



October 21, 2025

Attendees: Sarah Sirna, Laura Richardson, Jeff Gustafson, Kristen Coward, Kayla Lande, Ashley Crist, Stephanie Woodstrom, Kali Sundquist, Cindy Andress, Lissa Thomas, "Grandma Peggy"

Absent Board Members: Tara Pitkin, Katelyn Honstad

Topic	Discussion Items, Notes and Action Items
Call to order (Sarah)	<u>September meeting minutes</u> - Motion to approve seconded and carried - Steph to post to website
Guest speaker: Lissa Thomas, Minnewashta orchestra teacher	Orchestra music overview and requests - Lissa shared two program ideas with the PTO for feedback and potential funding: - Fiddling Specialist Visit: An in-house visit from fiddling specialist Brian Wicklund (Marine on St. Croix) to work with fifth-grade orchestra students on expanded skills and techniques. Lissa has reached out to Brian and is awaiting a response. - Harmony Bridge-Inspired Program: A program for creating performances for and visits with nursing home residents. The original program focuses on band instruments, but Lissa has been working with the group to transpose music for orchestra students. - Ideas shared by PTO members included: - Expanding the program to include all fifth-grade music students - Incorporating opportunities into an existing music performance - Exploring whether local nursing homes could bring residents to Minnewashta using their own transportation - Next steps: - Alissa will discuss with other music instructors how to broaden the experience to include more students. - Alissa will obtain a quote for the fiddler program to determine funding needs. - Kali will explore transportation options with the nursing homes
President updates (Sarah, Laura)	Minnetonka Baseball Association - New kindergarten families often miss registration deadlines.

	- PTO supports each organization managing its own communications but likes the idea of hosting an “activity fair” alongside another high-traffic event. To be discussed further at a future meeting.
	Membership Toolkit guidelines - PTO reviewed recent use of Membership Toolkit by advocacy group and agreed terms of use need to be clearly displayed on the site. - Steph will post them.
	Courtyard update - Bulbs have been planted. - PTO hosted courtyard “open houses” with teachers to explore classroom use ideas. Teachers requested a shared calendar for scheduling and supplies like sidewalk chalk and shovels (PTO will provide). - Contract with the sculptor is being finalized; work to begin once signed.
	Basketball hoops - Approval must go through the district’s Exec Director of Business Operations - PTO will provide funds to the district, who will manage the project. - Laura to reconnect with the vendor, get an invoice for two hoops, and coordinate with Paul on payment.
Fundraising updates (Laura/Ashley)	Boosterthon - Raised over \$72,000 with additional corporate match donations still coming in. Communication will be sent to parents encouraging them to request corporate matches (Laura and Kayla to coordinate) - Shirts were more expensive this year but received positive feedback for quality. Extras will be donated to the school for new students or discretionary needs. Plan to do a sizing exercise next year. - Boosterthon 2026 is already booked.
	Goldfish Swim School - Hosting multiple nights; they manage all signups and provide a flyer - Proposed dates are Jan 23 or 25. Ashley to coordinate.
	Mable’s Labels - Kayla to post on Facebook and add to the newsletter.
	Code Ninjas - Kayla to repost their flyer every few months. (Flyer)
Enrichment update (Jeff)	Enrichment - Strong early interest from teachers this year. No formal funding requests submitted yet.
Principal update (Cindy)	- Lunch/recess staff report students are digging in areas that could become hazardous; monitoring and guidance are being discussed. PTO to discuss potential sandbox or other digging experiences at a future meeting. - Cindy provided a refresher on the PRIME program and its purpose.
Event updates	Monster Mash

(Event chairs)	(Laura, Stephanie, Kali, Kayla) - Doors 5w and 7w will be open. Front entrance will be propped open as needed but locked for easy lock-down as needed. One food truck confirmed; - Laura to ask the hotdog vendor to join. - Tonka Pride will be set up outside; Photo wall will be set up near West Gym - Cindy to send an event email reminding parents to stay on site. - Volunteer needs still being filled by Tonka Serves. Kali coordinating.
	Read-a-thon - Sarah has calls scheduled with Read-a-thon companies.
	Sport events - Kayla has outreach in progress with several local teams.
Communications updates (Kayla/Steph)	Grandparent access to Membership Toolkit - PTO discussed the challenge of getting grandparents involved in volunteer activities when we cannot verify them to give access to Membership Toolkit. - New proposed process: Grandparents should create an account that includes their grandchild as the student. Stephanie will then be able to verify with the student's parents that the grandparent is a trusted family member. Stephanie will then grant them access to the toolkit but not publish the duplicate student listing in the directory, and will also remind grandparents about the background check.
Topics for future meeting	- Activity Fair - MyHealth - Digging options for recess
Commonly used documents	Event dates
	Board contacts
	Room parent contacts