



2024-2025 MEETINGS

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September 24th Summary

WE INTRODUCED THIS YEAR'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND HIGHLIGHTED OPEN BOARD AND AD HOC COMMITTEE CHAIR POSITIONS

- Co-Presidents Rachel Buckner and Ali Rock-Zito; VP of Membership and Garden Committee Chair Ellen Rockney; VP of Fundraising and Art Docent Chair Kate Dines; VP of Events Shauna Sobel; Treasurer and Reflections Chair Jaclyn McConnell; Secretary Stefan Winkler (absent); Ceramics Chair and Art Docent Co-Chair Melanie Butler
- We will have more committee chairs to announce at our next meeting!

MR. STEMM-CALDERON SHARED HIS PRINCIPAL'S REPORT AND ANSWERED QUESTIONS.

- Thank you all for everything you do in our school. Daily smiles. Great start to the year and appreciate PTA.
- Record times for dismissal so thank you - new signage. Our school is in a bottleneck and not much we can do about it. Thanks for patience and safety while driving around campus. You can always email him when you have concerns.
 - Question: Are the lights above the speed limit signs around the school coordinated with the correct times Mon-Thurs as well as Friday late start? Mr. SC will double check.
- P.A.W.S. celebrations - monthly positive behavior support assemblies. We do monthly celebrations in classrooms and entire school celebrations.
- A grant from PTA was given last year for a sensory room. We do not have a classroom available after adding a Kindergarten class, but we do have a plan B. We will augment classrooms with sensory spaces and movement spaces. Mr. SC explained the Occupational Therapist is giving suggestions on what to purchase. A survey was given to teachers about the theme they would like to see for the sensory tools.
- There are two volunteer opportunities:

- SEWING PROJECT: Do you like to sew? Our classrooms have doors with windows, and we want to create curtains to be used in emergency situations. 25 curtains are needed to cover the windows, and we have the plans. Email raul.stemmcalderon@rentonschools.us if you are interested.
- AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM COORDINATOR: Feedback from the community tells us you want after school programs. We need a parent volunteer to run the logistics for this. Please email raul.stemmcalderon@rentonschools.us if you or someone you know may be interested. We have three potential vendors right now as well as participating teachers: a coding program, STEM program through WA Alliance for Better Schools, and a Dance troupe.
- Q&A:
 - Can parents volunteer at recess time? YES, parents can volunteer with the background check. Would need to work through some expectations. Who should they connect with? Mr. Stemm Calderon should be communicated with in order to volunteer for recess.
 - Could we add privacy and/or height to the playground fences? Mr. SC said that we can explore the possibility.
 - What happened to Watch D.O.G.S. program? It used to be a PTA Committee Chair position, but it was a casualty of COVID. It could be reincorporated into the long-term volunteer plan with the right training from the national Watch D.O.G.S. organization.
 - Where will science fair funds be used (for trifold presentation boards, etc.)? Learning Night will be the night when Science Fair funds from PTA are used. PTA sponsored Pacific Science Center last year and will again this year. The date is not yet scheduled.

MRS. DIANE MITCHELL GAVE HER FIRST STAFF REPORT AS OUR NEW STAFF LIAISON. WE ARE THRILLED TO HAVE HER!

- Her goal is to get more teachers at the events. Fingers crossed we will have good teacher turnout at events. If you need anything, let her know.

WE VOTED TO APPROVE...

- June Meeting Minutes
- June Treasurer's Report
 - Highlight:
- July-August Treasurer's Report
- All paid 2024-2025 members can vote! You can activate your membership any time at www.kennydalepta.com. (Note: We have sponsored memberships available for anyone who would like to be a member but has a financial barrier. Please email kennydaleptamembership@gmail.com if you would like a sponsored membership. Your information will be kept confidential.)

PEOPLE GOT CONNECTED (AND YOU CAN TOO!)

- A question we often get asked is, "how do we get involved more?" Quick pitches were given about each of the umbrella areas where people can get involved.
 - COMMITTEE CHAIRS - There are open positions in each of these areas:
 - Awards
 - ART - Kennydale does not provide art instruction, so the PTA gets to sponsor and supplement. There are three areas to be involved. You don't need any experience, and you get to see a different side to kids.
 - Art Docent - The art docent program provides project ideas and supplies to adults that lead a monthly art project to individual classrooms. Art Docents become celebrities. Kids really look forward to it and look forward to bringing art to their classes.
 - Ceramics - Kennydale has a kiln, and you really get to see a different side to kids as they experiment with clay.
 - Reflections - Reflections is a national art contest (everything from visual art to creative writing to choreography). We need someone to help our Reflections chair promote, organize,

find judges, and/or collect projects. Reflections projects are due December 15. Renton PTA Council deadline for students who progress is Jan. 15.

- COMMUNICATIONS - Communications is how we keep members and families informed of the events and programming that PTA works so hard to put together. It is the glue that holds together all the other areas. There are opportunities for photography, with databases, graphic design, updating our website, and organizing our efforts. You don't have to be an expert in any of these areas - just passionate about keeping people in the loop! We have adopted a new database system and we want to utilize it well. We want a communications calendar. Email kennydaleptacopresident@gmail.com if you are interested in one of these areas!
- MISC. SCHOOL SUPPORT
 - School Garden - There is a garden in the back of the school. Second grade plants the garden.
 - Kody the Kodiak - We are building a team of kind, enthusiastic adults to be our mascot at various events.
 - Spirit Wear - Our chairperson is looking for helpers with collecting orders and distributing.
 - Staff Appreciation - We have one Staff Appreciation Week in the Spring and would like to do monthly appreciation events. There are opportunities at many levels of involvement - everything from organizing an event to contributing an item.
- EVENTS & FUNDRAISING
 - We like to put on events and we have to fundraise in order to provide that. We have Not-So-Spooky Story Night and Book Fair in the next couple of months, and there are all types of help needed to make them happen! Planning, day-of set-up, clean-up, etc. if whatever way you want to help.
- Everyone broke out to learn more about and get connected to their areas of interest. If you are reading this summary and would like to express your interest, [fill out this form](#), and we will connect you with the right person!

OUR MEMBERSHIP IS GROWING!

- We currently have 85 members (5 added at our meeting!)
- That is already 10 more than we had total at the end of last school year.
- Our Goal is 100 by January.

FUNDRAISERS KICK OFF ON OCTOBER 15TH!

- Our Fall fundraiser is catalog sales and starts October 15th. Materials will come home with students and will last about two weeks.
- In the Spring we will have the Moveathon.
- Just those two large fundraisers for this year.
- Email kennydaleptafundraising@gmail.com if you'd like to help.

EXCITING EVENTS ARE COMING UP!

- Popsicles on the Playground on Friday, Sept. 27. Make your own Kennydale spiritwear! Bring your own items, and our team will add Kennydale decals.
- Not So Spooky Story Night on October 29th.
- Book Fair will be in November.
- Email kennydaleptaevents@gmail.com if you'd like to help with these or any events!

TREASURER'S REPORT HAS GOOD NEWS FOR LAST YEARS FINANCES

- This is Jaclyn's second year as Treasurer. Board members can serve only two consecutive years in the same position, so she is looking for someone to show the ropes this year in preparation for next year. Email kennydaleptatreasurer@gmail.com if you are interested!
- For 2023-2024, we spent less than we budgeted for.
- Our net auction income was \$26,000.

- The Carnival was budgeted as a break-even event, but we brought in \$6,400 and spent \$3,000, so we came away with \$3,400.
- One thing Jaclyn found is that our new membership platform, Givebacks, is depositing our membership fees into Savings rather than checking. She is working on fixing that.
 - The question was asked if it needs to be in checking because a savings account could make more money on interest.
 - The Executive Committee will discuss, and everyone will vote on a decision at our October meeting.

WE LOVE NEW IDEAS! THESE WERE SOME FROM TODAY'S MEETING:

- A competition about PTA membership?
 - E.g. If a classroom has a certain number of PTA members, they get to win something or an incentive.
 - E.g. Or a competition or drawing for new members who sign up between ____ and ____.
- "Is there a way to sponsor memberships?" Not yet, but soon!
 - The Executive Committee will work on adding a way to purchase a sponsored free membership in the "store" in Givebacks.
 - We have a budget set aside for free memberships for those who would like to be members but have financial constraints.
 - This was announced at all back-to-school events (PTA-sponsored Teacher Luncheon, New to Kennydale Night, and Curriculum Night, but we need to discuss how we will communicate that going forward and how people go about signing up.)
 - The Executive Committee will work on adding a free membership to the store in Givebacks. In the meantime, email kennydaleptamembership@gmail.com to receive a free membership. Information will be kept confidential.
- Translation of materials - This is definitely something we want to expand this year.
 - Currently, Parent Square translates to home language. This is something to keep in mind when we share communication blurbs with Mr. SC and Mrs. Mitchell.
 - We would love to have a PTA liaison for each of the majority spoken languages at Kennydale: Spanish, Russian, Vietnamese.
 - We tabled this discussion because we were short on time, but will continue it at our October meeting (hopefully with a progress report)!
- If you have any other ideas or topics you would like to discuss at future meetings, please put it on the [meetings page of our website](#).

OCTOBER 15 IS OUR NEXT MEETING, AND WE ARE WORKING TO GET RIGHT AT SCHOOL TO HELP WITH CHILDCARE.

Thank you to Kate Dines for taking detailed notes at this meeting!

October 15th Summary

STAFF REPORT

- Statewide Earthquake drill this week
- Vision and hearing is next Wednesday
- Veterans submission requests for Veterans Day honoring
- Lost and Found: gets donated every 5-6 weeks; PTA to coordinate with school on helping parents access prior to donation
- Encouraging parents (member or not) to setup and breakdown on Not So Spooky Night

DONATION

- We received a donation to Stuart Title donated \$500 and talked about how to make it easier for other corporate donations.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- We have 109 members and exceeded our goal of “100 members by January.” We will receive a platinum membership growth award from WA State PTA this year. A new goal will be set in a future meeting.
- Our Fall Fundraiser started on October 15th. Our total sales goal is \$22,000.
- November 5th, \$20 of your bill at Red Robin will go to Kennydale PTA.
- Art Docent program has 4 openings.
- 5 teachers have turned in their applications for mini-grants.
- Upcoming Events
 - 10/29 - Not So Spooky Story Night: Need more reader volunteers, setup/cleanup and concession support
 - 11/21-27 - Book Fair:
 - Need daytime volunteers that are members so they can handle money
 - Families can also donate money online for books for children from families registered with income program; last year every qualified child got 2 books.
 - Family Movie Night: 11/15
- Our treasurer outlined recent spending/income on ceramics program, mini grants, processing fees, membership dues to Renton PTA Council/WA State PTA/National PTA, yearbook income.
- We revised the budget to reflect the needs of back-to-school events and yearbook income.

NEW BUSINESS/MEMBER FEEDBACK

- We discussed upcoming Community Cafés: There will be one in February on the topic of Restorative Justice. Additional suggestions were discussed for future topics: Estate Planning, Mental Health for Children Resources (with potential district involvement), Wellness and Health Night RFD to provide CPR classes
 - Event Childcare: discussion on organizing support from students from high school and colleges
 - Stay tuned for a fun parents night out (trivia night; paint and sip; etc.)
 - There was a request for clarification on Homework (inconsistency in assignment between teachers); Principal Stemm-Calderon will address this in a future meeting.
 - Request for future insights on how to support playground equipment needs due to limited supply
 - [Watch D.O.G.S](#) (Dads of Great Students) is a committee that went away with COVID. We are hoping to bring it back and will discuss it further in future meetings. If you are interested in being a part of this (for even one day per year), email kennydaleptacopresident@gmail.com
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November 12th Summary

TREASURER'S REPORT

- The October Treasurer's Report was approved as written.
- President Rachel Buckner was added as a signer on the savings and checking accounts. This will make three signers in total and will provide backup in case someone is out of town.

- Rachel and Treasurer Jaclyn now have deposit-only ATM cards to increase efficiency/security when depositing funds outside of bank hours after an event.
- Bethany George and Jessica Dial are still the only authorized signers on the Safe Deposit Box. An in-person meeting at BofA with them and the new signers is required to get that transferred to current officers.
- We rolled out updated financial forms and had them available to review.
- Renton PTA Council has approved how to remit dues after switching to a new membership platform (Givebacks). They will now accept ACH transfers or or checks.
- We are working on creating an official Money Handling Policy based on the sample policy and the Treasurer's Handbook provided by Washington State PTA.
- We discussed how much money should be kept in savings vs. checking. Our goal will be to build back a reserve account of one year's expenses in savings and keep the active year's working budget in checking.
- We reviewed and voted to approve our insurance coverage, which will be renewed at the end of the month.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Membership
 - We currently have 111 members.
 - Kennydale is one of 20 schools in the Renton School District, and we account for 10% of the membership for the entire district! (We learned this at a Renton PTA Council meeting.)
- Financial Review Committee
 - Ali will be non-signer reviewer this year
 - We presented the results of the 2023-2024 Financial Review (conducted by Ali Rock-Zito, Rachel Buckner prior to becoming a signer, and Shauna Sobel prior to Rachel becoming a signer) and voted to approve them as-written. Below are the recommendations the Financial Review Committee made after the review:
 - This year, an insurance policy review should be included in a meeting prior to renewal. (This happened earlier in the meeting.)
 - Standing Rules should be updated to reflect stewardship of all online login credentials - not just financial. (This change was approved later in the meeting.)
 - Records to be maintained/added to Legal Documents Notebook. (The Legal Documents Notebook has been updated for this year.)
 - Bank account signature cards, update frequently. (We will request these when we meet with BofA to transfer safe deposit box signers.)
 - Year-end reconciliation of our membership records with dues paid to state/council.
 - Digitize records for ease of future Financial Review Committees. (Many records have been digitized since then, and physical records have also been streamlined for this purpose.)
- Fundraising
 - Fall Fundraiser updates
 - Since we exceeded our goal for the Fall fundraiser, our VP of Fundraising suggested that we remove the fundraising aspect of our Winter fundraiser, the Read-A-Thon. We would instead focus on reading and the book-swap only. This would help us avoid fundraiser fatigue. To officially approve this change to our budget, we will vote at our next members meeting in January.
- Art Docent & Ceramics

- There are three classes that still need docents!
- [Reflections](#)
 - Submission deadline is December 6th
- Events
 - Movie Night is THIS FRIDAY
 - Book Fair starts next week, and we still need volunteers! [Sign ups are here.](#)
 - Crafts & Cocoa is 12/12
- Teacher Appreciation
- Guest Speaker Nutrition Services - A leader from RSD Nutrition Services will speak at our January meeting. If you have questions for them, send them to kennydaleptapresident@gmail.com
- Parent Workshop - Mental Health (Dec.) - We are meeting soon with RSD Student Services to organize a workshop for parents and caregivers. A survey has been created to tell them what is important to Kennydale families. [Take the two-question survey here.](#)

UPDATES TO INTERNAL FORMS & GOVERNANCE DOCS

- Many internal forms have been updated.
- Board Members signed the updated Ethics/Code of Conduct Policy.
- We voted to revise our Standing Rules and tabled discussion about renaming/restructuring our Standing Committees.

BOARD TRANSITIONS

- We tabled this discussion for next time.

SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE

- We have enrolled in the [National PTA School of Excellence recognition program](#) and will be executing the next step of gathering and analyzing community feedback very soon. The deadline for this is December 1st. [Read more about the program here!](#)
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NOMINATING COMMITTEE

- The Nominating Committee, or “NomCom”, is a group of three people who identify and nominate candidates to serve on the PTA Executive Committee for the following school year.
- Stefan Winkler has agreed to lead the committee and is looking for two PTA members to join him. Email kennydaleptasecretary@gmail.com if you are interested!

PRINCIPAL & STAFF REPORTS

- Mr. Stemm Calderon and Mrs. Mitchell gave updates and fielded questions/suggestions.

December 17th Members Meeting is Canceled

January 14th Summary

Topic Heather from Nutrition Services will attend will need about 30-40 minutes

- Notes

Topic

- Notes
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February 11th Summary

Topic

- Notes

Topic

- Notes
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March 18th Summary

Topic

- Notes

Topic

- Notes
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April 15th Summary

Topic

- Notes

Topic

- Notes
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May 20th Summary

Topic

- Notes

Topic

- Notes
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June 3rd Summary

Topic

- Notes

Topic

- Notes
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