

PPAS PTA Meeting 2025-May-21

Attendees

Physical: Laura Boschetti, Raven Catlin, Jeff Cavalli, Debbie Greenwald, Shawn Dell, Ruth Hawkins, Kelly Heisler, Leslie Hendricks, Jodie Lovero, Ejim Pike, Ketsia Poiteuren, Lynn Stirrup, Deborah Weitz

Virtual: Tiffany Butts, Erin Clancy-Balsamo, Yanet Cruz, Donna Dukes, Leah Dyer, Elizabeth Elsass, Mar Fitzgerald, Gwendolyn Kingsberry, Marisa Osorio, Tracy Pickar, Alana Rasmussen, Danielle Soares, Neal Sofge, Jennifer Whipple, "Kimbirdlee"

Call to order

Suggested Slogan: Fun, Flexible, Forgiving!

Review of Minutes: Waived by Unanimous Vote

Month In Review

- Teacher Appreciation Luncheon
- The Celebration of the Arts
- The Spring Vocal Concert
- MT1 showcases
- High School and Middle School Orientations
- The 2025 48-hour Film Festival

Principal Dyer

- "A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way." — John Maxwell
- Celebration of Arts was spectacular, showed unity of the school and how we can accomplish goals
- Transition back into the auditorium: squeezing everything into the Black Box has been challenging but we made it work
- Public Policy Expo on Friday, lots of creative solutions to problems; special guests will be coming from city & state governments
- Distraction-Free School Zone: students will not be allowed to use electronics from bell to bell (Hochul initiative); might include lockboxes for the high school like the ones the middle school currently uses or Faraday-cage bags to disable phones while allowing physical retention by students

Parent Coordinator's Report

- Student won the [Roger Rees](#) award, and five more won New Faces Honors this week, with a special film made of their work!

Treasurer Report

- Fundraising results aren't as bad as forecast; Gala and ticket sales helped
- Bank account very strong, but remember goal is to keep a year's worth of funds there just in case (e.g., COVID)
- Expenses as expected
- Proposed 2025-26 budget process complete, proposed budget now available to general membership for questions; Treasurer and President will respond over the next 4 weeks treasurer@ppaspta.org and president@ppaspta.org
- Discussion and vote on the budget at June 18th Zoom meeting
- Note that though questions will be answered, the budget can't be modified without going through the process again
- One of the incoming board members is wondering why they weren't involved in this decision; the simple answer is that the Board has never been elected this early. Also, bear in mind that the incoming Board is exactly that -- incoming (and thus not yet exactly on the Board).

Audit Committee

- Jennifer Whipple feels that there is not enough transparency for PTA expenditures and would like an audit committee to form as provided for in the by-laws.
- Leslie Hendricks points out that there should be parameters: when should committee form, and when will audit be completed?
- (Mar Fitzgerald volunteers for the audit committee.)
- Shawn read the by-laws section on audit committee formation and operations
- [A long discussion followed, detailing concerns about transparency]
- Why not wait until October to vote on the budget, after the audit committee reports? A: Because we won't be able to spend any money until then, and so fundraising for the fiscal year will be months behind schedule.
- **MOTION** by Jennifer Whipple: Will the PTA form an audit committee to perform an audit on the finances with a finish date of September 15, with Jennifer Whipple as the head? (Mar Fitzgerald seconded.) **VOTE COUNTS** In person 8 for, 5 against, 0 abstain, Online: 4 for, 5 against, remaining 4 abstain, Totals 12 for, 10 against. **MOTION PASSES**

Remaining Agenda (Speedrun for time)

- **MOTION** by President: Will the PTA form an bylaws committee (3-5 members) to rewrite the bylaws by the first September General PTA meeting? Second: Ruth Hawkins. **VOTE COUNTS** In person 12 for, 0 against, 0 abstain, Online: 8 for, 0 against. Totals 20 for, 0 against. **MOTION PASSES**

- PTA Get Togethers
 - Tonight Emmy Squared
 - June 1, 4:00 PM at Harry's Table
 - June 5 on Zoom
 - Please RSVP to president@ppaspta.org
- MT Delegate Nominations Re-Opening
 - Team of two are willing, as well as a single candidate
 - This is the only Board role that is unfilled
 - Nominations period starts now
 - June 18 election will be in person (cannot be hybrid)
- Financial Secretary Nomination
 - Nominations period starts now for that too