

PPE PTA Board Meeting Minutes

Location: Pleasant Plains Elementary Media Room

Date: June 12, 2026

Time: 8:45am – 10:00am

Attendance: Jen O'Brien, Jessica Shook, Katie Caggia, Jackie Horwitz, Casey O'Leary, Isabel Heineman, Suzanne Pomeroy, Laurie Bell, Allynne Thackston, Valerie DiGangi, Maria Maruffo (online)

START TIME 8:47AM

Jessica gives welcome message reiterating positivity and respectfulness in our meetings. Our goal in our meetings is to be productive and keep moving forward. We're here to fix what didn't happen next year. Come together as a team and collaborate. We're going to try our best to finish on time today with a main focus on standing rules and budget.

AGENDA ACTION ITEMS:

- **OLD BUSINESS**

- Approval of Minutes from May 15, 2026 Jessica Shook

- **PRINCIPAL'S REPORT** Katie Caggia

- Suggestion: Recognition is important – consider adding something to each meeting and plan monthly team outings
- **Katie to send the "no fun" list** so we know what we can/cannot do for fundraising events
- Katie Caruso will be leaving to be an AP – will stay until July 31st –
- Ashley Peters and Taylor Riggins will be the new co-leads for School Improvement Team
- Katie will send the PTA general meeting info solo today via email

- **"THON" EVENT NEXT STEPS** Jessica Shook

- Training call scheduled for next month – **Jessica will send invitation to everyone who wants to attend**
- Apex Promotional Partners – **Jen will be sending ideas about things we can utilize for our Fundraising event**

UPCOMING DATES THAT NEED PTA COVERAGE:

- PTA Spirit Rock Painting: Saturday, June 13th (5th Grade Shout Out)
- Popsicles with Principal: Saturday, June 20th: 9:30 – 10:30am
- 5th Grade Yearbook Signing and Italian Ices: Thursday, June 25th 2-3pm
- 5th Grade Moving Up Ceremony and Cupcakes: Friday, June 26th
- Staff Breakfast & Lunch: Wednesday, July 1st – Chic Fil A (8AM BREAKFAST) and Carrabba's (12:30PM LUNCH) – PTA will say remarks
- Meet the Teacher (PTA Table): Monday, July 6th 4:45-6:00PM
- Taking Flight Kindergarten Parent Breakfast (Track 1,2,3): Monday, July 13th 8:45-9:15am
- Meet the Teacher (PTA Table): Wednesday, July 29th 4:45-6:00PM
- Taking Flight Kindergarten Parent Breakfast (Track 4): Monday, August 5th 8:45-9:15am

- **STANDING RULES** Jessica Shook
 - **NOT COVERED – WILL SCHEDULE A FOLLOW UP MEETING TO COVER**
- **TREASURER'S REPORT** Jen O'Brien
 - **NOT COVERED – WILL SCHEDULE A FOLLOW UP MEETING TO COVER**

OTHER AGENDA ITEMS:

- **HOSPITALITY** Maria Marrufo
 - Final Lunch held on June 3rd – big hit with Carrabba's – they've been giving amazing deals for
 - Candy Bar during EOG's
 - Will assist with Teacher Lunch on July 1st. EXPENSES REFLECTED IN NEW BUDGET! Use Carrabba's again!
- **DEI/ADVOCACY** Isabel Heineman
 - **UNITED ARTS COUNCIL:** Art Expo for teachers/PTA to choose what type of arts to bring into the school for assemblies. Art Institute for teachers being held on June 22-25th – many of our arts teachers have attended in the past and are very interested in partnering with this association. Expo is August 8th @ Enlo Highschool – we can also advertise on Social Media – Jessica asked if we want to replace this with our Reflections program entirely? We're struggling to find a lead. Most of the group said NOT YET – Reflections is a great chance for students to do work and display their work
 - **RESTAURANT DEPOT:** Recommended to use for bulk ordering needs (snacks, food materials). Membership is free– as a non for profit, we do not have to pay tax on any items
 - **FAMILY ENGAGEMENT EVENTS:**
 - Kate Hayes has confirmed Thurs Sept 10th for STEAM NIGHT. Contacting folks in the community to support that night
 - April 15th for LITERACY NIGHT – recommended that the PTA can include cultural presentations for how they best show how they include multicultural families in their events
 - Budget request sent to PPE Email – How can PTA and Family Engagement work together?
 - **BAC 8 MEETING:** April 20th – Charles Patten and Megan Mower presented about Future AI Plans on school computers/tablets– WCPSS currently has an account with Gemini. Isabel asked "What are the policies and regulations surrounding protection for our kids?" Gemini considers kids adults at age 13 – so middle school kids will have access to Gemini. There may be future access granted to elementary school kids, which is very concerning. They are "working on a way" on how to send a signal to principal/counselor about any alarming prompts put through by a student. But right now, it's very insecure and there are no cyber securities protecting our children's data. The current committee feels WCPSS is "prehistoric" and they are pushing this technology very quickly. They were granted 10 million to move forward with this project - similarly 10 million was just cut from most recent spending budget. Luckily, this has not been voted on and has not been approved, yet. This group has not been transparent since the change of officer (2-3 years) – lots of concerns
 - Isabel will now be chairing ADVOCACY, with Amanda as her AI-focused committee member
 - Valerie made a wonderful IEP vs 504 documentation guide that we would like to share with parents. **Can we request to include this in teacher packets that go out in the beginning of the year?** We also want to loop this in with a general meeting in the fall + speaker.

- **KIDS ON THE RUN**

Allynne Thackston

- Would like to apply for the Kids Run the Nation Grant Fund (Road Runners of America)- one requirement is more training time with the students, so Allynne would like to add another running group just for 4th and 5th graders. This group would also be given an opportunity to run cross country with High Schoolers. This will also prepare them for middle school running. They loved the “middle school workout” that Allynne tried with them – **Katie will look for a faculty sponsor to help on Thursday mornings** – GRANT IS DUE AUGUST 1ST
- Can Allynne have wall space to promote kindness/teamwork curriculum? (collab w/ Mr. Martin?) – there’s been a bit of bickering within the club so she wants to promote BEING A GOOD SPORT – **Katie will look into where she can hang these posters**

Next General PTA Meeting: TUESDAY, JUNE 23RD

Next Board Meeting: FRIDAY, JULY 17TH

OTHER IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES:

- Holiday- NO SCHOOL: Friday, June 19th
- Saturday, June 20th and Sunday, June 21st: Treasure Quest Mining Spirit Weekend
- Holiday- NO SCHOOL: June 29th – July 3rd

KOR:

- Kids on the Run Session 1 (Track 3&4): August 26th – September 23rd
 - Inclement Weather Make Up Date: September 30th
- Kids on the Run Session 2 (Track 1&2): October 7th – November 4th
 - Inclement Weather Make Up Date: November 18th

BOOK FAIR:

- Literati Book Fair: Tuesday, September 8th - Friday, September 18th
- Scholastic Book Fair: Monday, April 12th – Tuesday, April 27th

SPIRIT WEAR:

- Back to School Spiritwear Sale: July 1st – August 7th: Delivery by Sept 1st
- Fall & Holiday Spiritwear Sale: Oct 19th – November 6th: Delivery by Dec 4th
- Spring Spiritwear Sale: March 1 – March 12: Delivery by April 9

END TIME: 10:47AM

Follow Ups:

- Make a list of birthdays
- Jessica to set up follow up meeting to go over standing rules + budget
- Add a monthly team outing to the calendar