

Welcome to the September 2025 Waite Park Elementary PTA meeting!

Monthly Meeting Agenda:

- Introductions
- Principal's Update
- Minneapolis Families Update
- Community Ed Update
- Minneapolis Parks Update
- Treasurer's Update
 - Vote on this year's budget
- PTA Updates and Events
 - Approve revised Standing Rules
- Questions

Next Month's Meeting: October 9th at 6:30pm
in the Waite Park Rec Center

Ways to be involved at Waite Park:

- * Attend PTA meetings *
- * Join an existing committee *
- * Volunteer at &/or coordinate events *
- * Donate time &/or \$ to fundraising efforts *

2025-2026 Board Members:

President: Bridget Becker

Vice-President: Abi El-Ghazzawy

Treasurer: CasiAnna Olson

Secretaries: Laura Chaffee, Princess Cramer

Communications Committee: Katy Keeseey

Grants Committee: David Harris

Staff Appreciation Committee: Anika Swanson

Past Examples of PTA Support

School-Wide Events

Playground Play Dates
Book Fairs
Spirit Week
Kindness in Chalk
Track and Field Day
Yearbooks
Field Trips
5th Grade Recognition

School Enhancement

Classroom Grants
Staff appreciation
Wish List purchases
Maud Hart Lovelace
Books
Main Entrance Mural
Rock Wall, Ropes, Net
Gaga Ball Pit

Fundraisers

Direct Donations
Give to the Max Day
Boosterthon Glow Run
Dine Out for Schools
Box Tops for
Education

Family Events

No-Flu-Vember
Winter Luminary
Big Sled Together
Waite Park Carnival
Park Playdates

Questions? Email: waiteparkpta1@gmail.com

September 2025 Waite Park PTA Meeting Minutes

1. Introductions

2. **Principal's Update- Principal McGinness**

- a. Adding a kindergarten for a total of three!!
 - i. 19-20 kids moving into new class from the existing two classes.
 - ii. Current kindergarten teachers on selection panel for new teacher.
 - iii. Moving ASD classroom to the main floor of the building, so the third K class can be next to the others.
 - iv. Data is used to determine placement for balance. Do not honor teacher requests. Parents can request to put twins together or separate.
 - v. Two-to-three week process.
 - vi. 0.2 FTE specialist addition with an added class.
- b. 95% sure music therapist for ASD classroom.
- c. Current approximate class sizes:
 - i. First and second grades 27-28 students
 - ii. Third lower 20s
 - iii. Fourth 31
 - iv. Fourth/fifth split 30 students
 - v. Fifth in 20s

3. **Community Ed Update- Ms. Laura**

- a. Oct 21 start date for Community Ed after school classes- Tu Th, school dismissal to 5:30p, bussing available or parent pick up at 5:30p following same school dismissal process.
- b. Musical theater will be Thursday this year.
- c. Classes: Pottery, Art, Scouts, KPop Club, Dungeons and Dragons Clubs, Music ensemble/choir
- d. Registration will come out next week (flyer, email)
- e. Sliding scale fee based for Community Ed.
- f. All programming is 1-5 grade.
- g. Ms. Laura open to feedback and suggestions for programming.
- h. GEMS and GISE starts Sep 30. This is an academic program through extended learning (not Community Ed). Free. Engineering focused. Legos, robotics, etc. Currently full but waitlist available. Contact Ms. Harms for more info. Note the start date is different from Community Ed classes.

4. **Minneapolis Parks Update- Delayed to next month.**

5. **Minneapolis Families for Public Schools- Carmen Harris**

- a. This is a group of parents who are lobbying together to advocate for the district: Special ed, ELL, class sizes.
- b. Looking for more parents to be on email list. Contact Carmen.
- c. Sep 21 info meeting
- d. Working with school board, possibly nominating school board candidates.
- e. Aligned with MFE (MPS teachers' union)

6. Treasurer's Update- CasiAnna

- a. Review and approval of the budget.
- b. Add line for field trips.
- c. Budget approved

7. PTA Updates and Events- Bridget and committee chairs

- a. Committee sign-ups
 - i. Grants- Vote yes or no electronically for grant requests from staff. Fun way to know what's going on at the school. Contact David.
 - ii. Grade caregiver reps- Abi organizing parents and caregivers to be in classrooms and organizing assistance for teachers. A parent/caregiver rep could help the teacher plan a field trip or on-site field trip, organize weekly parent readers, etc. Contact Abi.
 - iii. Glow Run- This is the main PTA fundraiser, committee helps set up the gym with black lights and flair, communicate with caregivers, deliver prizes, handle Bob (the mascot), etc. Contact Bridget.
 - iv. Carnival planning- End of May, all hands on deck event, big end-of-year celebration. Contact Bridget.
 - v. Staff appreciation- This committee coordinates welcome back breakfast, meals during conferences, Teacher Appreciation Week the first week of May (something fun each day for the teachers and staff), birthday treats, Going to do Engineer Week! Contact Anika.

8. Questions

- a. Question about safety and security at Waite Park- Contact Principal McGinness for more information.
 - i. School performs mandatory lock down drills, fire drills, weather drills, lock out drills.
 - ii. Have an emergency management safety and security person from the district who coordinates drills and security processes.
 - iii. Announcements work inside and outside, staff practices getting kids inside from the playground. Can shelter in auditorium from cafeteria. Work closely with park police. All doors locked, buzz in system. Have communications and cameras in place. Community center doors locked during the school day and door between community center and school are locked. Ask for ID when someone comes in. Involved and vigilant community around the school.
 - b. ASD classroom with Mr. Schaeppi is going. 7 students enrolled. Cap is 6, but students and staff move in and out throughout the day..
 - c. Christian Glanville would like to coordinate kindergarten parent meet-ups. Contact him.
 - d. Family directory- Please sign up to be included in the directory. Must opt-in each year.
9. MEA week (Mon and Tues) ExploraDome comes from the Bell Museum (like mobile planetarium. Funded by PTA.