



February 24, 2026

Attendees: Sarah Sirna, Laura Richardson, Kalya Lande, Stephanie Woodstrom, Kristen Coward, Katelyn Honstad, Jeff Gustafson, Kali Sundquist, Cote Lund, Cindy Andress

Absent Board Members: Tara Pitkin, Ashley Crist

Topic	Discussion Items, Notes and Action Items
Call to order (Sarah)	<u>January meeting minutes</u> - Motion to approve seconded and carried - Steph to post to website
President updates (Sarah, Laura)	Board slate - Laura will send the proposed board slate to review so we can vote in May. - Positions that are open include: - Co-president, alongside Laura (Sarah's term ending) - Vice president (Tara's term ending) - Fundraising chair (position vacant) - Members at large (additional positions open) - Positions that are up for reelection: - 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) - Members at large (Kali, Katelyn and Jeff up for re-election)
	Membership outreach - Laura and Kayla to post additional communication for recruiting. - Personal invitations are most effective at recruiting. Board members asked to reach out to anyone who might be a good fit or interested. Share open positions and mention that Member at Large is a great way to join without a big time commitment - Cindy to send information to parents registered to attend the Kindergarten information day in May. Sarah or Laura to provide her with email copy.
Enrichment update (Jeff)	Young Author's Conference - Request for \$1568 to cover the conference fees for 28 students (\$56 per student) and an additional \$200 for bussing

	- Proposal to use the \$375 allocated for this conference, plus the \$1000 Scientist in Residence line item which will not be used this year, plus additional funds from the discretionary line item to cover the conference fees. Bussing costs will be left to the attendees to cover. - Motion to approve seconded and carried - In the future, our goal is to bring authors into the school so that more/all students can enjoy an experience of working with an author like this. Little Free Library - Reading specialists requested \$433 to purchase the materials needed to replace the little free library structure. The poll is sturdy and in good shape, but the “library” structure is weathered and needs replacing. - Motion to approve seconded and carried - Katelyn mentioned an interest in helping build the structure Best Buddies Chapter - Senora Mesa and three other teachers are sponsoring the new Best Buddies chapter at Minnewashta that includes 132 enrolled students. However this club does not have a funding source and is looking for ideas and guidance from the PTO - Jeff will ask the sponsoring teachers to attend a future PTO meeting to tell us more about their vision, needs and estimated budget. We can discuss whether funding or other support/connections make sense. Character Strong Theme Books - Cindy shared an idea to procure more books to support Character Strong themes. There are several book options for each theme and each grade level. Cindy will share the list of books, Sarah and Tara to determine which books we can order through Scholastic. Then PTO will order the rest. - Motion to approve seconded and carried. Rescheduled Field Trips - The 3rd grade field trip to Minneapolis Institute of Art and the 4th grade field trip to Orchestra Hall had to be postponed due to ICE activity and protests in Minneapolis. Both organizations (MIA and Orchestra Hall) have made arrangements for the groups to have their field trips in the fall. Funds will be rolled over or placed in the trust so that they can be paid for in the fall. Lack of interest/request from teachers - Very little of this year’s enrichment budget has been used - Cindy is offering to help teachers write their enrichment requests - Stephanie mentioned suggesting teachers request items for indoor recess
Principal update (Cindy)	Cindy expressed appreciation on behalf of Minnewashta staff for all the support families have been providing for those affected by ICE activity in Minnesota.
Treasurer update (Kristen)	<u>February treasury report</u> - Next month’s P&L report will include costs for Jeff Dayton, Kindergarten’s arboretum trip, and 2nd grade’s upcoming field trip - Kristen proposed reallocating the \$1,000 set aside for the Kindness Retreat

	each year to the 5th Grade Camp Fire Retreat - Motion to approve, seconded - Kristen proposed funding additional \$1,000 for bussing costs for MN Orchestra trip moved to October of next year - Motion to approve, seconded
Event updates (Event chairs)	Carnival, May 29 - Permit requests are out - Vendor outreach has started - Ashley and Laura are reaching out to parents that volunteered to support the committee. - Laura is looking for a co-chair for this year's and next year's event so that someone can run with the event when she rolls off the PTO in 2027. - Budget this year is \$8,000
	Staff Appreciation, April - \$3000 budget for a full week of activities
	Summer Challenge - Cote shared an idea from previous school where students are encouraged to log reading, writing and math activities through the summer. If the challenges are completed, the kids receive an award such as a pizza party within the first month of the next school year. - Cote will do more research for a potential school-wide challenge this summer.
Commonly used documents	Event dates
	Board contacts
	Room parent contacts
	Event/facilities reservation checklist