



Interdistrict School for Arts and Communication (ISAAC)

Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO)

Meeting Minutes — September Kickoff Meeting

Date: September 15, 2026

Location: Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

Attendance: 16+ families

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by **Jim Gauld**, who welcomed attendees and noted that this was the most well-attended kickoff meeting in PTO history.

II. Introductions

Jim introduced himself as a long-time PTO member and former Treasurer. Principal **Mercedes Alger** welcomed families and outlined the agenda for the evening.

III. Principal's Report

A. School Climate

- Strong, positive start to the school year
- High student enthusiasm and engagement

B. Administrative Team Updates

- Addition of Assistant Principal **Mrs. DiPino**
- Addition of **Mrs. Ricketts** as Student Support Coordinator after **Mr. Regan's** transition out.
- Increased admin visibility in hallways

C. Dragon Code of Conduct

- New initiative to strengthen soft skills (greetings, manners, respect)
- Significant improvement in daily interactions and school climate

D. Open House

- Scheduled for September 24th at 6 PM

- Adults-only format
- Following Friday, September 25th is a half day

E. 21st Century CCLC Grant

- Five-year grant (~\$200,000) approved; awaiting release of funds
- Soccer running on school budget until funds arrive
- Planned expansions: Dragon Club, flag football, 4th–5th grade programming
- Increased family engagement planned

F. Media Communications Course

- New elective for 7th–8th graders led by Amy Wilkes
- Students produce announcements, newsletters, and social media content

G. Broadway Club

- Mrs. Grundy on temporary medical leave
- Mr. Grundy has offered to step in as an option for Broadway Club until her return
- Principal Alger will provide more clarification in our October PTO meeting.
- 4th–5th graders will perform opening act

H. Music History Course

- New course taught by Ms. Thompson
- First concert scheduled for December 3rd

I. ParentSquare Communication

- Continues to be ISAAC's primary communication platform

J. SPI Ranking

- ISAAC ranked 4th among shoreline middle schools
- Strong growth in math, ELA, and multilingual learner performance

K. Dragon Time & IXL

- Dragon Time now structured for targeted intervention and enrichment
- IXL used only during Dragon Time
- Diagnostics guide individualized support
- Increased PE frequency (3–4 times per week)

L. Meeting Format Feedback

- Families were asked to share preference for in-person vs. virtual PTO meetings

IV. Treasurer's Report

- Current balance: **\$635**
- No summer expenditures
- Annual expenses include Turkey Drive and Teacher Appreciation Week

V. Fundraising Discussion

- Ideas shared: Scholastic Book Fair, MCM Fundraising
- Interest in targeted fundraising (e.g., "buy a turkey")
- Alicia McAvay volunteered to coordinate turkey donations

VI. Officer Elections

- **Co-Presidents:** Jim Gauld & Gretchen Brochu
- **Secretary:** Shanice White
- **Treasurer:** Jim Gauld (interim)

VII. Next Meeting

- Scheduled for **Tuesday, October 20th at 6 PM**
- Focus on 4th–5th grade team
- Hybrid format under consideration

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned with appreciation for strong family participation.

Submitted by: Shanice White, Secretary

Approved by: Jim Gauld, Co-President and **Gretchen Brochu**, Co-President