

Hope School PTO Meeting, held at Hope School  
**March 8, 2023**

*Notes taken by: Jeannine Jabaay*

**In Attendance: Cindy McKibben (principal), Jeremy McKibben, Jeannine Jabaay, Lily Stroh, Tahneta Stroh, Jess Hogan, Dawn Hammond, Sarah Schuh (with KMTA)**

**Call to order @3:45 pm**

**Principal report:** Cindy McKibben - shared on the presentation given to the school board on Monday, March 6, 2023, from the Hope School. We gave them a mug from Cooper Landing and a coffee from Turnagain Kayak (donated by the PTO). The board showed overwhelming gratitude and asked to forward that to the PTO. Cindy shared the video/slides from the Hope school. Our district is changing from the early learning testing - now using an assessment system called Amplify M Class; Hope School is a pilot school for the new computer program (K-5). This new assessment is in part compliance with the new legislation called Alaska Reeds Act. KPBSD assessment scores (district-wide) are higher than the rest of the state in most of the proficiency guides; Hope School merits looking at in comparison to the other schools within the district.

**Outdoor Activities:** Sarah Schuh gave a report on the Kenai Mountains Turnagain Arm. Sarah has been doing a pilot snow school program here in Hope (and Moose Pass and Cooper Landing). KMTA also offers programs, events, and grants about the outdoors, safety, preservation and training. The KMTA grant cycle is open right now and closes on March 24, 2023. KMTA's grants person, Jessa West (new in the last 6 months), has revised the grants program to make it more straightforward to apply. This is on [KMTAcorridor.org](http://KMTAcorridor.org). In the past, a KMTA grant was provided to the Hope School for the kids to go to the Challenger Center;; Whittier School received a grant to get cross country skis, kick sleds and snow shoes. Tables, an outdoor covered area, and cross country ski upgrades were mentioned as possible grant ideas. Because the Hope School rents the school building from the borough, Sarah offered to look into the specifics about school upgrades to the property. KMTA is open to ideas for additional services and activities; the Turnagain Pass trail was mentioned (history, survival, outdoor adventure), and Skilak Lake was discussed, and a collaborative experience with the other small schools in the Heritage Area was encouraged (Hope, Cooper Landing, Moose Pass). Field Day with the other three schools was discussed - one school hosts and provides the meat, the other schools bring salad and desserts; this event will be scheduled for Friday, May 12th. Sarah offered to have an additional meeting with those interested in grant funding to include her ED with KMTA; because of the tight timeline (closing March 24th), it might not be feasible to apply in time. This may not be possible this grant cycle, but it could be something that happens prior to the next grant cycle.

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**Upcoming KMTA Events:**

- KMTA has a cross county school event in Girdwood on March 26, 2023 - this is a very family friendly and fun activity.
- Spencer Glacier Dash is in the summer (take the train, run 5 miles to the glacier, run back to the train): event is on Sunday, June 11th (some folks will stay the night on the glacier on June 10).
- Next year, KMTA will be piloting a field trip series for a year's worth of programming in the Turnagain Arm.

**Teacher report:** Jeremy McKibben gave a report about current education. Currently finishing up “sciency stuff”, wrapping up 1st - 7th grade geometry, finishing Snow School, DESPERATELY needing music/theater/dance in the school (so many musicians in the school!).

**Treasurer report:**

**Current balance as of March 8, 2023:** \$8,978.73 (after we paid for skiing)

**New revenue since last meeting:** Coffee fundraiser (\$710), Bazaar (\$180)

**Expenses:** Alyeska (\$3,700)

**Student report:** Lily Stroh talked about pottery; the school needs a new wheel. Kristy Peterson is coming in at least twice a week to teach, and the kids are doing pottery once a day. The kids really like it. Chemistry for high school is going well - the class is quite far ahead (currently doing biochemistry, learning about hydrocarbon chains... which is pretty fascinating!). Middle schoolers are going through overall science. History is moving into WWI soon, and currently learning about immigration. Literature is currently grammar and sentence structure. Class is doing well in Math. And between skiing lessons and floor hockey, PE is going well.

**Old business:**

- Status of Hope Husky tote bags: Tahmeta brought black and oatmeal-colored canvas totes she made with her fancy Cricut (weird spelling, I know). It was approved to sell them for \$15. Tahmeta also brought some pretty rad stickers and pencil bags that she made. They're bomb! These bags will be our next Hope PTO fundraiser.
- Community night report: the final night is scheduled for March 9th (this week); this will be reevaluated for post-Spring Break to see if it will be continued.
- Walking/Tiny Tots - report: Jeremy and Cindy mentioned that a parent asked for continued Tiny Tots, so that will continue through the end of the school year.

**New business:**

- Title 1 second semester parent involvement event - this will be the Outdoor Read Along (date TBD)
- Snack fund - discussion about the Hope PTO funding for school snacks: \$50 a month (as needed and as funds are available by the PTO, donated in perpetuity), funded by the PTO. Jeannine made the motion, Jeremy seconded. Voted unanimously. Jess volunteered (as she always does... cuz she's pretty cool) to do the snack purchasing.
- Motion made by Starre, second by Jeannine via email 2/27/23 to purchase Hope Husky coffee for school board presentation (15 bags) were provided by 3/3. Discussion. Board voted unanimously to cut a check for \$225 to Jessica Hogan for Turnagain Kayak coffee bags.
- Refund to Tahmeta Stroh in the amount of \$65 for Hope Husky logo'ed sweatshirt that was not received.
- New Treasurer needed; Starre is moving out of the country, and she isn't able to fulfill the role of treasurer. According to the bylaws, “the Treasurer will work with the secretary of the school to authorize expenses and hold all financial records.” Jeremy McKibben volunteered to fulfill the role, and Jess Hogan appointed him.

**Next meeting scheduled April 4th**

**Meeting adjourned @5:15 pm**