

Huddleston PTO August 2025 Meeting Notes

August 15, 2025, 8:00am

I. Call to order and welcomed by Natasha Greenstein at 8:01am.

II. Treasurer's Update: Deanna Kattner presented the new 25/26 budget to vote on.

- a. Everyone received a copy of the proposed 25/26 budget.
- b. Reviewed proposed 25/26 budget. Received a question from an attendee who asked what is Raise Right? Raise Right is a fundraising program that allows individuals to earn money for non-profit organizations (Huddleston Elementary) by purchasing gift cards from participating retailers who in return give a percentage of proceeds back to the school.
- c. Voting: Received first and second motion from parent attendees. 25/26 budget voted in.

III. Principal's Update: Mr. Noland- Principal.

- a. Staffing: Finalized last week with some last-minute consolidations due to board changes. All staff are placed and settled.
- b. Academic Performance: Strong end-of-year scores: ELA scores increased by 8% and Math scores increased by 10%. Achieved highest or second-highest scores ever across all grade levels and categories. This reflects the hard work and dedication of staff and students.
- c. STEAM Program: While students are in STEAM, teachers use that time for planning and preparation. Mr. Noland meets with the teachers on Mondays during this time.
- d. Leader in Me: Now in its 3rd year. Students actively engage with the program and its habits. Initially funded by a grant; now sustained by \$5K/year dues funded by the PTO.
- e. New Initiatives: Playground upgrade approved, including a safe fall surface for accessibility. Estimated cost: north of \$100K, timeline: 2–4 years depending on fundraising. Boosterthon will be a key driver for fundraising.
- f. School Improvement Goals: Focused on continuous performance improvement. Confident in becoming the best school in the district. Encourages parents to visit test score sites to see comparisons to other schools' performance.
- g. Grants: Attendee asked about grants. Huddleston is not a Title I school, so limited access to federal funds. Relies on local and community funding. Teachers actively pursue classroom-specific grants.

- h. World Language Program: Previously funded as a district exploratory special. Huddleston lost certified Spanish teacher to another school. Staffing constraints led to discontinuation to prioritize classroom and media support. Attendee gave suggestion of potential forming a Spanish club with a Spanish-speaking parent volunteer. Josh loved the idea and stated he would need coordination with the teacher action team who are required staff sponsors for after-school clubs. He will bring this suggestion to the action team.
- i. Clubs: sign-up will be via ParentSquare (first come, first served).
- j. Student Leadership Roles: Currently held by upperclassmen. The Action team will review and decide if this continues.
- k. Student-led conferences: Will be held same week as Boosterton from 7:10-7:45am. Aims to increase parent engagement that week and hopes to boost cash donations for Boosterton during that week.

IV. 1st week of school: Had great turnout at Meet the Teacher, Boo Hoo/Yahoo breakfast. We loved meeting new and returning families.

V. Spirit wear: Orders are due August 15th. Will hopefully have them beginning of September. Only ordering minimum extras. If there seems to be a big need or want for more may do another pre order in a few months.

VI. Website: Deanna and Amanda have worked very hard on our PTO website, heshoundspto.com here is where you will find all things PTO. We will utilize sign up genius and parent square for other forms of communication.

VII. Committees/Volunteers: We have a big year planned and a ton of volunteer opportunities.

- a. We still have some committee chair positions that need to be filled which are: Spirit Nights and Cultural Arts. We need someone to oversee these; they will organize and run these events.
- b. In addition to our regular volunteer opportunities, like Ice Cream Sales, Hospitality, events, media center, book fair, etc. Make sure to check parent square and website for updates and sign-up opportunities.
- c. Introduced our Committee Chairs present. Hospitality chair, Carly Ellis. Ice Cream Sales chair, Jessica Polish, Landscape chair, Jessica Kopec, Social Media chair, Maelle Soudais.

VIII. Sponsorship Committee Overview: Danny is leading a new approach to securing sponsors, focusing on: Larger companies, industrial areas, and local businesses in town. Developed a tiered sponsorship model, including: Gold Level (\$1,000 donation): receives Large yard sign in a prime location for one month and then moved to carpool line for the rest of the year, flyer sent home in student folders, and a Facebook blast for visibility. Goal is to secure 10 gold sponsors and already have 3 confirmed. Committee currently has 5 members and hope to have more join. Committee Participation is low commitment: No regular meetings, just a few phone calls or referrals. Committee shares a spreadsheet that tracks outreach and contacts. Would love to target larger corporations (e.g., Walmart, DCCU) These companies often have community donation programs. Sebastian (Co-chair) is leading outreach to these businesses. There are also some Grant Opportunities Sebastian is also working on that could potential go towards STEAM and similar initiatives.

IX. Boosterthon: This is our biggest fundraiser of the year. We have a lot of stuff we want to accomplish for Huddleston and this could really help us. We will need everyone on board and really work hard to hopefully exceed our goal. Registration opens Aug. 28th, Kickoff is Sept. 24th, Booster Week is Sept 29th-Oct 3rd, Run day is Oct. 3rd. Cash donations: we get to keep a larger percentage versus cards. Some companies or employers will match donations so double check that resource too.

X. Save the Date: Book Fair Sept 15th-19th and Cart or Treat Movie Night is coming up October 24th info will go out soon, so those who are entering the Cart contest have time to figure it out. Be on the lookout for signups coming.

XI. Upcoming Spirit Nights: August 27th Super Chix 5-8pm (mention HES at checkout) Go before or after curriculum night! September 16th Texas Roadhouse (mention HES to your waiter). Upcoming October: New put put golf place in Sharpsburg, and Old Chiacago Pizza.

XII. Next PTO Meeting: September 12th 8:00am with guest speaker Mr. Tatum.

XIII. Other Business: Looking forward to Helping Hounds volunteer opportunity at Midwest Foodbank over Thanksgiving break. Last year was an amazing experience and will do again this year with 3 shifts that 1st Monday of break for families to volunteer.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:23am

XIV: Attendees:

Natasha Greenstein	Daniel Klucas	Hillary Johnson
Deanna Kattner	Kate Ingram	Eleanor Simonsen
Danny Palma	Lisa Keith	Jessica Kopec
Devan Klucas	Kristen Grisham	Emily Maniccia

Josh Noland	Maria White	Sabrina Miller
Beth Yeager	Sara Painter	Jessica Polish
Carly Ellis	Maelle Soudais	Sebastien Soudais
Hannah Callahan	Erin Faber	Leia Anthony
Shelly M. Tacca	Arria Parker	H.N.
Andrei P.		