

Meeting Minutes

Border Star PTA General Body Meeting

Date: September 18, 2025

Time: 6:00 - 7:00 PM

Location: Border Star Cafeteria

Attendees: 54 people signed in, 18 new members signed up

Welcome and PTA Announcements

Presenter: Kathryn, President

Key Items:

- Membership Drive: New member sign-up available at <https://givebutter.com/oeaW2J>
- Upcoming Events:
 - Coffee in the Garden - October 8th (same day as National Bike Walk to School Day)
 - Movie Night - Friday, October 24th (Movie + Dinner + Ice Cream Truck)
- Volunteer Needs: Multiple opportunities available on www.borderstarpta.org
- Executive Committee Recognition:
 - Michelle - VP Membership
 - Kate - VP Fundraising
 - Chris - Treasurer
 - Lesley - Secretary
 - At Large Members: Megan, Jes & Angie

School Updates

Presenter: Principal Deckard

Pick Up and Drop Off Procedures

Key Discussion Points:

- Single Entry Point Policy: Implemented for safety reasons due to:
 - Previous chaos with multiple entry points
 - Safety concerns with Wornall traffic obstruction
 - KCPD involvement due to traffic violations
 - Staff safety considerations (85% female staff)
- Brookside Boulevard Route: Selected over 63rd Street due to:
 - Parking issues from new diagonal parking on 63rd
 - Two-lane capacity vs. one-lane 63rd Street
 - Coordination with Brookside Commerce
 - Future Wornall lane reduction plans
- Walker Distance Requirements: Based on safety policies from peer institutions

Community Concerns & Responses:

- Traffic safety conflicts with city pedestrian/bike initiatives
- Need for clearer communication and implementation plans
- Contact [Rhonda Mays](#) (family liaison) for proposals

- Dishonest parking/walking behavior by some caregivers
- P3 separation time concerns and PK wait times

Key Takeaways:

1. Multiple factors influence district/principal decisions
2. School open to proposals via Ms. Mays
3. Processes improve as families adapt each year

Bond Implementation Priorities

Summer 2026 Start Date for BSM Updates:

- New Playground: Separate areas for younger and upper elementary students with privacy fence
- New Library: Current facility not user-friendly
- Auditorium Updates: Fix warped stage and broken seats
- Air Units: Classroom and auditorium HVAC improvements
- Contractor Suggestions: New windows, roof leak repairs
- Community Feedback: Input requested for additional bond priorities - [survey available here](#)

Budget Review and Vote

Presenter: Chris, Treasurer

Financial Status:

- PTA in strong financial position with recent surpluses
- Increased spending planned for community-centered events
- Budget item values increased due to rising costs
- Focus on driving community involvement

Action: Budget approved by membership vote (Motion: Kathryn/Megan, Second: Courtney)

Member Discussion - Building Community

Presenter: Kathryn, President

Retention Challenges

- Families leaving after kindergarten for other KCPS/charter schools
- Need strategies to sustain community engagement

Community Building Suggestions

- Buddy System: Pair upper elementary families with new Children's House families
- Montessori Education Showcase: Highlight benefits vs. traditional education
- Parent Education Nights: Teacher demonstrations of specific lessons
- School-wide Learning Showcase: Beyond individual expo nights
- Teacher Engagement: More opportunities to hear from educators
- Middle/High School Transitions: Address concerns about post-BSM pathways
- Lincoln Middle School: Suggestion for parent information night at BSM

Program Updates

- 5th Grade Capstone Project: Modified for 23 students (no 6th graders this year)
- Model UN: Cancelled due to planning shortfalls and no 6th graders
- Fall Fundraiser: New approach - 2-week November drive for \$3 goal focused on beautification and garden upgrades

Communication Channels

- Classroom/Education Issues: Contact teachers directly
- Family or BSM Community Issues: Rhonda Mays - rmays@kcpublicschools.org
- PTA Issues: borderstarpta@gmail.com
- Other Issues: Principal Deckard - sdeckard@kcpublicschools.org

Closing Announcements

- October Virtual Meeting: Approved by member general consensus
- Next In-Person Meeting: November 13th
- Movie Night: Movie selection pending licensing
- Bike Bus: Contact Ellen if interested in participating - ellenschwartz@gmail.com
- 63rd Street Parking: Submission in progress for time restrictions and crosswalk signage