

Hillside PTO Minutes

January 8, 2026

In Attendance: Principal Dr. Shireen Fasciglione, Co-President Amanda Mahar, Co-President Debra Gorgos, Vice-President Lindsey Pepe, Treasurer Andrew Minnick, Secretary Hilary King, Cassie Papandrea, Sarah Vacca, Michelle Borowiec, Julie Ohliger

Call to Order: 6:32pm

1. Principal's Report

- a. Holiday Collections and Fundraisers were very successful
 - i. 5 families were provided for; the school collected over \$2500 to purchase of gifts; gifts were purchased by PTO volunteers
- b. Niskayuna Rotary
 - i. Hillside contributed over 200 warm weather items for Schenectady elementary schools
- c. Pre-School Story Hour begins on Friday, January 9
- d. Grade 4/5 Winter Concert will no longer be held; instead, there will only be one concert in May for families; letter will be going home to families this week
- e. Simulation for NYS testing will occur in late January/early February
- f. NHS students will be coming again this winter to support elementary students and classes
- g. Ziti Dinner – March 12 – proceeds to American Brain Tumor Association

2. November Minutes

- a. Approved

3. Co-President's Report

- a. Holiday Assistance Recap
 - i. 5 families were provided for; the school collected over \$2500 to purchase of gifts; gifts were purchased by PTO volunteers
 - ii. Only feedback was some of the items (winter gear) was very difficult to obtain
- b. Craft Night Recap
 - i. Heavy turnout, great variety of crafts, very positive feedback
 - ii. May need more volunteer support if it continues to be a big event
- c. Holiday Staff Room Surprise
 - i. Deb led a Stewarts staff surprise on the day before break with donuts, coffee and juice all donated by Stewarts
- d. PreSchool Story Hour
 - i. Katie DePaul is running this year; has 10 families confirmed for this school year
- e. Assemblies Update
 - i. All 3 have been booked
 1. Math and Music Fusion
 2. Author Visit
 3. Diversity Circus

4. Treasurer's Report

- a. Membership Toolkit annual membership fee was paid
- b. Collected \$100 more than was spent for Adopt-a-Family, so we will rollover for next year
- c. Craft Night receipts need to be submitted – Amanda will nudge volunteers

5. New Business

- a. Staff Raffle – 1/22 and 1/23
 - i. Staff are putting together raffle baskets to be raffled off at Boogie Night; students will receive tickets to enter into the basket drawing
 - ii. 10 am – 1pm; Deb and Lindsey will staff the table to help students put in their tickets
- b. Boogie Night – 1/23
 - i. Theme is Ready, Set, Glow!
 - ii. Students are encouraged to wear neon
 - iii. DJ Chas will be bringing give-a-ways
 - iv. Annabel's pizza will be outside, Ben and Jerry's will have a sundae cart
 - v. Free event but food will be purchased
 - vi. Amanda will send out a volunteer sign up
 - vii. Quiet room will be designated as music room and craft/coloring/board games in the art room
- c. Movie night – 2/6
 - i. Hilary will be working with Rani to support the event
 - ii. Will be encouraged to download the movie beforehand so as not to deal with the WiFi
- d. Spring ASEP
 - i. Tayyaba is working with Lynne on Spring ASEP; Katie DePaul will be working with Tayyaba
 - ii. Will run similar to the Fall with online registration and payments
 - iii. Volunteers will be needed

Meeting Adjourned: 7:15 pm

Next Meeting: February 5, 2026 at 6:30 pm