

PTO Meeting #1 - Meeting Minutes

August 27, 2026 | 2026-2027 School Year - 1st Quarter

Date	August 27, 2026	Location	Cafeteria
Start Time	5:45 PM	End Time	6:45 PM
Facilitator	Brenda Spriggins	Minutes Taken By	Emily Mueller

Attendees: Parents, faculty, and PTO members

1. Call to Order, Welcome & Meeting Reminders

Welcome

- PTO President Brenda Spriggins opened the first-quarter meeting and introduced herself.
- The meeting agenda included a PTO overview, PTO updates, Hynes Lakeview staff and administration updates, raffle prizes, and homework passes.

Discussion / Notes

- The survey QR code shared during the introduction did not work.

Meeting Reminders

- Attendees were asked to sign in for homework passes and take one raffle ticket from a PTO officer or volunteer.
- Students could dress down the following day.
- Slides and meeting minutes will be posted to the PTO website and ParentSquare after the meeting.

2. PTO Overview, Communications & Board

PTO Overview

- All Hynes Lakeview faculty, staff, and parents/guardians are members of the PTO; there are no membership dues.
- The PTO is a 501(c)(3) that supports high standards of education through fundraising and volunteer efforts.
- The PTO emphasized positive communication and parent/community involvement as important to student success.

PTO Communications

- Website: hyneslakeviewpto.org; website password: HYNESWEB.
- PTO communications are shared through Wednesday folder fliers, Thursday ParentSquare messages, class GroupMe channels, and email.
- The PTO website includes upcoming events, news, volunteer opportunities, and impact information.

Discussion / Notes

- The email address shown in the presentation was identified as incorrect and needs to be corrected in future communications.

2026-2027 PTO Board

- Brenda Spriggins - President

- Brittany Carrasquillo - Vice President
- Emily Mueller - Secretary
- Lory Lewis - Treasurer
- Mirela Nicola - Treasurer
- Kassie Cosgrove - Sponsorship Director
- Maggie Boos - Volunteer Engagement
- Mike Mauer - Communications Director
- Anh Tran - Men's Committee Chair

Discussion / Notes

- Board members stood and were introduced by Brenda Spriggins.

Recent PTO Activity

- The PTO highlighted recent school supply efforts, meet-and-greets, staff/community gatherings, and campus support activities.

3. Upcoming Events, Finance & PTO Impact

Upcoming Events

- Sept. 11 - Grandparents & Special Friends Day + Book Fair
- Sept. 16 - Impact Day; no school
- Sept. 18 - Back to School BBQ, 5:00-8:00 PM, School Yard
- Oct. 7 - Fall City Park Night, 6:00-9:00 PM, Storyland at City Park
- Oct. 16 - Spooktacular, 6:00-8:30 PM, Gym Parking Lot
- Oct. 20 - Q1 Giveback Night; Reginelli's

Discussion / Notes

- Brenda reviewed the fall calendar and key dates.

Treasurer Report - FY2025-26 Operating Statement

- For the 12 months ending May 31, 2026, total net proceeds were budgeted at \$69,400 and actual net proceeds were \$61,732, a variance of (\$8,139).
- Reporting categories included Sales Based Fundraising, Event Based Fundraising, Community Building & Appreciation Expenses, Direct Partner Support Expenses, and Operations Expenses.

Discussion / Notes

- Lory Lewis presented the prior-year budget-to-actual report; Mirela Nicola was unable to attend.
- Sales-based fundraising includes chocolate sales; event-based fundraising includes the gala and spring fair.
- Community-building expenses include staff appreciation; direct partner support includes Thanksgiving gift cards, Les Amis, the Men's Committee, and similar support.

Treasurer Report - FY2026-27 Budget Proposal

- Proposed FY2026-27 total net proceeds are \$26,689, compared with the prior-year approved budget of \$69,400.
- The same core revenue and expense categories will continue to be tracked.

Discussion / Notes

- Event-based fundraising is budgeted lower this year.
- The PTO is working to keep event costs from increasing with inflation while using resources as effectively as possible.

PTO Dollars at Work

- Last year, the PTO presented a \$50,000 annual gift to support the school community.

- Impact areas include classroom supplies, curriculum enhancements, campus improvements, and faculty/staff recognition.
- P.A.C.K. is intended to build a stronger and more sustainable model of support for Hynes year after year.

Discussion / Notes

- Past PTO-funded projects cited included the kindergarten play yard and shade structure.

\$50,000 School Technology Gift

- The PTO is funding \$50,000 for school technology to support learning, creativity, and student preparation.
- The gift is funded from proceeds raised during the prior school year.

Discussion / Notes

- Principal Dawn Lobell thanked the PTO and emphasized the importance of technology for the school's 800+ students.

First Day School Supplies

- The school supply program raised \$2,775, with 592 kits ordered and 19 pallets sorted and distributed.

Discussion / Notes

- Brenda thanked all families who purchased supplies and the volunteers who helped with sorting and distribution.

Hynes P.A.C.K. Partners

- The 2026-2027 school year is the founding year for P.A.C.K. - Partners Assisting the Community of Kids.
- Partnership support areas include classroom investment, teacher innovation, student experiences, family engagement, campus improvements, and school traditions.
- Founding partnership levels: Pup Pals \$750; Bronze \$1,250; Silver \$2,500; Gold \$5,000; Platinum \$10,000; Diamond \$15,000+.

Discussion / Notes

- Kassie Cosgrove introduced and reviewed the new partnership initiative.

4. Volunteer Engagement & PTO Committees

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

- Spirit Shirt Sorting - Sept. 9 (morning)
- Whitney Wednesdays - Sept. 9, Oct. 14, and Nov. 11 (morning)
- Back to School BBQ - Sept. 18 (various shifts)
- Spooktacular Bin Sorting - date TBD
- Spooktacular - Oct. 16
- Ongoing library volunteering via ParentSquare; Teacher Snack Cart opportunity coming soon

Discussion / Notes

- Maggie Boos emphasized that fall events depend on parent and volunteer support.

Volunteer Calendar & Recognition

- New September and October volunteer calendars include QR codes/links for sign-up and volunteer-hour logging.
- 42 volunteer hours had already been logged for School Supply Sorting.
- Homework passes are available for each volunteer opportunity.
- Top volunteers will be recognized at year-end with a breakfast and small gift.

Discussion / Notes

- Maggie asked volunteers to use the new logging form so their hours can be counted for recognition and encouraged volunteers to reach out with questions.

Spooktacular

- The annual Halloween event will be held Oct. 16.
- An AV Chair with sound experience is needed for the day of the event.
- Additional committee members and day-of/cleanup volunteers are needed; some shifts are as short as 30 minutes to one hour.
- Activities include a movie, pumpkin painting, Trunk-or-Treat, and a fun house.
- PTO supplies candy for Trunk-or-Treat hosts and provides a \$35 decoration stipend.

Discussion / Notes

- Eileen Boh reviewed the event and volunteer needs.

Class Captains

- 3rd Grade and 5th Grade Class Captains are still needed.
- Class captains share PTO/school information, coordinate class celebrations and activities, support teacher gifts/communication, and strengthen connections among families, teachers, and PTO.

Discussion / Notes

- Eileen Boh and Jacqueline Vickers coordinate the Class Captain program. Eileen thanked current volunteers and emphasized the value of having more parents involved in sharing communication and supporting teachers.

Uniform Committee

- The committee accepts new, like-new, or gently used uniform pieces; donated items should be washed unless new with tags.
- Accepted items include polos, round-collar blouses, gray shorts/pants, Pre-K gingham dress/bloomers, green outerwear, plaid items, and new/like-new black shoes.
- Worn plaid may be recycled for spirit-store or school-spirit crafts.
- Donations may be dropped in the front office or brought to the exchange.
- Field trip/spirit shirts and items embroidered with student names are no longer accepted.
- Uniform exchanges are held on PTO meeting days.

Discussion / Notes

- Brittany Carrasquillo thanked the Uniform Committee for its work and reviewed exchange reminders.

Spirit Store

- Previous-year items are on sale for \$5, with several favorite items back in stock.
- The online store is available 24/7; orders are generally fulfilled within 5-7 days.
- Headbands and bows are available.
- The Spirit Store will also be available at PTO meetings, select events, and Grandparents Day.

Discussion / Notes

- Brittany thanked Shannon and the Spirit Store team.

Hynes Men's Committee

- The first general meeting, a 'Meat and Greet,' is scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 17 at 7:00 PM in the gym parking lot.
- Families were encouraged to invite Hynes dads and join the Men's Committee GroupMe.

Discussion / Notes

- Anh Tran described the Men's Committee as a group that supports and volunteers throughout the year; attendees were invited to gather around the smoker in the back school lot on Sept. 17.

Les Amis de Hynes

- The group thanked families for a successful Welcome Pique-Nique.
- Holiday Market & Pictures with Santa is scheduled for Dec. 5, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM; vendors and additional planners are needed.
- Le Petite Dej is scheduled for Sept. 22 at 8:00 AM.
- A Les Amis happy hour is coming soon.

Discussion / Notes

- Families who sell crafts or baked goods were encouraged to participate as vendors at the Holiday Market.
- The Holiday Market will include Pictures with Santa and hot chocolate; the planning team also expects to host happy hours.
- The Welcome Pique-Nique had record turnout.

Fine Arts

- A fall play is coming soon, with additional theatre opportunities planned for students both on stage and behind the scenes.
- Fine Arts programming is intended to support confidence, self-expression, teamwork, and community.
- Families can join the Fine Arts GroupMe for updates.

Discussion / Notes

- Denise Crais introduced the Fine Arts update and discussed the fall play.
- Theatre teacher Meredith Long plans to offer more after-school opportunities.
- The Boswell family and Drew's Tunes were thanked for supporting the new stage in the black box theatre.

5. Library, Book Fair & Student Opportunities

Library Volunteer Program

- Library Volunteer Pizza Party and Training is held on the first Tuesday of the month from 4:00-6:00 PM.
- Dates listed: Sept. 1, Oct. 6, Nov. 3, Dec. 1, Jan. 5, Feb. 2, Mar. 2, Apr. 6, and May 4.
- Reginelli's is providing the pizza; a QR code is available for volunteer sign-up.

Discussion / Notes

- Eren K. Wilson noted that the library has approximately 20,000 items and is comparable in scale to a public library.
- Book checkout begins on the 8th, creating a recurring need for volunteers to reshelve materials.
- Volunteers may receive training on the first Tuesday of each month.

Junior Librarian Program

- The new program is open to students in grades 6-8.
- Students will complete two shifts per week - one during recess and one during the final 15 minutes of the school day; select students may receive a project-based third shift.
- Students must apply and have parental permission.

Discussion / Notes

- Eren encouraged eligible students to apply.

Book Fair

- The Book Fair will use Literati this year and will be cash-free, using gift cards purchased through the website.

- Items will be limited to books, pencils, pens, journals, and pen toppers; no toys will be sold.
- The online webstore is open year-round to support the book budget; 25% of profit goes to the school during Book Fair season and 10% off-season.
- Popular Scholastic titles will be available online only.
- Sept. 4: 3:00-4:00 PM after-school book preview.
- Sept. 8-9: in-class visits plus 3:00-4:00 PM after-school shopping.
- Sept. 11: Grandparents Day.
- Sept. 14-16: in-class visits plus 3:00-4:00 PM after-school shopping.

Discussion / Notes

- No special training is required to volunteer at the Book Fair.
- Eren can see student gift-card balances on her end.
- The Book Fair dates should be added to the ParentSquare message.

Library Communication

- Library updates will be frequent during Book Fair season and approximately monthly afterward.
- For lost-book claim disputes or outstanding-book questions, families should contact the librarian directly; ParentSquare is the preferred method.

Chess Club Coach Needed

- The school is seeking a parent/volunteer who loves chess or is willing to learn, is patient with children, and is available one day per week from 3:15-4:30 PM (or 5:00 PM).
- The school can facilitate sign-ups, provide chess sets/timers, and provide library space.
- Interested volunteers should contact Eren via ParentSquare or at eren.wilson@hynesschool.com.

Discussion / Notes

- A parent facilitator is needed to launch the Chess Club.

6. Principal & Administration Report

Principal Welcome & Thanks

- Principal Dawn Lobell welcomed new parents and thanked the PTO, Les Amis, Dad's Club/Men's Committee, and volunteers for supporting First Day School Supplies, meet-and-greets, the staff back-to-school social, mulch/campus work, and back-to-school event planning.

Hynes Academic Performance

- Hynes Lakeview ranked #1 among the highlighted all-Hynes open-enrollment elementary schools in New Orleans for LEAP Mastery; Hynes LSU New Orleans ranked #2 and Hynes Parkview #6.
- DIBELS: 76% of K-3 students began the year at or above benchmark; the May 2026 goal was 88% of K-8 students at/above benchmark or growing by one level; the reported result was 90% of K-3 students at/above benchmark or growing by one level.
- School-wide reading goal: 88% reading on or above grade level. Results were Q1 87%, Q2 90%, Q3 92%, and Q4 90%; the 2026-27 target is 92%.
- 2026 LEAP Mastery results: ELA 78%, Math 65%, Science 61%, Social Studies 65%.
- 2027 LEAP Mastery goals: ELA 83%, Math 68%, Science 63%, Social Studies 68%.

Discussion / Notes

- Dawn expressed pride in the school's mastery results and emphasized that teachers will work with students when homework or grades indicate they need support.
- The 90% DIBELS result was highlighted as a major success.
- Administration reviewed year-over-year results and the new goals, with an emphasis on maintaining the school's strong performance.

High Dose Tutoring (HDT)

- Students below Basic/Benchmark on LEAP ELA/Math (grades 4-5), DIBELS, or KITE (K-3) may be eligible for additional school support.
- Families of eligible students will receive an IASP (Individual Academic Support Plan) in mid-September and should sign and return it promptly.
- HDT begins Sept. 21.
- The school will try to avoid pulling students from PE, though this may occasionally be unavoidable.
- Questions may be directed to Susan Connick at susan.connick@hynesschool.com.

Discussion / Notes

- Teachers reviewed student data to determine where additional support may be helpful.
- Dawn reassured families that the IASP is intended to ensure students receive the support they need; the program is state-funded and the school expects strong tutors.

Family Survey Results

- Reported strengths included a welcoming and positive environment, strong parent involvement, positive community culture, and supportive staff.
- Reported concerns included too many updates/communications, limited activities/free time, too much homework, and a desire for more art and academic feedback.

Discussion / Notes

- Administration noted that students receive 10 enrichment periods per week, including PE, library, and computer, and are moving throughout the day.
- Additional activities are being added, including Soccer Tots, art, and potentially chess.
- The leadership team is discussing homework load. Families were advised that if homework is taking more than two hours, they may stop and send a note if the child did not understand the concept.

Title Funds

- Title I supports two assistants/paraprofessionals and a parent liaison.
- Title II supports Success For All (SFA), the SFA Conference, Plain Talk Conference, and School Leadership Center.
- Title IV supports a KidsmART presentation and four teachers beginning in the fall.
- Project Wayfinder supports social-emotional learning and staff training.

Discussion / Notes

- Dawn explained that these are examples of how government Title funds are being used.

7. 2026-2027 School Programs, Forms & Operations

Perennials - What's Returning

- SFA with GATZ; Guidebooks 5-8; Eureka2; Amplify; Gallopade; OpenSciEd; Algebra 1.
- Zearn (K-8): three lessons per week, approximately 90 lessons by April 2027.
- PBIS, Husky High Five, Wayfinder, and the House System.
- DIBELS, KITE, GATES, and LEAP.
- High Dose Tutoring, KidsmART partnership, Whitney Wednesdays, Spirit Day Fridays, Student of the Month, and monthly ParentSquare newsletters.

Discussion / Notes

- Margo Johnson reviewed returning programs, noting that Zearn is provided through the state and KidsmART is connected with Miss Sophie.

Annuals - What's New

- A five-year strategic plan with four priorities: Excellent Instruction; Academic Equity and Consistency; Thriving School Communities; Highly Effective and Committed Staff.
- PlayWorks reboot, including Junior Coaches.
- Computer lab refresh with new equipment coming online soon.
- Grandparents Club.
- Beginning-of-year forms available online.

Discussion / Notes

- Margo noted that the Hynes schools work together across campuses.
- PlayWorks is returning; Coach Nate previously came through the program.
- PTO funds supported the computer lab refresh and new technology.

Beginning-of-Year Forms

- Beginning-of-year forms are available through ParentSquare and PowerSchool.

Discussion / Notes

- Alexis Martin clarified that ParentSquare includes a Forms tab and that forms are also available in PowerSchool, apologizing for any confusion.

National Junior Honor Society

- NJHS is built around scholarship, service, leadership, character, and citizenship.
- Middle school qualifications include a Behavior grade of 90 or above and GPA of 3.25 or above.
- First-quarter service project: Candy Drive benefiting Children's Hospital Boo-at-the-Zoo and Hynes Spooktacular, Sept. 28-Oct. 2.

Discussion / Notes

- Leah Glade reviewed the student leadership/service organization and qualifications. The Sept. 28-Oct. 2 Candy Drive dates should be added to the ParentSquare message.

Fall Offerings

- Football, volleyball, swimming, cross country, choir, and the fall play - Alice in Wonderland (Reader's Theater and Improv).
- Art programming is coming this fall; Soccer Tots is TBD.

Discussion / Notes

- Margo Johnson reviewed the fall offerings.

Calendar Update - 2nd Quarter

- Impact Day is Nov. 3 (Election Day); there will be no school for students.

Neighborhood Safety

- Bicycles should be walked across crosswalks.
- Students should follow crossing-guard directions and families should be mindful of the speed limit.
- Car-flow maps are available in the student handbook.
- When leaving front carpool, drivers should turn left as demonstrated in the school video.
- Families were asked to remind students who walk to nearby businesses or with friends after school to remain attentive to safety.

Discussion / Notes

- Margo Johnson reviewed neighborhood, crosswalk, bicycle, and carpool safety.

8. Closing

Raffle & Social

- Raffle winners were announced; the raffle was supported by Pizza Domenica.
- Following the meeting, Hynes Lakeview parents and guardians were invited to a PTO Happy Hour at Velvet Cactus, 16300 Argonne Blvd., New Orleans.

Discussion / Notes

- Brenda Spriggins announced the raffle winners.

Next Meeting

- PTO Meeting #2 is scheduled for November 4, 2026.
- Attendees were reminded to sign in for homework passes and to remind students about the next-day dress-down privilege.