

MINUTES

TCA North Elementary PTO General Meeting

Friday, January 16, 2026 8:45 AM, Cafeteria.

BOARD MEMBERS

<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ President, Taylor Hart▪ Vice President, Jenna Kester▪ Treasurer, Shanthi Vandervalk▪ Secretary, Coral Laski	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Member At Large, Evelyn Whitehorn▪ Member At Large, Cassie Meier▪ Member At Large, Kathy Gehauf
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BUSINESS

Time	Item	Speaker
8:45	Welcome & Pledge of Allegiance	Taylor Hart
8:50	Principal's Report <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Thank you to everyone who came to the assembly this morning, she highlighted the teachers dancing and the effort that went into preparing for it!• Thanked PTO for the take-home pizzas provided for staff before break, it was such a thoughtful gesture!• CMAS testing is coming soon. Students will begin using Chromebooks in the lab to get familiar with the testing platform. Practice sessions start around February 1. There's a link in the newsletter to help families explore the online math tools and practice using the computer-based ruler.• UCCS generously loaned 500 computers to support testing.• A parent survey will be sent out soon. North Elementary had the lowest parent participation last year, please help us change that! It's important for us to get valid, meaningful data.• Report cards go out today. Jody encouraged parents to focus less on the letter grade and more on the effort and progress their child is making.• She read a powerful story about a student overcoming self-doubt during a difficult assignment. With consistent support and presence from his teacher (not rescue) the student grew confidence and eventually succeeded. A beautiful reminder that growth comes through struggle and that small victories in the classroom are deeply meaningful.• We're ready to launch into second semester!	Jody Peterson
9:05	Guest Speaker <p>Introduction by Taylor Hart</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Liz is in her 4th year at TCA and has 17 years of pediatric nursing experience. She has children in 7th and 3rd grade.• Her job is to keep students safe, healthy, and ready to learn! Whether it's a chronic condition, injury, or a one-time issue.	Liz Giesman, school nurse



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allergies are a key part of her work. While nuts are common, there are a wide variety of allergies among students. Please notify teachers of any food items brought in, especially if they're unlabeled. Teachers know what allergies are in their rooms, but we can't disclose specifics to all parents. • In the lunchroom, peanuts are allowed (some students <i>must</i> eat them due to other allergies), and the cafeteria team does an excellent job cleaning and maintaining safe spaces. • If your child needs a mobility aid like crutches or a boot, we must have a doctor's note. Safety is the top priority. • "How Sick is Too Sick?" guidelines are posted on the school website. If students meet the criteria, they'll be sent home, no judgment! • Her goal is for students to feel secure, cared for, and ready to learn. 	
9:20	Business- Transitions <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Treasurer's Report Budgeted the Fall Festival well, \$1200 spent Brought in \$2,900 for Silent Auction 2. Secretary Minutes Motion to Approve: Brent Meyer Second: Elizabeth Meyer Motion Approved, Minutes Accepted 	Taylor Hart Shanthi Vandervalk Coral Laski
9:30	Committee Reports- Transitions <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Community Events Committee - <i>Wei Hui</i> TCA Service Run on April 2 – Sponsoring CASA of the Pikes Peak Region 2. Special Events Committee - <i>Jenn Cupples (Absent)</i> Fall Festival was a success! 3. Gratitude Committee - <i>Jenna Kester & Cassie Meier</i> Staff lunch today is catered by Panda Express, with a gluten-free option. 4. Fundraising Committee - <i>Lyndze Daly & Evelyn Whitehorn</i> Taekwondo fundraiser starts today! 5. Room Parents - <i>Jodie Collins</i> A Signup Genius has been sent out for coordinating appreciation for <i>all</i> elementary employees, custodians, support staff, and tutors. The goal is to ensure every staff member receives something kind - a note, small gift, or treat. Favorites lists are available at Suzanne's desk as well. 	Taylor Hart
9:45	Raffle <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stadium Chair: Dave Oertli • Tech Pouch with Fan: Courtney Pagan Adjournment	Breakfast Sponsor: Brittney Babb, Ivybrook Academy Taylor Hart



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