

Independence Elementary PTO

Meeting Minutes | Tuesday, Dec. 16, 2025

Attendance: Anna Wischer (Board Treasurer), Courtney Rinkenberger (Board President), Emily Ask, Emily Gerde (Board Vice President), Hannah Kranz, Jessica Offerman (Board Secretary), Kaye Fischer (Principal), Kristi Blanc (Board Member), Tennille Altepeter, Trisha Moe

1. Call to order

- a. Board President Courtney Rinkenberger called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM.
- b. The meeting minutes from the most recent meeting held November 4, 2025 were reviewed.
 - i. Emily Gerde moved to approve the minutes, Anna Wischer seconded.

MOTION PASSED

2. Welcome and Introductions

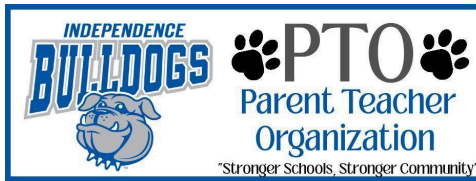
- a. All attendees introduced themselves.

3. Guest Speakers:

- a. Three fourth grade students each provided an overview and examples of learning with goal-setting in the areas of math, ELA, and reading.

4. Board Reports

- a. Principal Kaye Fischer
 - i. The next assembly is scheduled for the week of Dec. 22.
 - ii. Reviewed progress toward the school's goals for the year.
- b. President-Courtney Rinkenberger
 - i. Past Events
 1. Turkey bingo was very well-attended. Popcorn and slices of pumpkin pie were new concession items and sold well. The pumpkin pies and restaurant gift cards were popular prizes, along with the turkeys.
 2. The food drive was a success. The fourth grade donated the most food, and earned Sonic slushies that were distributed on Dec. 16.
 3. The Skate City night held on Dec.11 had lower attendance than the previous Skate City night. The next one is scheduled for April 2026.
 4. For staff appreciation, a "dirty soda" bar was set up in the staff lounge on Dec. 15.
 - ii. Upcoming Events
 1. January's event is a Skyzone night.
 2. Dine-to-Donate
 - a. A Space Aliens dine-to-donate night is tentatively planned for January 2026.



- c. Vice President-Emily Gerde
 - i. Nothing to report this month.
- d. Treasurer-Anna Wischer
 - i. Reviewed expenses and income since the most recent board meeting.
 - ii. Dine-to-donate checks have been received from Slim Chicken's and Papa Murphy's from recent events.
 - iii. Anna applied for a donation of Bubblr beverages which was granted, and received on Dec. 16. The cans will be set out in the staff lounge as an additional staff appreciation effort.
- e. Secretary-Jessica Offerman
 - i. Nothing to report this month.
- f. Director William Wischer
 - i. Pursuing additional dine-to-donate options for upcoming months.
- g. Director Kristi Blanc
 - i. Nothing to report this month.

5. New Business

- a. Funds requests
 - i. The fourth grade team submitted a request for annual Day of Compassion activities. This was included in this year's budget to be funded.
 - 1. *To-do: Submit payment for Day of Compassion to receive \$250 early payment discount.*
 - ii. Anna Wischer noted that a significant amount of funds remain available in the PTO budget to fund additional teacher requests that may come in.

6. Old Business

- a. No old business was brought forward to discuss.

7. Popcorn Party and Bulldog Beanie Drawing

- a. Random drawings were held with those present:
 - i. Popcorn parties were won by attendees for students in Ms. O'Neil and Ms. Kranz's classes; parties are scheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 23
 - ii. December's Bulldog beanie hats will be included as part of appreciation gifts purchased for the school's evening custodial staff, as a thank you for all their help at the fall PTO events at the school.

8. Adjourn

- a. The next PTO meeting is scheduled Tuesday, Jan. 13 at 6:00 PM.
- b. Jessica Offerman motioned to adjourn the meeting, Anna Wischer seconded.

MOTION PASSED.

Meeting adjourned at 6:27 PM.

Minutes submitted by Jessica Offerman, Board Secretary.