



# POPLAR BRIDGE PTA MEETING

OCTOBER 21, 2025

**Attendees:** Carrie Thunshelle, Angie Poetter, Ashley Brunner, Mandy Spencer, Holly Wurth, Katie Leoffler, Starr Sage, Katie Pashke, Sharon Kohlhaas, Tiff Bushland, Melissa Abrahams, Joey Oslund, Derek Zobel, Laurel Needham, Joanna Accola

Item	Owner
<p><b>President's Report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Announcements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ PTA Leadership Team Updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 25/26 Additions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Secretary = Joanna Accola</li> <li>● Staff Appreciation Chairs = Carolyn Catir, Holly Wurth, and Mandy Spencer</li> </ul> </li> <li>■ 26/27 Openings: Boosterthon Chairs, Volunteer Coordinator, Yearbook Assistant Editors</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ BNNN Workgroup: Heather, Nancy, Mandy, Carrie, Joey, Derek, Roberto</li> <li>○ Reminder to officially <a href="#">become a Poplar Bridge PTA Member</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>● Shout-outs + Readouts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Katie: Back-to-School Party: <a href="#">fun, successful night despite having to reschedule due to weather</a> (Katie)</li> <li>○ Mandy, Carolyn, and Holly: Food for Teachers at Fall Conferences: <a href="#">taco bar, Red Savoy pizza, Potbelly, homemade apple crisp from leftover lunchroom apples for teachers, volunteers signed up quickly on signup genius</a> (Mandy)</li> <li>○ Mandy: Cafeteria Waste <a href="#">successful so far! basket is near trash receptacle for unopened food, student/staff bring food over to school social worker.</a> (Mandy)</li> <li>○ Nancy and Jess: Boosterthon Fundraiser <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ The PB community raised over \$34,000, which was \$10,000 above our goal!!! Mr Cantu will be going head-to-head with Mrs Hanson in a lip sync battle since the school met its fundraising goal!</li> <li>■ The Polar Dash was an awesome event day! The kids, teachers, and staff were flexible, positive, and excited in spite of the less than ideal weather. Tons of smiles and rosy cheeks, as well as high energy. We're super thankful for all of the support from the PTA members, teachers, sponsors, and families!!</li> <li>■ We had 394 registered participants and 321 had a pledge. I just love the camaraderie this event creates for all of the kiddos, staff and family, regardless of how much money each individual raises.</li> <li>■ How the funds are utilized at Poplar Bridge: <a href="#">25/26 Budget</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Notes from budget discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Harder to fit in Richardson Nature Center visits due to the new literacy curriculum as the literacy block needs to be 1 hour non-split up. Teachers are working on</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Carrie Thunshelle

<p>scheduling Richardson Nature Center naturalists planning to come 4x a year. (Ms. Abrahams)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community Engagement Events: new this year - moving to a ticket system for food/drinks at school events (like bingo night) to make school events more inclusive for families. (Carrie)</li> <li>Question about boosterton fundraising amounts: most \$ made from direct donations, some from sponsorships.</li> <li>\$34,000 from boosterthon is net \$ made from fundraiser (up from \$29,000 made last year - makes sense with new students). Shirts cost \$2000 (Joey)</li> <li>We don't always use all funds allocated in budget (Carrie)</li> <li>In addition to budget line items, teachers can also submit grant requests which PTA board votes on.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Principal's Report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BPS Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>School Board Elections are fast approaching. I would also assume that once this is completed, the district will begin communicating its budget forecast.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Poplar Bridge Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I am so incredibly humbled by our community's support of the Boosterthon Fundraiser. These funds allow us to provide so many opportunities for our students and staff.</li> <li>We had three successful evenings of Parent Teacher Conferences. Again, we cannot thank the families enough for their food donations. The staff was so appreciative of the delicious food options, and we thank you for providing them with dinner each night!</li> <li>I want to be fully transparent regarding our new literacy curriculum. It is much more rigorous than anything we have taught in quite some time. Students and staff are feeling overwhelmed with the changes, however, they are already noticing how the new curriculum is providing students with excellent content, and knowledge in key state standards.</li> <li>We are planning a whole school rally at the end of the month to celebrate our two schools becoming one (Washburn Bear &amp; PB Bear showing unity). We will also hold our Lip Sync battle at this rally. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Question about whether this rally &amp; Washburn bear was talked through with Washburn families. Folks can reach out to Mr. Cantu with any thoughts or questions.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Roberto Cantu</p>
<p><b>Upcoming Activities and Events</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11/11 PTA Meeting</li> <li>11/18 Book Fair + Bingo <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Volunteers needed for setup, cashiers, take down.</li> <li>Ticket system for pizza will hopefully help with reducing long lines.</li> <li>Question about whether we could do more seating or different configuration of tables as we may have even more attendees this year. Katie will think about configurations that may help. (Katie)</li> <li>Question about whether we could have bingo in the gym and pizza in the lunchroom to help with crowds (Ms. Abrahams) or have two pizza tables (Joanna) - Yes, we can be a lot more creative due to not taking \$ for pizza (Katie)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Book Fair + Bingo = Katie Loeffler, Emma Thell, Sarah Rahn</p> <p>PTA Meeting = Carrie Thunshelle</p> <p>Student Directory = Elizabeth Westlund</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Book fair setup will need to be different this year due to media center being booked with Science classroom and Safari. (Carrie)</li> <li>● Student Directory: <a href="#">directory will just be digital this year.</a> (Carrie)</li> </ul>	
<b>Treasurer's Report</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <a href="#">Budget</a> + Bank Statement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ We are about where we were last year with our bank account amount. We currently have about \$29,000 in the bank account, book fair will add to this. (Joey)</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Recent Grant Requests: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 3rd Grade = wiggle/rocking chairs + folders for students</li> <li>○ Computer Science = mobile cart</li> <li>○ 1st Grade = Storage drawers for new curriculum materials</li> <li>○ Social Work = snacks for students</li> <li>○ Kindergarten = wagons for lunches</li> <li>○ Occupational Therapist = motor skill tools</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Joey Oslund
<b>Communication's Report</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Book Fair + Bingo: Printed Flyer, Email, Seesaw, Socials</li> <li>● Next PTA Meeting: Seesaw, Socials</li> </ul>	Tricia Canales
<b>BPFAC Report</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Overview of BPFAC</li> <li>● <a href="#">BPFAC Meeting Minutes</a> from 9/10/25</li> <li>● <a href="#">BPFAC Meeting Minutes</a> from 10/1/25</li> <li>● All school representatives can bring concerns to or update district on school changes. If you have concerns for district, email <a href="mailto:commrelations@isd271.org">commrelations@isd271.org</a> (Derek)</li> <li>● Currently exploring the possibility of reducing food waste by donating to VEAP. (Derek)</li> <li>● Teachers also have baskets with leftover lunchroom food that can go to their classroom (Ms. Abrahams)</li> <li>● Upcoming "Mornings with Melbye" on 10/29 at Old. Shakopee McDonalds (Derek)</li> <li>● Jovitz grant (help ID underprivileged kids for G/T programs) cut (Derek)</li> <li>● No active shooter drills done in schools when kids are present. (Derek)</li> <li>● Immunizations available at Pond Clinic. (Derek)</li> <li>● Next meeting is 11/5. For any concerns/comments, email <a href="mailto:info@poplarbridgepta.com">info@poplarbridgepta.com</a> or Derek.</li> </ul>	Derek Zobel
<b>Open Forum</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <a href="#">Sprout School Supplies</a> - Carrie (tabled until next meeting due to time)</li> <li>● Grilled Cheese Bar - Mandy (tabled until next meeting due to time)</li> </ul>	All
<b>Parking Lot</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Guest Speakers at Meetings</li> <li>● Books &amp; Bundts Program</li> </ul>	Carrie Thunshelle