

Maplebrook Home & School

General Meeting Minutes of Thursday, September 18, 2025, 7:00 PM Central Time - Hybrid

Present

Attendance Online:

1. Amy O'Shea
2. Brenna Rock
3. Brian Munoz
4. Corey Diederich
5. Dan Calandriello
6. Elizabeth Evers
7. Jamie Calandriello
8. Jena McKinnon
9. Katie Kiss-Zurad
10. Kyle Skelly
11. Megan Masar
12. Meghan Horsman

In-person attendees:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Julie Hennessy | 12. Yulia Levadnaya (Treasurer) |
| 2. Bev Sanchez | 13. Blythe Munoz (Nominations) |
| 3. Amina Sabitova | 14. Principal Ordaz |
| 4. Jessica Chiu | 15. Charles Cush |
| 5. Ellen Hanson (Vice President 2) | 16. Erin Dyson |
| 6. Erin Morton | 17. Kourtney Vaccaro |
| 7. Alexandria Luppi | 18. Jessica Freed |
| 8. Jen Dotson | 19. Lauren Wenkel |
| 9. Stefanie Manfredo (Communications) | 20. Denisse M. |
| 10. Nadia Sheehan (Vice President) | |
| 11. Nicole Arient (President) | |

Welcome

The meeting was called to order and began at 7:05 PM Central Time.

Ms. Arient welcomed attendees to the meeting, expressing gratitude for their commitment and involvement in the community. She highlighted the importance of collaboration and introduced Charles Push, the adult school board member, who shared his excitement about his role and recent experiences at the school.

Principal's Report (Principal Ordaz)

Principal Ordaz presented her monthly report, which included:

- Welcome / Thank you - Ice Cream Social/Greeters/LC volunteers /Hurrah
- Sense of Belonging

- Supporting Learning at home
- Upcoming Events
 - TopDog / Rangers
 - P-T Conferences
 - Walk to School Day

Principal Ordaz discussed the school's initiatives, including a survey to enhance students' sense of belonging and the involvement of volunteers in various activities. She emphasized the importance of feedback from students to improve their school experience.

Principal Ordaz discussed the importance of balancing technology use with traditional reading practices in elementary education, emphasizing the need to foster a love for physical books while acknowledging students' preference for digital devices. She highlighted upcoming events, including parent-teacher conferences, Walk to School Day, and new initiatives like Talk Dog and Research Recess Rangers, which aim to engage students and parents.

Minute Approvals (Ms. Denisse)

The August 2025 minutes were approved by an initial motion by Ms. Dotson, seconded by Ms. Vaccaro.

President's Report (Ms. Arient)

Ms. Arient presented her report, which included:

- D203 General H&S Meeting Updates
- Teacher representative reports
 - Ms. Chiu and Ms. Sanchez

Ms. Arient discussed formation of new committees to plan these events and shared updates from a recent meeting with other homeschool presidents, emphasizing collaboration among schools.

The New Committees were approved by an initial motion by Ms. Dotson, seconded by Ms. Hennessy.

Ms. Chiu and Ms. Sanchez covered a wonderful feedback session including updates on school improvement plans, a literacy upgrade, and MAPS scores, noting that scores either maintained or increased despite new post-COVID norms. The Crosstown Classic Race was discussed, with changes in location and timing due to construction, and a call for volunteers was made. The social committee shared updates on parent-teacher conference snacks and the success of the "Stock the Lounge" initiative, expressing gratitude for the partnership with Home and School. They also highlighted the positive impact of these efforts on staff morale and sense of belonging.

Treasurer's Report (Ms. Levadnaya)

Ms. Levadnaya presented her report, which included:

- Reviewed the 2025 Finance Report

Ms. Levadnaya covered several updates, including financial reporting and the QuickBooks transition. The transfer of historical data to QuickBooks Online was a success and the team is working to clean up accounts, with plans to run reports directly from QuickBooks in the future. An emphasis on transparency of accounting and financial functions was also made.

A motion to approve the August 2025 Treasurer Reports was made by Ms. Dotson and seconded by Ms. Freed.

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

Ms. Sheehan presented her report, which included:

- Ice Cream Social Recap
- Upcoming Events: Book Fair, Trivia Night, Staff Wishlists

Ms. Sheehan shared results from the Ice Cream Social event, which raised over \$2,100 and will fund the Crosstown Classic fee and staff wishlist items. Ms. Baker was thanked for chairing the event, and the committee plans to keep families informed about how the funds are used throughout the year.

The meeting covered several upcoming events and initiatives at Maplebrook. Ms. Freed presented details about the rescheduled Book Fair, which will be held October 1-2, featuring a cashless system and opportunities for teachers and students to preview books. Mr. Munoz discussed the adult fall social trivia night at Bottoms Up on October 22, with registration opening September 28 at 7 PM and a cap of 50 participants.

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

Ms. Hanson presented her report, which included:

- Walk to School Day
- Top Dogs/ Recess Rangers
- Family Game Night
- Classroom Parties

Ms. Hanson discussed several upcoming events at the school, including Walk to School Day, Family Game Night, Fall classroom parties, and Breakfast Buddies. She provided details about each event, including dates, times, and how to register. Maplebrook also addressed questions

about volunteer opportunities and the format of classroom party sign-ups. The events are designed to foster a sense of community and provide fun activities for families and students. Mr. Calandriello provided updates on the Top D.O.G.S. and Recess Rangers programs, highlighting available spots and encouraging participation, while also requesting recess donations.

Communications Report - Culture (Ms. Manfredo)

Ms. Manfredo presented her report, which included:

- Communication channels overview and updates
- Chair Reports
 - Hospitality Initiatives
 - Co-Ventures by Ms. Vaccaro
 - DirectorySpot updates

Ms. Manfredo focused on various hospitality initiatives for teachers, including a new landing page for sign-ups, an Amazon wishlist, and Stock the Lounge. She discussed upcoming parent-teacher conference grab-and-go snacks, with a drop-off deadline of Wednesday, November 8th. Ms. Manfredo expressed gratitude for the social committee's efforts in polling teachers for desired items and mentioned the addition of new hospitality committee members to assist with these initiatives.

Ms. Manfredo announced that DirectorySpot had been updated for the year and provided a lineup of upcoming fundraising events through May 2025, including Lazy Dog, Pendred, Half Baked Goodness, Little Italian, Chipotle, Portillo's, Dairy Queen, and others. The attendees discussed strategies to promote these events, including adding flyers to student folders, posting on Facebook pages, and potentially creating promotional materials. They also considered using coupons with a specific code to remind participants to mention Maplebrook when placing orders.

Membership & Nominations Reports (Ms. Munoz)

Ms. Munoz presented her report, which included:

- New Committees
- Participation Update
- Volunteer Opportunities

Ms. Munoz reviewed planning and organizing events, with discussions about the frequency and types of events to host, such as sit-down or casual dining options. There was an emphasis on balancing participation opportunities for parents and considering sports schedules. Ms. Munoz provided updates on committee volunteerism, highlighting the need for more help with specific events like Breakfast Buddies and Family Game Night. She also introduced a new volunteer pool for newer parents and encouraged participation in upcoming events like the Book Fair.

Breakout Session (all participants)

The Home and School team introduced a new feature of future meetings, a collaborative discussion segment to address various topics like multilingual engagement and volunteer incentives.

Several members proposed a plan for translating school communications into multiple languages, focusing on Mandarin, Russian, and Gujarati. Suggestions such as creating a simple text document summarizing upcoming events and sending it to volunteers for translation. The group discussed the challenges of translating social media content and agreed to explore using Google Translate or creating multilingual posts. They also considered involving EL families in the translation process on a voluntary basis.

Next, the group focused on strategies to engage families, particularly those who are hesitant to participate actively. Participants discussed the importance of teacher outreach, using events like the book fair as opportunities for connection, and addressing barriers such as language differences. They also explored ideas to make volunteering more inclusive, such as allowing shy parents to help from the background and encouraging grandparents and other family members to participate.

Adjournment (Ms. Arient)

Ms. Arient closed the meeting with upcoming events, including the book fair, a family game night, and an adult social, with a reminder for attendees to provide feedback and reach out with any ideas. The next meeting is scheduled for October 16th, with both in-person and online options available.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ms. Vaccaro and seconded by Ms. Sabitova. The motion was passed and the meeting ended at 8:29 PM Central Time.