

Meeting Minutes 9/10/2025: Membership Meeting 6:30-7:30 Zoom

Quick recap

The board meeting opened with administrative updates including quorum confirmation, agenda and minutes approval, and welcome messages for members zooming in, followed by principal and teacher updates on the school year's progress and upcoming events. Financial matters were discussed, including the treasurer's report, opening a money market account, and a review of the District Fiscal Training, along with a detailed review of a grant request for interactive whiteboards in classrooms. The conversation ended with updates on membership and volunteer numbers, Read a Thon updates, and a bylaw change,

Next steps

- Elise to email the PTGO bylaws and Form 990 to the district CFO Rhonda Rath.
- Mr. Widder to proceed with purchasing the Promethean Interactive Whiteboard for the K-2 adaptive classroom.
- Heather, Grace, Elise and Jessie to visit the bank in two weeks to add Jessie as a signer and open a money market account.
- Jenna to send the Broken Spoke fundraiser flyer to Mr. Widder and Miss Guinness for distribution to students on Friday.
- Jenna to send an email to the Readathon committee volunteers to start planning for the October 5-16 Readathon.
- Jenna to schedule a Readathon committee meeting for next week to finalize plans.
- Jenna to prepare and finalize the Readathon packets for distribution by early October.
- Heather to process teacher reimbursement requests before her trip to Singapore.
- Heather to follow up with Miss Mcrainey regarding her Hispanic Heritage event reimbursement request.
- Kat to publish the September newsletter next week.
- Jessie to add teacher representatives and Mr. Widder to the membership list.

Summary

Board Meeting Quorum and Agenda

The board meeting began with Elise confirming a quorum of 12 members, including three teacher representatives, 2 principals and seven parents, and welcoming new attendees to their first

membership meeting. The board approved the agenda and previous meeting minutes via chat votes. Elise noted that the meeting was being AI-transcribed due to the absence of a secretary, and the agenda and minutes were available on the website for reference.

Principal and Teacher Rep Updates

The meeting began with Mr. Widder sharing a positive start to the school year, highlighting the progress made in routines and procedures, and expressing gratitude for the support from the PTGO during the staff kickoff. Elizabeth McRainey, the Spanish Teacher, updated the group on upcoming events, including Hispanic Heritage Month and the associated celebration on October 1st. Tina Wagner, the new PE teacher, expressed her appreciation for the welcoming environment at River Park and shared her excitement for the year ahead. Mr. Widder concluded by providing updates on various grade levels, including literacy curriculum progress, field trips, and the appreciation for PTGO's support in funding materials for science education.

Treasurer's Report and Financial Planning

Heather presented the treasurer's report for August, noting a PayPal transfer of \$969.19 in early September and a closing balance of \$32,776.94, down from \$36,792.86 in July. She highlighted teacher and staff appreciation activities and pending expenses for September. Grace discussed opening a money market account to earn interest on the organization's bank balance, as well as filing for solicitation license exemption and setting up sales tax reimbursement with the North Carolina Department of Revenue.

Overview District Fiscal Training

Elise mentioned that she and other board members attended a district parent organization fiscal meeting and would email their bylaws and Form 990 to the district CFO, Rhonda Rath, as required.

The board discussed district recommendations for financial procedures, including equitable gift distribution, monthly bank statements, and the need for two signers on checks. They learned that if funds go through the school bookkeeper, they become school property and require superintendent approval, while direct teacher reimbursements do not. The group also explored the difference between PTAs and PTGOs, with Jenna wondering if PTAs must pay additional fees to the NCPTA for the PTA designation. Heather raised questions about debit card usage, noting that while the district discouraged them, some schools plan to implement them with security measures in place, and the NCPTA has updated their bylaws to allow debit cards.

Mr. Widder's Interactive Whiteboard Grant Proposal

The board discussed a grant request from Mr. Widder for a Promethean Interactive Whiteboard to enhance instruction in the K-2 adaptive classroom at River Park Elementary. Elise presented the details of the grant proposal: cost of \$3,630, impact on approximately 10 students, various benefits including multi-sensory learning and increased engagement. The board reviewed the funding criteria and budgeted amounts. Elise raised concerns about having a plan for the whole technology fund before approving individual requests, raising specific concerns about the cost being disproportional to the amount of students who would benefit from the grant. Heather asked about maintenance plans, which Mr. Widder clarified included installation warranty and a 5-year extended warranty. Ms. Wagner suggested considering a larger, mobile screen similar to what she had at her previous school to share between classrooms. The discussion highlighted the particular needs of students with learning differences and the importance of interactive tools in supporting diverse learning styles. The group ultimately voted 12-0 to approve the grant for the adaptive classroom.

Committee Updates

Jesse Gilmore was confirmed as the new vice chair (unanimous email vote 8/14), and the board discussed adding principal/teacher reps on the executive board to the membership list (bypassing sign up). Jessie provided updates on membership and volunteer numbers, with 15 new members and 14 unique volunteers reported. Jenna presented updates on fundraising efforts, including the upcoming Broken Spoke fundraiser and the annual Readathon scheduled for October 5-16, inviting parent volunteers to join the committee. Kat encouraged community members to follow the organization on social media and website for updates and will have the September Newsletter out soon.

Bylaw Change

The membership approved a bylaw change to move the general membership final budget vote to Mid-November from October 31st. There is no membership meeting in October and it is a member vote so it makes sense to move it to September or November.

Meeting Adjourned