

Maplebrook Home & School

General Meeting Minutes of Thursday, October 16, 2025, 7:00 PM Central Time - Hybrid

Present

Attendance Online:

1. Meghan Horsman
2. Amy O'Shea
3. Jen Para
4. Kourtney Vaccaro
5. Max Kozhemyakov
6. Meghan Cafarella
7. Sarah LaPorte
8. Kaite Kiss-Zurad
9. Megan Paonessa
10. Colleen O'Donnell
11. Michael Manfredo
12. Blythe Munoz (Nominations)

In-person attendees:

1. Alexandria Luppi
2. Indre Pranckevicius
3. Stefanie Manfredo (Communications)
4. Nadia Sheehan (Vice President)
5. Nicole Arient (President)
6. Yulia Levadnaya (Treasurer)
7. Principal Ordaz
8. Denisse M. (Secretary)
9. Ellen Hanson (Vice President 2)

Welcome

The meeting was called to order and began at 7:02 PM Central Time.

Ms. Arient opened the third meeting of the year, acknowledging the busy time for everyone.

Principal's Report (Principal Ordaz)

Principal Ordaz presented her monthly report, which included:

- Welcome
- Celebrations
- Academic Focus for the school year

Principal Ordaz highlighted the efforts of volunteers and discussed upcoming events, including fall parties and poppy sales to benefit the VFW, which is unique to Maplebrook in District 203. The meeting aimed to keep everyone updated and moving forward, with a focus on maintaining the school's traditions and community spirit.

Principal Oraz discussed the school's academic achievements and goals, highlighting improvements in math testing, special education, and curriculum implementation. She emphasized the importance of small group instruction, differentiation, and the new literacy curriculum, as well as the use of "what I need time" for individual student support. Principal Oraz also stressed the need for purposeful assessment practices and regular data analysis to drive instruction and student growth.

President's Report (Ms. Arient)

Ms. Arient presented her report, which included:

- D203 General H&S Meeting Updates
- Approval of Teacher Wishlist Items

Ms. Arient provided updates on several home and school initiatives, including the need to update the organization's bylaws and the cancellation of the Crosstown Classic Race due to weather concerns. She mentioned that 5th grade shirts for outdoor ed were delivered and that an Eagle Scout project to install a Gaga ball pit was approved, with funding provided by Maplebrook Home and School Association ("H&S"). The Gaga pit is expected to be built over the Christmas break, pending weather conditions.

Ms. Arient announced that H&S will purchase 43 teacher wish list items totaling \$3,022.17, noting the \$3,000 budget. She also noted that H&S received 104 submissions, totalling \$7,200. The items will benefit various departments and grade levels across the school, including classroom games, art supplies, sensory equipment, and a cabinet for the nurse's office. Ms. Arient noted that while not all requested items could be funded, additional opportunities may arise later in the school year to fulfill remaining needs. She specifically noted the Maplebrook Adult Social in February which will feature more submissions and an opportunity for those wanting to purchase additional items to do so at the event.

Also noted was an initiative to provide cold-weather gear such as snow pants, jackets, gloves, boots, and hats to students on a first-come, first-served basis, starting in early November. She explained that this program addresses both academic and social-emotional needs, particularly for children who may not have appropriate winter clothing. Ms. Arient also mentioned the availability of sensory tools and weighted blankets for students who benefit from them. She noted that while some gear is purchased for students in need, the lending program helps ensure all children can participate in outdoor activities safely.

Next, Teacher Representatives updates were presented, which was provided in advance by Ms. Chiu and Ms. Sanchez. The update expressed gratitude to families for their contributions to parent-teacher conference snacks and staffing the lounge. Julia Dotson was thanked for her work as hospitality chair, with special recognition given to specific families for their generous snack donations.

Minute Approvals (Ms. Denisse)

The September 2025 minutes were approved by an initial motion by Ms. Prankevicius seconded by Ms. Luppi.

Treasurer's Report (Ms. Levadnaya)

Ms. Levadnaya presented her report, which included:

- The September 2025 Treasurer Report

A motion to approve the September 2025 Treasurer Reports was made by Ms. Prankevicius seconded by Ms. Luppi.

Vice President 1's Report – Fundraising (Ms. Sheehan)

Ms. Sheehan presented her report, which included:

- Book Fair Recap
- Trivia Night - October 22nd
- Winter Adult Social - February 7th

Ms. Sheehan shared results of the recent book fair, along with Ms. Prankevicius, which was a strong success. The fair produced more profit than last year, despite taking place right after a five-day weekend, totaling about \$3,145.00. She also emphasized the importance of gathering community feedback to determine the best timing for future events, especially with the spring book fair approaching.

Vice President 2's Report - Culture (Ms. Hanson)

Ms. Hanson presented her report, which included:

- Walk to School Day Recap
- Family Game Night
- Classroom parties - Fall and Winter Updates
- Breakfast Buddies
- Wildcat Dance - January 23rd

Ms. Hanson discussed several upcoming events at the school, including praise for the successful Walk to School Day organized by Ms. O'Donnell and Ms. Morton. She also noted that

Family Game Night was scheduled for the next day and is at capacity. Ms. Hanson also highlighted the efforts of the classroom party committee, which includes many parent volunteers. She reminded everyone that volunteers need to get their IDs scanned by Ms. Raymundo before participating in events due to a new system. Lastly, providing updates for several upcoming events including Breakfast Buddies, Winter Parties, and a Wildcat Dance with a disco theme for 3rd to 5th graders.

Communications Report - Culture (Ms. Manfredo)

Ms. Manfredo presented her report, which included:

- Communication channels overview and updates
- Lazy Dog Proceeds Overview
- Box Tops Updates

Ms. Manfredo announced a costume donation drive for the school and encouraged families to download the Box Tops app for school fundraising. The Lazy Dog fundraiser raised \$261, and a new co-venture with Kindred Gastropub was announced for Veteran's Day.

Membership & Nominations Reports (Ms. Munoz)

No updates.

Adjournment (Ms. Arient)

Ms. Arient closed the meeting with upcoming events, including a reminder on next month's meeting on November 20th at 7pm.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ms. Prankevicius seconded by Ms. Luppi. The motion was passed and the meeting ended at 7:40 PM Central Time.