Poplar Bridge PTA Meeting

February 10, 2026

Attendees: Anje Mehr, Sharon Kohlhaas, Tricia Canales, Addis Woldesenbet, Carolyn Catir, Karyn Jones, Kelley Foster, Ashley Brunner, Amy Thompson, Melissa Abrahams, Laura Pilsburry, Lindsay Mische, Erin Grammas, Derek Zobel, Roberto Cantu, Carrie Thunshelle

Item	Owner
President's Report ● Announcements ○ Sprout School Supplies - Preparations for 26/27 supplies are underway ■ Work with Julia and PBS teachers is currently underway to prepare school supply packages for the 2026-27 school year. There will be two supply lists for each grade level (one with headphones and one without). These lists will allow students' adults to purchase all items via a website during April through May (or June) 2026 for the upcoming 2026-27 school year. ■ The PTA will be notified when the lists and associated website are ready to be shared and used. Stay tuned! ○ Updates on mutual aid efforts ■ A list of community resources is posted on the PB PTA website. ● The groups and organizations listed on the website include those to help with food, household supplies, rent assistance, transportation, pet health, and legal aid. ● The website also links to local restaurants and businesses in need of support. ● The list has been vetted by the PB social workers and serves as contact information for those in need and/or those interested in donating to the community. ■ There is a parent-led group for PB families (not associated with the PTA). Contact carrie.thunshelle@gmail.com if you'd like to learn more. ■ Efforts are underway to explore avenues to share resources with other schools in the area that do not have as many resources as are available to those in the PB community. ■ Derek noted that donations of $250+ need to have be accounted for (e.g., recipient, donor). ■ Contact Carrie T and/or Derek Z if you would like to assist with organizing, delivering, etc., donations that have been received to date for BPS families. ● Shout-outs + Readouts ○ Emma and Sarah: Book Fair ■ Congrats to Emma and Sarah for a wonderful book fair that was a huge hit! ○ Katie: BINGO ■ Thanks to Katie for ensuring BINGO this year was inclusive and focused on building the community!	Carrie Thunshelle

○ Sharon: PTA rep at the Kindergarten Open House ■ Sharon kindly served as the PTA representative at the open house, which involved answering questions about how the PTA is run and participation expectations. It is important to assure incoming kids' adults that they are welcome to join PTA meetings, regardless of whether they're interested in a regular role with the group, and we thank Sharon for help connecting with incoming families. ■ Sharon noted that kids especially enjoyed receiving a book at the open house. ○ Derek: BPFAC and PAC ■ Derek provided an overview of BPFAC and PAC structures and focus areas, such as BFPAC monthly meetings with representatives from each school in the Bloomington Public Schools system. (See BPFAC section below for recent meeting notes.) ■ Derek noted that the PAC committees meet 4 times per year and focuses on curriculum. (See District Committees and Advisory Councils for more information.)	
Principal's Report ● BPS Updates ○ Roberto recapped the recent discussions, presentations, etc., regarding adjusting BPS schedules and/or walking distances in the next few upcoming school years to account for expected budgetary shortfalls. Key points: ■ For the 2026-27 school year: Walking distances will increase to 1 mile for elementary ages and 2 miles for secondary. ■ For the 2027-28 school year: Start and end times at schools throughout the district will be adjusted. Of note, the specific time changes for each school are not yet determined, as the timing decisions will be impacted by data collected during the 2026-27 school year (e.g., bus route data review). ■ Intra-district transfers are usually allowed until early Dec, and the interest in these may be impacted by school start/end time changes for 2027-28. The district will look at the transfer options over the summer to ensure families have sufficient time to make any necessary requests. ○ Roberto noted that he expected a preliminary budget in the coming week(s); this budget is based on current enrollment. Some school buildings will be more impacted than others, due to enrollment numbers. ○ BPS enrollment is >10,000 students, including early childhood and post-high school. As of early Feb 2026, that included ~830 students on temporary flexible learning (i.e., ~8% of the district). ○ Superintendent Melbye's next morning coffee option (for coffee and chat with BPS families) will be Wed, Feb 25 at West Side Perk. ● Poplar Bridge Updates ○ A number of families have used the flexible e-learning option, which – while not a replacement for in-school learning – has been a helpful option for those in need. ○ Students have been engaged with testing since the return from winter break with tools such as FastBridge and ACCESS. ○ Report cards will be sent home with students the week of Feb 16-20, 2026. ○ PB will actively be encouraging more Infinite Campus platform use (vs. paper documents). For example, the next report cards will be sent in both	Roberto Cantu

paper/hard format and shared via Infinite Campus, whereas by end-of-year they will be shared primarily via Infinite Campus (with an option for hard/paper copies if requested). ○ Parent/teacher conferences will be held in late February/early March 2026. (See related item below on pasta bar donations.)	
Upcoming Activities and Events ● 2/9-2/27 Readcycle [Collection 9-13th, Sorting 17-20th, Distribution 23-27th] ○ Collection bins are located at the office, Safari doors, and the PTA closet ○ Using library carts and rolling tables this year to utilize open spaces and/or classrooms (due to space limitations in the media center) ○ The number of books every student takes home will be based on the number of books we collect, but every student will receive the same number of books ○ Kids will select their books during the school day ● 2/24, 2/26, 3/2 Spring Conferences (Food for Teachers) ○ Supplying food using local minority/immigrant owned businesses ○ Sign-ups for pasta bar donations ● 3/1-3/26 Spiritwear Store ○ Spiritwear store will be open March 1-26, 2026 ● 3/10 PTA Meeting ● 3/31 Family Engineering & Computer Science Night ● 4/6-4/10 VEAP Food Drive ○ The Food Drive has been pushed back to April	
Treasurer's Report ● Budget + Bank Statement ○ We are about $3k lighter than at the same time last year, but we have approved more grant requests, and everything costs more in general. We'll make up some of this difference in Valleyfair vs Nickelodeon Universe for 5th grade end of the year party, though. So if we follow the similar path through June as the year prior, we'll be a little under $10k in our account moving into 2026/2027 budget year. ● Recent Grant Requests ○ Little Library for the outdoor classroom ○ Paraprofessional appreciation week ○ Lego activity cards ○ Classroom storage ○ Classroom headphones ○ Breakfast at Staff Meeting	Joey Oslund
Communication's Report – Below details information on where communications will be shared about various PB activities and events ● VEAP Food Drive: Printed Flyer, Email, Seesaw, Socials ● Spiritwear: Seesaw, Socials ● Next PTA Meeting: Seesaw, Socials ● Family Engineering & Computer Science Night: Printed Flyer, Email, Seesaw, Socials	Tricia Canales
BPFAC Report ● BPFAC Meeting Notes from January 2026 ● BPFAC Meeting Notes from February 2026	Derek Zobel

• Derek noted that much was discussed during the most recent BPFAC meeting, including attendance being down throughout the district. Of note, Kennedy is down 18% and Valley View Elementary down 22%. • Also noted were changes to the emergency weather closing protocols. Previously, BPS used -40 wind chill as a threshold for an e-learning day, but this was changed to -35 to align with other districts. • See hyperlinked meeting notes from Jan and Feb 2026 (above) for more specifics discussed at BPFAC meetings.	

Open Forum
• The group discussed lice outbreaks, including the fact that the health office regularly supplies families with lice supplies (e.g., combs, shampoo).
  ○ Carrie will check with the nurse regarding lice supply needs
• Carrie raised concerns about students having access to YouTube on Chromebooks
  ○ YouTube is accessible on the school-owned Chromebooks.
  ○ YouTube is used by some schools/grades for educational purposes (e.g., lectures), especially at the secondary level and for New Code Academy.
  ○ Any changes to Chromebooks (and technology available to BPS students in general) have to be approved at a district-wide level.
  ○ Go Guardian is used by PB staff, which allows staff to monitor (and shut off, as needed) any student's Chromebook activity associated with a school account.
  ○ Carrie will follow-up with John Weisser (Executive Director of Technology & Information Services	

Parking Lot • Donuts with Grownups • Books & Bundts Program • 26/27 Leadership Openings: Boosterthon Chairs, Yearbook Assistant Editors	Carrie Thunshelle