Newcastle Elementary PTSA
Parent Teacher Student Association

Newcastle PTSA General Membership Meeting

Thursday, November 5, 2026
Online

Call to Order: 18:05 PST (6:05 PM PST)

In attendance:

Principal	Julia Dorn
President	Fiorella Tapiarene
Volunteers	Christine Clarkson
Outreach	Jill Binks Alicia Singh
Secretary	Jackie Mitti Laura Kaya
Ways and Means	Sangeeta Iyer
Treasurers	Chai Dasari

Principal Report — Julia Dorn

Auction Update — Katie Green

Planning continues for the March Gatsby-themed Auction at Newcastle Golf Club.

- Procurement is approximately 25% toward goal. Many smaller donations have been secured, but the team continues to seek higher-value donated experiences/items and additional corporate sponsors.
- A wine distributor has donated the wine; however, venue corkage and related beverage fees are still being worked through and are the primary blocker to final ticket pricing. Options include drink tickets or a limited hosted bar followed by a cash bar.
- Katie and Miriam planned to finalize the beverage approach following the meeting, with a target to launch early-bird ticket sales at the December 16 Winter Family Night.

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- Printed invitations are planned for Newcastle families in early December. Board members were encouraged to promote the Auction to friends, family, former Newcastle families, and community contacts.
- Entertainment planning includes a short Liberty High School jazz/band performance followed by a DJ.
- The December 16 Winter Auction will focus primarily on classroom baskets, teacher experiences, fifth-grade dedication pages, and a limited number of donated experiences.

President Update — Fiorella Tapiarene

Council / Membership

- Next Issaquah PTSA Council meeting is November 19 at 10:00 AM and is expected to be in person.
- Current membership is 294, compared with 358 at the prior-year comparison point. Membership remains behind last year's pace.
- The Givebacks database has been updated and current membership dues are due by month-end.

Yearbook

- Sara Kuffel and Jessica Julius are onboarded as Yearbook Chairs and have begun working in Pictavio.
- Current yearbook sales are 171 compared with 235 last year. Sales increased after yearbook promotion was added to the newsletter.
- A $1,000 deposit has been sent to Dorian.
- Yearbook Cover Contest deadline is January 8. Entry forms will be distributed through teachers, with reminders through newsletters and Room Rep communications.
- Fifth-grade dedication pages will be available at $60 for a half page and $30 for a quarter page.

Nominating Committee

- Three members are required for the Nominating Committee by the December 3 Membership Meeting.
- Outreach to prior committee members has not yet filled the committee.

Other Updates

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- Book Fair was completed successfully; offering parent shopping during conferences worked well.
- The 2024–2025 directory had inadvertently become publicly searchable through Google. The webmaster has removed it and the issue is resolved.
- Board members were reminded to periodically review PTSA role responsibilities and continue documenting processes for continuity.

PTSA Board Roles

- Fiorella is drafting amendments to the Standing Rules. Proposed changes will be reviewed by VPs before a membership vote on December 3.
- Newcastle Police Chief Scott Mandella is scheduled to speak at the December Membership Meeting. A bullying-prevention nonprofit representative may also attend.

Treasurer Update — Chai Dasari

- Fifth-grade camp funds collected: $5,180.
- Grant requests used: $1,737.
- Spirit Wear proceeds: $826.80.
- State PTA membership fees paid in October: $2,403.75.
- Total income to date: $28,443.27.
- Total expenses to date: $9,750.98.
- No major November/December expenses are currently anticipated beyond ongoing membership dues. The $1,000 Dorian yearbook deposit had not yet posted at the time of the report.

Overall financial position remains positive.

Ways & Means Update — Sangeeta Iyer

- Spirit Wear generated approximately $826. Although order volume was lower than last fall, net proceeds were higher; future sales should remain open at least three weeks to allow more participation.
- A $700 Tapatio fundraiser check was received but requires reissuance because of an incorrect payee.
- Spring Mariners fundraiser dates will be explored, likely after the Auction/Spring Break.

- Bellevue Downtown Ice Rink fundraiser runs November 13–January 18; Newcastle PTSA receives $3 per paying visitor who identifies Newcastle Elementary.
- Sno-King fundraiser approval is pending.
- School Toolbox generated more than $1,000.

2027 Fun Run

The Board reviewed the tradeoff between Booster and a DIY platform such as PledgeStar:

- Booster provides full-service logistics, marketing, and event support but retains approximately 40% of funds raised.
- A DIY model allows PTSA to retain substantially more funds but requires significantly more Board and volunteer capacity.

Volunteer workload and next year's Board transition were identified as important factors. Because Bindi also researched the DIY option and was absent, the Board did not vote during the meeting.

Decision: The 2027 Fun Run model will be determined through an offline Board vote after review of a side-by-side comparison.

Yoga Night is also being explored for February/March and may instead be offered as a post-Auction experience.

Programs Update — Bindi Patel (absent; update shared by Fiorella)

- Reflections entries are due November 9.
- Winter Family Night / Silent Winter Auction is December 16. Bingo/Trivia and other activities are still being finalized; Bindi, Katie, Jackie, Christine, and Fiorella will support planning.
- Spring enrichment offerings will be reviewed before registration. The intent is to ensure programs have sufficient enrollment and operating support without placing unnecessary strain on school staff/office resources.
- Potential offerings include cooking, Lego, chess, public speaking, yoga, and a children's book club.

Outreach Update — Jill Binks & Alicia Singh

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- Fall Food Drive collected 241 pounds for the Issaquah Food Bank. The Amazon Wish List provided an additional way for families to participate.
- Newcastle Police Chief Scott Mandella is confirmed for the December 3 parent-education segment.
- Holiday Gift Barn information is still pending from Issaquah Outreach and will be shared with families once available.

Volunteers Update — Christine Clarkson

- Staff Cookie Exchange is scheduled for December 11.
- Popcorn Fridays are underway and continue to need volunteer sign-ups.
- Picture Retake Day is December 3 from 9:00–11:30 AM. One additional volunteer is needed.

Secretary Update — Jackie Mitti & Laura Kaya

- Board members were reminded to complete required PTSA training and continue updating their Continuity / Role Handover documentation.
- November 19 Council meeting information was reviewed.
- PTA and the Law was highlighted as a useful governance training and also counts toward PTSA training requirements.

PTSA Training 2026–2027

Sample Continuity / Role Handover

Issaquah Council PTSA Website

Next Meeting: Thursday, December 3, 2026
Newcastle Elementary School
Board Members: 6:00 PM
General Membership Meeting: 7:00 PM

Upcoming Dates:

- Picture Retake Day — December 3

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- Staff Cookie Exchange — December 11
- Winter Family Night / Silent Winter Auction — December 16

Adjournment

Adjourned: 18:42 PST (6:42 PM PST)
