

ACCESS Academy PTA General Membership Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 16, 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, Jory Ruscio, Paul Cone, Kelly O'Hara, Eliz Roser, Kris Travis, Josie Parker, Diane Waggoner, Holly Hofkamp, Aaron Ferguson, Debbie Conrad, Jessica Gardiner

- **President's call to order, welcome** – Lisa Flood (3 minutes)
 - Called to order at 7:02
- **Approvals** (2 min):
 - Approve Minutes of [2024-11-21 General Mtg Minutes](#) - apple/pear sale profit was edited, approved as edited.
- **Treasurer's Report** - Jory Ruscio (10 minutes)
 - a. [Treasurer's report](#)
 - i. Transfer from Stripe to OnPoint 12/02/2024 - \$72.90
 - ii. Transfer from Stripe to OnPoint 12/31/2024 - \$62.52
 - iii. Transfer from PayPal (Give Campaign and Arts & Enrichment) to OnPoint 12/03 - \$725.00
 - b. Vote on putting anonymous Helping Hands donation to DEI fund in budget
 - i. Jory motions to allocate \$750 anonymous donation to the student scholarship fund, Lisa Flood seconds, Paul Cone asks for clarification, voted and passed unanimously
 - c. Fundraising updates
 - i. Give Campaign - \$9,078.62 (Generous donation from a grandparent!!) + \$850 in Giving Fund donations!
 - ii. Dine Outs - \$1,225.00!
 - iii. Read-a-thon - Started 1/15!!
- **Volunteer Acknowledgement** (2 min)
 - a. Opportunities - [ACCESS Academy Volunteers 2024-25](#)
 - b. Biggest needs right now: Staff Appreciation and Pi Day!
 - c. [Breakfast and Lunch Volunteering](#)
 - d. Questions about volunteering go to Eliz volunteer@accessacademypta.org
- **Mason Bee Program Overview** (15-20 min) - Debbie Conrad
 - 25 years of environmental ed background, program started a Llewellyn. Since then, has created business called NatureHood. Information about Mason Bees shared. This curriculum is progressive for 2nd-5th grade, March-May each year. Students get a chance to raise mason bees and monitor the nesting process throughout the spring and get hands on science lessons. about important of plants, pollinators, and our

ACCESS Academy PTA General Membership Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 16, 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#

interconnection to the natural world. Curriculum is tied to state standards when possible. Offered an Earth Day or Harvest Fest table. Used to be PTA grant funded, but now written into yearly PTA budget.

- **Principal's Update/Counselor** (10-20 minutes) - Behavior policies, District wide cell phone policy
 - Science Bowl happening on Saturday, Read a thon just started, Spelling Bee going on now
 - Last day of quarter 1/24. Be sure to help students check grades in Canvas, especially if they are kids are taking classes for high school credits. Question about when grades are expected to posted in Canvas after work is turned in and Aaron reports there is an agreement that canvas grades are updated every 2 weeks.
 - 1/31 Dance for Middle School (6th-8th grade)
 - Tradition is fall, winter, spring dance that is school sponsored
 - Supported by PAT members that are volunteering their time, but there is no budget for it. Unsure if other middle schools have a staff budget.
 - Conversation about who "owns" or sponsors the event
 - PPS District Wide Policy to be cell phone free starting Academic year 2025-2026
 - All grades, all day including lunch
 - Board is currently exploring how to implement this
 - Per Aaron, at ACCESS staff has discussed this as well as far as implementation, solutions, and consequence. However, most teachers don't feel that cell phones are getting in the way of instruction at this point. When it happens, the phone is brought to the office and given back at the end of the day. Per his experience, socialization doesn't seem to be affected by cell phones either.
 - The challenge is actually the district issued Chrome books. Asked for more training on better ways to use Securly to monitor and help with classroom management, but teachers are currently monitoring usage with securly. Parent questioned if this is an issue that is unique to ACCESS and it seems that it might be per Aaron since cell phones aren't a big issue. Another parent mentioned that many ACCESS kids have figured out how to work around securly.
 - Discussed smart watches in a bit more detail as parents are concerned about tracking kids during long bus rides, etc.
 - Practice of Room Clears
 - 2 reasons for more room clears in current times
 - More inclusive practices
 - More school staff are trained in deescalation techniques

ACCESS Academy PTA General Membership Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 16, 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#

- Moving the class, rather than the student who has escalated, is safer and more effective. Though, this can result in an instructional time loss but usually it gets made up later in the day.
 - Not the same as a lock down or lock out
 - Aaron reported that he has gotten feedback from parents that the communication about a room clear is not always consistent. Need to be thoughtful and careful with confidentiality when communicating. They are talking about how to communicate more in the culture and climate committee
 - Parent brought up that communication about physical altercations has also not always been consistent. Aaron stated he is working on this and parents of all students involved should be getting call/email.
- **Author visits - update and discussion (Eliz, 5 min)**
 - a. Aron Nels Steinke: Friday, 3/21 at 9:30 a.m. 5th-7th graders only. Community to purchase 40 copies of [his new book](#) (\$15) from Green Bean Books. PTA will cover whatever \$ is not raised.
 - b. Proposal - [Terry Blas](#), for 7-8th graders, cost is \$900.
 - i. Approved under Arts and Enrichment budget
 - 1. Vote in favor: Lisa F., Eliz, Jory, Paul, Kelly, Holly.
 - 2. No vote Kris Travis, Jessica Gardiener, Diane Waggoner
 - 3. Zero votes against
- **Recommendations/brainstorm for future topics of discussion at PTA meetings (5 min)** - send ideas to board@accessacademypta.org
- **Adjournment** at 8:18
- **Reminders:**
 - o PTA Membership and Information on [ACCESS Academy PTA - Home Page \(membershiptoolkit.com\)](#)
 - o PTA meetings: 3rd Thursday of the month 7-8 pm, working on 2 in person meetings

Upcoming Events

THU 1/16 - 7:00 - 8:00 P - [PTA Meeting](#)

FRI 1/10 - Last Day to Contribute to Portland Rescue Mission Winter Drive

MON 1/20 - Martin Luther King Jr.'s Day (**NO SCHOOL**)

ACCESS Academy PTA General Membership Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 16, 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#

MON 1/27 - Grading Day (NO SCHOOL)

TUE 1/28 - Teacher's Professional Development (NO SCHOOL)

WED 2/05 - Principal's coffee 9-10 am

MON 2/10 - Dine Out at Dick's Primal Burger - 11am-9pm