Independence Elementary PTO

Meeting Minutes | Tuesday, March 17, 2026

Attendance: Anna Wischer (Board Treasurer), Caitlin Mataic, Courtney Rinkenberger (Board President), Emily Gerde (Board Vice President), Joseph Ford (Assistant Principal), Karen Johnson, Kristi Blanc (Board Member), Miranda Olsen, Nicole Plaschko

1. **Call to order**
    a. Board President Courtney Rinkenberger called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM.
    b. The meeting minutes from the most recent meeting held February 10, 2026 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: Second Grade**
    a. The second grade team highlighted second grade learners'' biography project, which will be continued into third grade.
    b. The second grade team requested funds for a spring field trip to TNT Kid's Fitness and Gymnastics (~$600 for admission and ~$1,000 for bus) to replace the previous field trip to Skyzone from past years for the same cost. Requests were accounted for in the PTO budget and approved as requested.
4. **Board Reports**
    a. Assistant Principal's Report
        i. Assistant Principal Ford was welcomed back.
        ii. Requested funding for second grade testing break snacks. Testing is scheduled for late March and early April.
            1. Popcorn and granola bars for $200 were accounted for in the PTO budget and approved as requested.
    b. President-Courtney Rinkenberger
        i. Past Events
            1. Skating at The Lights in February had a decent turnout in attendance for both skating and the ice cream dine-to-donate event held at Lundy's.
            2. Battle of the Books went well.
        ii. Upcoming Events
            1. The spring book fair is active through March 23 and being held virtually.
            2. Spring Fever Bingo is scheduled March 26.
                a. Need additional volunteers for the concessions stand and selling dobbers and accessories.

b. Jessica will make popcorn that can be sold to attendees.

3. Yearbooks will be delivered in mid-May, a yearbook cover will be selected from the student contest submission this week.
4. Impacks is being evaluated as a new vendor for the school supply boxes.
    a. Pricing hasn't been received yet, but Impacks seems like it may be a better option with families having the option to donate school supplies to the classrooms.
    b. Impacks would ship boxes to the school for Back to School Night, rather than shipping to homes like the current vendor.
    c. Discussed if new school boundary lines that are being discussed for the 2026-2027 school year will be set before Impacks would need that information.

c. Vice President-Emily Gerde
    i. Nothing to report this month.
d. Treasurer-Anna Wischer
    i. Reviewed expenses since last month's meeting.
    ii. The school supply "snowman" project completed as a teacher appreciation effort was the biggest expense since the previous meeting.
    iii. The fifth grade ski trip that was budgeted for was $1,200 cheaper than last year's trip.
    iv. The PTO budget has more funds available than it did at this point one year ago.
e. Secretary-Jessica Offerman
    i. Unable to attend, minutes recorded by Vice President Emily Gerde.
f. Director William Wischer
    i. Per Anna Wischer, Slim Chickens is being lined up as a dine-to-donate option for April or May.
    ii. The group determined that fast food options seem like the most successful dine-to-donate options from those have been organized so far, with convenience for families on busy weeknights making it more likely they will participate.
g. Director Kristi Blanc
    i. Nothing to report this month.

5. New Business

a. Funds requests
    i. No additional funds requests were reviewed beyond those approved previously in the meeting agenda.

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 with learners in Ms. Budzielek and Ms. Plaschko's classes.
        ii. December's Bulldog beanie hat was earned for Elliana Blanc.
8. **Adjourn**
    a. The next PTO meeting is scheduled Tuesday, April 14 at 6:00 PM.
    b. Anna Wischer motioned to adjourn the meeting, Kristi Blanc seconded. **MOTION PASSED.**

Meeting adjourned at 6:34 PM.

Minutes submitted by Jessica Offerman, Board Secretary.