

Independence Elementary PTO

Meeting Minutes | Tuesday, Jan. 13, 2026

Attendance: Anna Wischer (Board Treasurer), Chelsey Arneson, Christopher Gbair, Courtney Rinkenberger (Board President), Jessica Offerman (Board Secretary), Jill Gilliland, Josh Arneson, Kaye Fischer (Principal), Kristi Blanc (Board Member), Paige Cermak, William Wischer (Board Member)

1. Call to order

- a. Board President Courtney Rinkenberger called the meeting to order at 6:07 PM.
- b. The meeting minutes from the most recent meeting held December 16, 2025 were reviewed.
 - i. Anna Wischer moved to approve the minutes, Kristi Blanc seconded.

MOTION PASSED

2. Welcome and Introductions

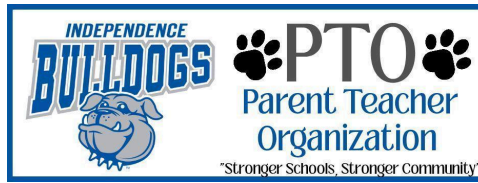
- a. All attendees introduced themselves.

3. Guest Speakers: Third Grade

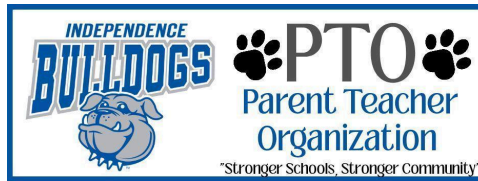
- a. The third grade staff highlighted the Market Day held in November, sharing that students got to experience a field trip to Hornbacher's grocery store, and learn about marketing and supply/demand by selling yogurt purchased with PTO funds. Multiple third grade students shared what their favorite things were about Market Day.

4. Board Reports

- a. Principal Kaye Fischer
 - i. STAR and NEAP testing are happening over the next couple weeks
 - ii. Two new staff members are in place.
 - iii. The fifth grade ski trip is scheduled next week, with PTO providing some approved funding.
 - iv. Highlighted a report shared at the recent WFPS school board meeting about anticipated future school capacity, with Independence currently being over ideal capacity.
- b. President-Courtney Rinkenberger
 - i. Past Events
 1. Skate City Night in December had 71 skaters participate.
 - ii. Upcoming Events
 1. Skyzone Night is scheduled Thursday, Jan. 15. 20% of sales will go to PTO during their regular business hours, 4-8p.
 2. Dine-to-donate night is scheduled at Space Aliens on Monday, Jan. 26. 20% of sales during the entire day will go to PTO if a flyer is shown on the customer's phone or with a hard copy. Eligible sales include to-go orders.



- a. **TO-DO:** Print flyers and coordinate sending a text reminder to parents with the flyer info to show on their phones.
- 3. Yearbook
 - a. The process has been started for the 2025-2026 yearbook. The cover contest will tentatively be held Feb. 2-March 2.
- 4. Battle of the Books
 - a. The PTO will coordinate the Battle of the Books this year due to reduced school staff capacity. Courtney is getting assistance with logistics and planning from another school staff member who has previously helped with the event.
 - i. **TO-DO:** Confirm dates for mini battles (tent. Feb. 2 or Feb.3) and final battle (tent. Feb. 12) with fourth and fifth grade staff
 - ii. **TO-DO:** Order t-shirts, prizes, trophies, bookmarks and pizza or yogurt for the final teams and winners.
 - iii. **TO-DO:** Arrange vouchers for winning students to select a free book from the book fair that will be held the following month.
 - iv. **TO-DO:** Secure volunteers to help with the battle events.
- 5. Staff Appreciation
 - a. Teachers provided feedback that they really enjoyed the “dirty soda” bar.
 - b. Anna Wischer secured donations of Bubbl’r and LMNT for December and January staff appreciation.
 - c. The manager of the local Les Schwab branch reached out to donate popcorn that will be used for upcoming events and popcorn days.
- c. Vice President-Emily Gerde
 - i. Unable to attend, nothing to report this month..
- d. Treasurer-Anna Wischer
 - i. No expenses since the previous board meeting.
 - ii. Shared that we are above budget compared to this time last year.
- e. Secretary-Jessica Offerman
 - i. Nothing to report this month.
- f. Director William Wischer
 - i. Provided an overview of monthly dine-to-donate options so far this school year
 - 1. October: Slim Chickens (50% of proceeds go to PTO)



2. November: N/A, chose to support Tavern Grill benefit for school staff member instead
 3. December: Papa Murphy's (amount raised was not as high as anticipated)
 4. January: Space Aliens (20% of proceeds go to PTO)
- ii. Pursuing additional dine-to-donate options for upcoming months, including opportunities with Blaze Pizza, Slim Chickens, Pizza Ranch, Lundy's and Chipotle.
- g. Director Kristi Blanc
 - i. Nothing to report this month.

5. New Business

- a. Funds requests
 - i. No funds requests this month. Teachers were encouraged to continue submitting fund requests for classroom and field trip needs.

6. Old Business

- a. No old business was discussed.

7. Popcorn Party and Bulldog Beanie Drawing

- a. Random drawings were held with those present:
 - i. Popcorn parties were won by attendees for their students in Ms. Kopp and Ms. Plachko's classrooms.
 - ii. December's Bulldog beanie hat was earned for a student in Ms. Chaput's class.

8. Adjourn

- a. The next PTO meeting is scheduled Tuesday, Feb. 10 at 6:00 PM.
- b. Anna Wischer motioned to adjourn the meeting, William Wischer seconded.

MOTION PASSED.

Meeting adjourned at 6:42 PM.

Minutes submitted by Jessica Offerman, Board Secretary.