3-5 ○ ELA ■ Year-year increase +25% ■ 2-year increase of 22% ○ Math ■ Year over year: +17% ■ 2 year increase: +10% ○ Science ■ 2 year increase: +17% • Survey data from 2024-2025 ○ Family & community engagement: 93.5% ○ Student sense of belonging: 84%

- Positive working environment for staff: 82%
- Looking ahead
 - Refinement of successful practices - building on what worked well last year
 - Reassessing magnet theme & considering whether to shift to AVID school theme. Will continue with STEAM project this year.
 - Student engagement: Expanding Husky Buck opportunities
 - Staff climate: Working on spirit building activities
- Attendance
 - So important that kids come to school and arrive on time
 - Have observed big increase in kids leaving early for appointments
- New K-5 report cards
 - Shared video on a preview of new report cards
 - New report card format launching for 2025-2026 school year to better reflect children's learning. First report card will be used for December conferences
 - Timeline for report cards same as prior years: December, March, June
 - Parent report card conferences continuing in December and March

General Business

- Review of proposed 2025-2026 PTA budget
 - Lauren Bokmeyer, PTA Treasurer, walked through the 2025-2026 budget
 - Biggest line item increase on budget this year is Alumni Scholarship but this is just a pass through – the PTA does *not* pay for this
 - Main expenses are field trips, teacher appreciation, and Field Day
 - PTAC dues and state PTA dues increased so we had to increase membership dues
 - Budget approved
- Upcoming Events
 - Oct 24: Halloween Bingo

- **Need more parent volunteers. Sign up [here](#).**
- Collecting toys in the office - need more donations
- Deadline to order pizza: Oct 20
- Oct 28 - Nov 29: Meadowfarms Fundraiser will run
- Nov 3 - Nov 7: Fall Book Fair
 - **Will need volunteers to work at book fair. Sign up [here](#) to help.**
 - E-wallet information will be coming soon
 - This is the fair that teachers who have joined PTA get \$50 to spend
 - More information to come!
- Nov 11: Veteran's Day Assembly
 - If you know of any Veteran's, the school would love to honor them during the ceremony - email principal Fox
- Nov 13: International Night - Save the date! More to come
- Nov 13-Nov 24: Fun Run
 - Officially kicks off on November 12. Will be outside this year.
 - Same goal as last year, \$12K. This year's theme will be space.
 - Actual run takes place on Friday, November 21. If inclement weather, will be moved indoors.

Teacher's Report

- Kristi Castellon is the new teacher's rep for the PTA and will serve as the liaison between parents and teachers.
- Will have more information to share at next meeting.

FYI: What's Being Discussed Involving Ham Ave

- Ham Ave previously received a sprinkler donation from St. Roch's church for the school fields. The donation was recently discussed among the BOE but seems to be stalled.
- Ham Ave is on the list to get some kitchen equipment replaced
- Ham Ave is one of the most ADA compliant schools in the district

- HVAC update - Principal Fox is not sure where it stands at this point. To raise questions/concerns, email Toni Jones at toni_jones@greenwich.k12.ct.us.
- Received Greenwich Alliance Funding to continue K-Play & a grant for AVID
 - AVID = framework that incorporates writing, Inquiry, Collaboration, Organization, and Reading.
- Some members of the BOE want to dedicate basketball court to member of the community but unlikely school will dedicate existing court

New HAS Car Magnets Available for Purchase

- The PTA is selling HAS car magnets for \$5 each. Options include a general HAS magnet or a HAS Suzuki Strings magnet. To learn more or purchase a magnet, reach out to the PTA at hamavepta@gmail.com.

Q&A

- What is April Academy?
 - Secured grant funding for students in grades 3-5 identified as needing some extra support for tests - invited to April Academy for test taking strategies
- Are there going to be changes to school lunch meals?
 - One parent expressed discontent about food
 - Child has not been happy about food quality
 - According to principal there are no planned changes
- Why is there assigned seating at lunch?
 - We were experiencing significant behavior issues in the cafeteria and assigned seating has alleviated a lot of the behaviors. On Fridays students get to sit where they want if they follow norms.
- The early morning programs are hard for families with multiple children.
 - Unclear if question is about academic morning programs or extra curricular, like band. Reach out to Principal Fox to discuss any specific concerns
 - Toni Jones has been open to working with families who are struggling with the school times if another school is a better fit



Next Meeting	The next HAS PTA General Membership Meeting is scheduled for January 6, 2026, at 7:45 AM in the Hamilton Avenue School Cafetorium.
Adjournment	Meeting Adjourned at 8:23 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Gina Graf

Gina Graf, Hamilton Avenue School PTA Secretary