



January 20, 2026

Attendees: Sarah Sirna, Laura Richardson, Kalya Lande, Ashley Crist, Stephanie Woodstrom, Kristen Coward, Katelyn Honstad, Cindy Andress

Absent Board Members: Tara Pitkin, Jeff Gustafson, Kali Sundquist

Topic	Discussion Items, Notes and Action Items
Call to order (Sarah)	<u>December meeting minutes</u> - Motion to approve seconded and carried - Steph to post to website
President updates (Sarah, Laura)	Staff appreciation - Food and plants provided to teachers the week before the holiday break
	Board 2026-2027 - Officer interests and nominations needed by February PTO meeting - Positions that are open or up for re-election include: - Co-president, alongside Laura (Sarah's term ending) - Vice president (Tara's term ending) - Treasurer (Kristin up for re-election) - Secretary (Stephanie up for re-election) - Volunteer coordinator (Ashley up for re-election) - Communications director (Kayla up for re-election) - Fundraising chair (position vacant) - Members at large (Kali, Katelyn and Jeff up for re-election, plus addition positions open)
	Communication/admin reminders - Process for events includes two-week prior notice/reminder to facilities about all building needs. Laura to resend the checklist to use so we can attach it to meeting minutes
	<u>Bylaw updates</u> - Board plans to review bylaws at one of the next meetings; board members to review in advance, paying special attention to role descriptions, trust rollover details, and budgeting details which we need to update based on current realities.

Fundraising updates (Laura/Ashley)	Goldfish Swim events - Only 1 family is registered so far - Board discussed the possibility that this event might be more successful if it is hosted in the Spring when the weather is a bit warmer.
	Read-a-thon - Sarah presenting to staff next week on plan and dashboard. - For this first pilot year, we will de-emphasize the fundraising aspect of the event and focus on supporting reading goals. - Student incentives will not be trinkets; we will offer fun experiences like pizza parties, lunch with the principal, snack cart, or other teacher-led incentives - Steph to upload class rosters into the system
	Code Ninjas - Steph to confirm how many Minnewashta bookings have come through this year. No additional dates are being offered at this time.
	Custom Minnewashta apparel - A Minnewashta family that is starting an apparel business is willing to produce some unique items for Minnewashta to sell for fundraising. Items would be different from what families can get through the district/Tonka Pride - Kayla working on getting ideas and quotes
	Courtyard/sculpture update - Work has started on the sculpture offsite. Installation planned for April. - Calida still has a stage to donate - Sarah will ask Melanie Mzingo for an update if she has one to share - Board to follow up with Jenny on how to create a schedule option for using the space before the weather gets warmer. - Board still planning to purchase items like sidewalk chalk. Weather-proof boxes will be out at Costco soon which would be good for storage.
Principal update (Cindy)	School Safety: Message from Cindy - As the federal presence in Minnesota relates to our school community, we continue to focus on maintaining a safe and stable environment for students and staff. Our safety protocols are in place, and any federal officials would be handled through appropriate legal channels with district leadership and legal counsel involved. We are not making broad changes to instructional schedules or school operations at this time. We understand that community events and news coverage can cause stress or questions for families. Please know that staff, administration, and district leadership are monitoring the situation closely and are available to support families who express concerns. Our priority remains the well-being, safety, and learning continuity of all students. Thank you for your ongoing leadership and support.
	Mid-Year Assessments - Dec 1-Jan 23 K-5 FAST SAEBRS - SAEBRS stands for the Social, Academic, and Emotional Behavior Risk Screener. It is completed by teachers 3 times per year K-5 and students complete MySAEBRS in grades 4-5. What SAEBRS measures by looking at three main areas:

	- Social Behavior – peer relationships, cooperation, empathy, social skills - Academic Behavior – engagement, persistence, organization, work habits - Emotional Behavior – anxiety, withdrawal, emotional regulation, internalizing behaviors - Teachers rate students based on what they typically observe in the classroom. The student survey takes about 5 minutes to complete. “I feel calm at school.” (Students typically respond: Never, Sometimes, Often, Almost Always) - Dec 8-Jan 16 K-8 NWEA Reading and NWEA Math (as needed) small subset for Instruction and Placement - Jan 8-Jan 30 K-5 Spanish Immersion and English FAST Reading given 3 times per year to see if a student is on course to be at grade level by end of year. - Jan 6-Jan 16 K Spanish Immersion (online) Istation–now Amira given monthly to see if students are making literacy progress to be on grade level by the end of the year K-3 - Jan 6-Jan 30 K-5 Math Benchmark for students receiving additional support - Jan 26-March 20 K-12 ELL Students (online) WIDA Federal Mandate Kindergarten Enrollment - Cindy and Jenny have held 4 parent sessions: 3 in person and 1 virtual. Minnewashta still has room in our programs for next year.
Treasurer update (Kristen)	<u>Budget review</u> • Need to get more requests for enrichment and school supplies • Payments made for MN Orchestra field trip and Jeff Dayton experience • Major expenses coming up: carnival, courtyard sculpture, staff appreciation
Event updates (Event chairs)	Spanish Book Fair - Successful pilot generated \$3000 in sales (\$800 in credit for the school to spend on books for the library or classrooms) - Ideal to have it not so close to return to school so there is more time to communicate about it. - Other schools in the district and David Law are interested in doing more of this, even possibly at the district center. - Distributor open to feedback and adjustments; teachers have expressed wanting more access to titles natively written in Spanish versus English titles that are translated to Spanish. Family Movie Night - Great event. Similar attendance as last year but we think could be more successful if it wasn't held so soon after the return from holiday break. Dudes and Donuts - Jeff reported the the event went well but attendance was lower than expected (around 40 people), possibly due to cold weather. - Jeff has some ideas to improve the event for next year.

	Imagination Fair - Event committee on track for a successful event. - Ashley to reach out to Explorers leadership to see if we can set up in the West gym earlier to avoid the stressful transition experienced last year
	School Carnival - Initial planning/bookings underway - Ashley will engage the volunteer committee in February
	Grandfriends Day - Date to be confirmed - Ashley plans to set up an information station about volunteering at the school; Stephanie will create an info card to help
Commonly used documents	Event dates
	Board contacts
	Room parent contacts
	Event/facilities reservation checklist