Great Bridge Intermediate PTA General Meeting

# MINUTES

**November 9th, 2026, at 7 p.m.**
**Google Meet**

**A. Call to Order**

President, Ashley Moore, called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

**In attendance:** Ashley Moore, President; Scott Helton, Vice President; Jing Wu, Treasurer; Shannon Hughes, Secretary; Stacey Betsinger, 5th Grade and PTA Teacher Liaison; Sara Bishop, Room Parent Coordinator; Sarah Scholander, Spirit Wear and Community Partners Chair; Nikki Dietz, Community Partners Chair; Sarah Hodges, Fundraising Chair; Claudia Rodriguez, Hospitality Chair; Liz Buchanan, Military Families Chair; Sue Gressley; Lindsay Palaszewski; Elizabeth Vaughn; Shelley Ashburn; Stephanie Smith

A quorum was reached.

**B. Records Review**

Ashley Moore made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented at 7:02 PM, which was seconded by Scott Helton. Without objection, the agenda was adopted as presented.

Ashley Moore made a motion to adopt the September General Meeting minutes as presented at 7:02 PM, which was seconded by Scott Helton. Without objection, the general meeting minutes were adopted as presented.

**C. School Update**

Ms Betsinger the PTA Teacher Liaison gave the following update:

3rd Grade: Many classes wrote spooky stories to share "around a campfire" on October 30th.

Winter Concert is December 9th. The 5:30 performance includes the classes of Gray, Root, Pitko, Jeannetti, and Williams. The 6:30 performances includes the classes of Brannen, Fosback, Connolly, and Ruben. Performances will be held in the GBHS auditorium.

4th Grade: Spent the spooky season learning about spiders and animal adaptations. They are also learning about nonfiction text features.

5th Grade: Many classes built electric circuits into Halloween cards. Once the circuits were closed, the cards lit up! Spooky stories were also written and shared, and some classes even had "s'mores in a bag." Several classes did a math escape room on the Friday before Halloween.

The annual Thanksgiving Parade is coming up on November 24th. The theme for this year is "Countries of the World" to go with our new study of geography in 5th grade.

**D. Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer, Jing Wu discussed the current financial status. We have about 14k in the cash balance now to pay for the various expenses in the upcoming weeks. Earmarking funds for in-school field trips. Those are each around $2,000 each, so that will be $6,000. We continue to monitor it to make sure that we have enough cash flow to cover all the future spending.

**D. President Updates**

Ashley Moore touched on the in school field trips

3rd grade will be doing Silk Road again
4th grade is having an author visit to talk with students and every student will leave with a book
5th grade is having the Air and Space Museum come.
Jamestown was done in the past but they changed their curriculum and it is now targeted at different ages.

Ashley Moore discussed the two November Membership Raffles.

The first one is a dumpling outfit for an elf on the shelf. If you have an elf on the shelf that visits and they like new outfits, you would be eligible to win that if you join in the month of November. If meeting attendance was logged you were entered into a raffle to win 4 gift cards to Chick-fil-A for one free biscuit or a pack of chicken minis.

367 members - We hope to have 400 by end of November

Membership helps you stay informed and is an important part of being a part of the GBI community

Ashley Moore discussed upcoming events

Giving Market is going on now until November 18th
Muffins for the Military is on November 10 at 8:30 AM to honor Veteran's Day
No school on Wednesday November 11th for Veterans Day
Thanksgiving Break is November 25-27. That Wednesday is now a full day off.
Reflections Award Ceremony is on December 11, 2026 at 9 AM in the Great Bridge Intermediate Cafeteria

Ashley Moore highlighted key metrics and progress.

We have 7 community partners, we have raised $19,267, and the PTA has over 700 volunteer hours invested so far this year. Thank you to everyone who has supported and made an impact at GBI.

**E. Community Sponsors**

Nikki Dietz presented a slide with current community sponsor logos, and encouraged members to look into the community partner program on our website if interested. This program comes with advertising and membership perks when you make a $250 donation on

behalf of your business. We have 7 local sponsors currently. Window clings for sponsors were sent out today.

**F. Fundraising Update**
Sarah Hodges presented fundraising progress.

Penny Wars was successful and exceeded expectations and raised over $4,600 which will be used to pay for BrainPOP

Panera raised $162

Giving Market is running now through November 18

Kids can turn in coupons to receive VIP ducks. Coupons depend on how many items are sold.

No restaurant spirit nights till after the new year. In January we will have Chick-fil-A for a week.

**G. Spirit Wear Update**

Sarah Scholander presented the Spirit Wear update. The majority of the orders have been delivered, sent home in student backpacks. Some items we are still waiting on from the screen printers, but are working closely with DEWS to correct any missing items and they will be getting those to us very soon. If you notice a mistake with your order please email us so we can make sure that we get the correct items to you.

**H. Hospitality Update**
Ashley Moore presented the Hospitality update. Staff treats are on the 3rd Wednesday of every month. November 18th is Pie-fect Staff. Sign up is on the PTA Facebook page. Donations are due the 13th but perishable items are to be dropped off the morning or day before the 18th. It is a very nice treat for staff, please consider donating.

**I.Room Parent Update**
Sara Bishop presented this update. Had a room parent meeting in October and went over responsibilities and expectations. Holiday Parties will be on December 21 & 22. Room Parents will work closely with the teacher to plan. It will be the room parents and 2-3 volunteers due to space in the classroom.

**J. Reflections Update**
Ashley Moore presented the Reflections update.
The ceremony will be on December 11th for all participants at 9 AM in the GBI Cafeteria. RSVP Forms will be emailed out to parents in the next two weeks. 31 Students participated and there were 56 submissions total.

**K. Advocacy Update**
Ashley Moore provided the update. Discussed the National PTA School of Excellence Program, the survey is still open through November 15 but it is a two year program. GBI has enrolled in this program and has worked hard to share the standardized survey with all families. The survey gathers information on where GBI can improve. After Thanksgiving break the committee will go over survey results and then an action plan will be made to work on areas that need improvement.

**L. Military Families Update**

Liz Buchanon provided the update.
Muffins with the Military is November 10th at 8:30 AM. It will be a great turn out. Mood 757 donated the coffee, Vanessa Robinson who is a realtor and community sponsor donated the muffins and the PTA was able to pay for the rest. Students will be doing the Pledge of Allegiance and singing the National Anthem. There will be a spot for pictures. Kids will get to spend time with their family members who are active military or a veteran.

A Facebook group was created for military families. Must be a PTA member to join group. The link for the Facebook Group is on the Communication Form that was sent out, at the bottom of the form.

This is a new committee and ideas are welcome.
We want this committee to be a meaningful part of the PTA and GBI as a whole.

**M. Questions/Comments**

At 7:24 PM Ashley Moore provided an opportunity for questions and discussion, but no hands were raised.

Next Meeting is in January

**N. Adjourn**

Ashley Moore stated the meeting adjourned at 7:26 PM.

Respectfully prepared by:

Shannon Hughes, Secretary