Ellicott Elementary PTO

Meeting Minutes — September 15, 2026, 9:40am

WELCOME & BOARD INTRODUCTIONS

President Tara Mantegi welcomed everyone to the 2026–2027 school year and introduced this year's PTO Board.

President: Tara Manteghi
Vice President: Amber Worral
Treasurer: Erin Ware
Secretary: Leah Kruger

SPECIAL EDUCATION PTA

Adrian Groman shared information about the Special Education PTA and resources available to families navigating special education services. The parent-led group can support families during evaluations and the CSE process, including attending CSE meetings.

The group's first meeting is September 23 at the Orchard Park Public Library. Future meetings may be held at community locations or virtually. The PTO looks forward to opportunities to collaborate with and support the Special Education PTA. Visit opseptsa.org or email opseptsa@gmail.com for further details.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

- Welcome Back Night/Chicken Dinner: Thank you to Mrs. Ware and all volunteers who helped make the event a success.
- Ellicott T-Shirts: Thank you to Mrs. Talty and Mrs. Monaco for organizing this year's shirts.
- Homecoming Week: September 21–25. Families should watch school communications for Spirit Week and parade information.
- Fall Fundraiser: Thank you to Mrs. Ziccardi and all parent volunteers assisting with the event.

- The Ellicott Insider: distributed on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. Parents are also encouraged to use ParentSquare.
- Building-Use Permits: now completed online through the district's Buildings & Grounds department.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The PTO has transitioned from Membership Toolkit to Zeffy for membership and fundraising. Membership is $5, and families do not need to attend every meeting or volunteer regularly to join. Increasing family participation is a priority this year.

A special thank-you was given to Kelly Parker for helping transition the PTO to Zeffy. The PTO also established a new Gmail account to streamline communications- ellicottpto@gmail.com

TEACHER'S REPORT

Mrs. Clader and Mrs. Kubiak will serve as teacher liaisons, helping connect the PTO with Ellicott teachers and staff. They will gather staff feedback, share PTO information and volunteer opportunities, and bring teacher questions or requests to PTO meetings.

Several parents expressed interest in serving as fifth-grade liaisons. Remaining forms will be collected, and a lottery may be used if there are more volunteers than available positions.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The PTO began the year in a strong financial position. Last year's programming adjustments reduced expenses and provided flexibility for beginning-of-year costs and additional programming.

- Chicken Dinner Results
  405 dinners sold
  $2,199 total profit

- T-shirts: costs are expected to be somewhat higher than originally budgeted, but the PTO expects to remain in a comfortable financial position.
- The Fall Fundraiser: off to a strong start, with approximately $655 in donations received at the time of the meeting.

EVENT & COMMITTEE UPDATES

Library Volunteers

Gemma Wilkinson is coordinating library volunteers. With Membership Toolkit no longer in use, the PTO is developing a new scheduling system using SignUpGenius. Parents must be PTO members to volunteer in the library.

Ellicott T-Shirts

Most students will receive black shirts, while fifth-grade students will receive white shirts that can later be tie-dyed. The PTO also discussed options for families interested in purchasing additional shirts or spirit wear.

Fall Fundraiser

Plans include a walking track, DJ, pizza and water, popcorn, and bracelets/activities. The PTO is considering Zeffy for RSVPs to help estimate attendance and food needs. A centralized event page may also be created for RSVP, volunteer, and event information.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Homecoming: Theme — Riding the Wave to Homecoming. Additional parade and participation details will be shared.
- Picture Day: Limited parent volunteers may be needed to help guide students.
- Square 1 Art: Students will create artwork during upcoming class cycles. Volunteers may be needed to prepare artwork for submission. Orders are expected later this fall for holiday delivery.
- Turkey Trot: Planned for November; additional details will be shared at the next meeting.
- Red Robin Fundraiser: November 10. The fundraiser will run throughout the day, with the PTO receiving 20% back from qualifying sales.

NEW IDEAS FOR 2026–2027

The PTO discussed a grades 3–5 dance for late winter or spring, a spring Read-a-Thon fundraiser, and a possible family-friendly football-themed tailgate/watch event. Anyone interested in helping plan these activities is encouraged to contact the PTO.

NEXT PTO MEETING

October 13, 2026 at 9:40 a.m.

Thank you to all of our families, teachers, staff, and volunteers for helping make the start of the 2026–2027 school year a success!