

ACCESS Academy PTA General Membership Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 20, 2025 7:00 - 8:00 PM

Google Meet info: Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/eph-zphf-ibc>

Or dial: (US) +1 208-715-5825 PIN: 778 452 051#

Attendance: Lisa Flood, Eliz, Aaron Ferguson, Tracy Connor, David Stein, Jessica A, Cara Hersh, Holly Hofkamp, Maya Page, Josie Parker, Fabiola Casas, Jory Ruscio


- **President's call to order, welcome** – Lisa Flood (3 minutes) - called to order 7:05
- **Approvals** (2 min):
 - Approve Minutes of [02.20.25 Gen Mtg Minutes - Google Docs](#), approved as written
- **Treasurer's Report** - Jory Ruscio/Kelly O'Hara (10 min) - We have money, working with school admin to think about capital investments and ways to suppose the school. The PTA has responded to counselors/staff to expand the Shakespeare Ren Faire program.
 - a. [Treasurer's report](#) (as of 2/28/25)
 - i. Balances
 - 1. Checking - \$34,540.40
 - 2. Savings - \$45,105.60
 - 3. PayPal - \$241.30
 - ii. YtD
 - 1. Income - \$48,457.73
 - 2. Expenses - \$19,010.92
 - b. Electronic transfers
 - i. 2/10/25 - \$11,441.68 from PayPal to OnPoint Checking
 - c. Fundraising updates (as of 3/20/25)
 - i. Read-a-thon - \$14,529.52
 - ii. Give Campaign - \$13,600.00
 - iii. Matching Contributions - \$3,753.60
 - iv. Bottle Drop - \$1,500.00
 - v. Dine Outs - \$1,585.00
- **Review revised Standing Rules** - Eliz Roser, (5-10 min)
 - Updated [Standing Rule Document](#) for review
 - What did we change?
 - Reduced quorum for general PTA meetings (6 members to 5 members given low PTA attendance since COVID)
 - Changed term year for PTA Board members to match fiscal year
 - Changed names of Standing Committees to reflect current work
 - Eliz Roser Motioned: PTA to approve Standing Rules as revised
 - Holly Hofkamp Seconded the motion

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- Vote was unanimous - Lisa Flood, Eliz, Tracy Connor, David Stein, Jessica A, Cara Hersh, Holly Hofkamp, Maya Page, Josie Parker, (all in attendance at time of vote) voted yes, motion passes
- **PTA officer recruitment updates** (5 min) - We are actively recruiting for board members as many of the board members are reaching their term limits. Will be defining VP roles to give more structure
 - Board roles
 - **President:** oversee PTA, run meetings, work closely with staff and parents to reach the PTA's goals
 - **Vice President:** work closely with President to support PTA's goals
 - **Co-Treasurer:** oversee budget, reimbursements, and reporting for the PTA's finances.
 - **Secretary or Co-Secretaries:** take minutes at PTA meetings, ensure website copy is up to date, maintain PTA records.
 - Additional roles
 - **Fundraising Chair:** work with volunteers to oversee and coordinate fundraising events
 - **Volunteer Coordinator:** be the liaison between the PTA volunteer needs and the community! Help find volunteers for various projects and events as needed over the year
 - **Staff Appreciation Chair:** work with volunteers to oversee and coordinate staff appreciation events
- **Staff Appreciation** (5 min)
 - Thank you volunteers Rachel Miller Solomin and Missy McGoogan for helping with Classified and Non-Rep Employees Appreciation Week
 - Coming up: School Librarian Day, April 4 - **volunteer needed to bring coffee to Elle**
 - Coming up: Administrative Professionals Day, April 23 - Sarah Williams
 - Coming up: Principal Appreciation Day, May 1 - Becky Koch
 - Coming up: Staff Appreciation Week, May 5-9 - **volunteer needed to help coordinate!**
- **Volunteer Acknowledgement** (2 min)
 - a. Thank you to everyone for helping with Pi Day!
 - b. Opportunities -  ACCESS Academy Volunteers 2024-25
 - c. [Breakfast and Lunch Volunteering](#)
 - d. Questions about volunteering go to Eliz volunteer@accessacademypta.org

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- **2025 PPS School Bond Presentation** - Presenter: Christy Splitt, csplitt@pps.net @7:30 (10 min)
Christy Splitt - Parent at Hayhurst and representing SW on the school board as interim member, background working in the legislature, school funding advocacy work, and former teacher.
 - a. Portlanders will be voting on a \$1.8 Billion School Bond Renewal this May. This bond focuses on high school modernization and this Bond will fund Cleveland and Ida B. Wells modernization as well as additional funding for Jefferson modernization. It will also fund some Curriculum, tech spending, and other building issues for middle and elementary schools (HVAC, etc)
 - i. Renews our current tax rate
 - ii. Delivers critical repairs to schools across Portland
 - iii. Completes the modernization of our high schools
 - iv. More info at: <https://yespdxschools.com/>
 - b. Motion made by Lisa Flood to official endorse bond as a PTA. Eliz Roser seconded the motion. All in attendance at that point in the meeting voted Yes (Tracy, Eliz, David, Lisa, Jessica, Cara, Jory, Josie,, Holly); motion passed.
- **Principal's Update** (20 minutes)
 - Working on schedules for next year
 - Upcoming events: Ren Faire, Author Visit, Middle School Dance, and Talent Show
 - April Principal's coffee with be a hybrid (in person and virtual)
 - Bathrooms
 - Aaron and staff has received, listened to, and discussed parent feedback about how this was communicated. After the concrete steps below, Aaron has seen improvements in the conditions of the bathroom this week
 - Concrete steps taken to improve this thus far:
 - Devin, Margaret, and Aaron have pushed into all middle school classes to reset expectations around behavior and
 - Sign in/Sign out process now in place for all middle schoolers
 - There are cameras outside the restrooms as well, but the sign outs are thought be helpful to promote student accountability
 - Staff have a schedule to rotate into bathrooms every 45 min
 - Helps call custodian more quickly as mess begets mess
 - Limits number of students that might be involved in any destruction behavior if investigations are necessary
 - Helps facilities stay on top of minor repairs
 - Parents are having discussions with students
 - Other ideas/feedback:

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- Can we apply consequence to kids that are responsible? - There are both restorative and more traditional code of conduct consequences that have been used but it is pretty tricky with bathrooms given the sensitive nature of things and student privacy
- Question from parent about how many working doors on elementary school bathrooms; there have been chronic problem with ADA stall in 4th and 5th grade hallway but this was addressed recently . All are currently functional per Aaron and he will double check asap.
- Suggestion from parent to address expectations with elementary students as well. Aaron took that feedback to heart and will look into this.
- Parent asked if PTA could buy hand dryers to avoid papertowels clogging toilets, Aaron is looking into this
- Parent suggested notes/banner of appreciation for custodian, could be a leadership student project. Aaron to check in with McBride about it
- This has also brought up more general themes, questions, and feedback around consequences for behavior at ACCESS
 - Principal reiterated they are committed to restorative justice/practices but these don't take the place of other forms of code of conduct or consequences
 - Often the restorative practices are the most visible while Code of Conduct discipline is very private and if Aaron's doing his job well no one but student and their family will know about them. We discussed that it is important for parents to reinforce this with students if they feel that other kids are "getting away" with behaviors and help students understand that we may not always have the full story.
 - Parent suggested a restorative justice practice that allows kids to say how an event has affecting them (ex of child limiting water and not using bathrooms at school with current bathroom situation given) without identifying perpetrator, but having more generalities
 - Parent asked what we could do as a community/PTA help kids to instill Pride in school building
 - Parent suggested PTA could potentially fund an outside organization to assist with teaching executive functioning/emotional regulation skills for students and/or a parent series around executive function (especially as we lose a counselor next year) as some of these behaviors may result from impulsivity or emotional regulation deficits. PTA will look into this. Aaron was open to this and also poses that parent volunteers might be

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able to help with more monitoring during times such as lunch, recesses, specials, etc.

- Culture and Climate team that meets every other week. Includes ideas for building a positive base and what the trouble spots that are coming up are. Aaron plans to add a blurb about this in the weekly principal letter to keep parents more up to date about these types of issues

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- **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned 8:24
- **Next meeting: 4/17/2024 (virtual, topic Middle School transition/AVID curriculum), 7-8 pm**
- **Reminders:**
 - PTA Membership and Information on [ACCESS Academy PTA - Home Page \(membershiptoolkit.com\)](https://membershiptoolkit.com)
 - PTA meetings: 3rd Thursday of the month 7-8 pm
 - Thursday, April 17 virtual
 - Thursday, May 15, in person
 - Please send recommendations for future topics of discussion at PTA meetings board@accessacademypta.org

Upcoming Dates/ Events:

MON 3/24 - FRI 3/28 - Spring Break (NO SCHOOL)

MON 3/31 Author Visit: Aaron Steinke

WED 4/2 - 9:00 - 10:00 A - [Virtual Principal's Coffee](#)

FRI 4/4 - Grading Day **(NO SCHOOL)**

MON 4/7 - Planning Day **(NO SCHOOL)**

TUE 4/8 3:15 P - Early Release for Gr. 6-8 (Staff Meeting)

THU 4/17 7:00 - 8:00 P - [PTA Meeting](#)

FRI 4/11 Middle School Dance

WED 4/23 - 12:45 P - Early Release

FRI 4/25 6-8th grade Author Visit (Terry Blas)

MON-FRI Staff Appreciation Week

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THU 5/22 Renaissance Faire

FRI 5/30 Talent Show

FRI 6/6 8th Grade Promotion

SAT 6/7 Family Potluck/Bingo to celebrate end of year and welcome new families

MON 6/9 Field Day