

Minutes Approved: November 11, 2025

October 14, 2025

PTO Meeting Agenda/Minutes

Zoom Link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85096538268?pwd=qGa78SmjVQt0A4TLbbIXk3wRPMbr9I.1>

Meeting ID: 850 9653 8268

Passcode: 571564

In attendance: Tiffany Walther, Katie Dobbie, Sara Hammerschmidt, Lindsey Kerkez, Ann Lin, Koren Clinkscale, Patrick Wilkes-Krier, Vani Patterson, Jessi Kishiyama, Meredith Laverty, Liz Arnkoff, Erin Hill, Whitney Wilkes-Krier, Lisa Whitehead, Maeran Uhm, Hana, Maysa, Missy Plegue, Aarti Raheja, Lindsey Birrell, Robin Maley, Cindy, Emily Mashal, Harpreet Cheema, Koren Clinkscale, Kristin Berger, Stephanie Arnold, Stephanie, Nav Cheema, Sam Scherba, Tom Lipinski, Trevor Steer, Kathlynn, Harini Sundararaghavan, Julia Savage, Vidya, Sue, Jenn Guillen, Alex steele

Called to order: 6:06 pm

1. **Minutes** - Reviewed previous meeting's minutes
 - a. Motioned to approve minutes: Tiffany Walther
 - b. Seconded: Nav Cheema
 - c. Vote: Approved

2. Principal Report – Mrs. Clinkscale

- The new building is still scheduled to open on September 29.
 - Staff professional development has focused on classroom culture and the Arts & Letters curriculum.
 - Students are again receiving free breakfast and lunch this school year.
 - The Walk, Bike, Ride event on October 8 was successful.
 - Picture Day was held on October 14, with make-up pictures scheduled for November 25.
 - Parent-teacher conferences are currently taking place.
 - Upcoming school events:
 - Harvest Moon Festival – October 22
 - Turkey Trot – November 13
 - The school is currently without internet service but hopes to have it restored by tomorrow.
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3. Teacher Report – Mrs. Shah & Mrs. Berger

- Thank you to the PTO for providing Jet's Pizza for staff.
 - Fifth graders had a wonderful experience at camp. Staff appreciated the help coordinating the trip.
 - First grade students are participating in hands-on learning activities in the Learning Garden.
 - Special thanks to Whitney for leading activities, including sunflower dissections.
 - The library has seen high levels of student book checkouts.
 - Staff shared excitement about the new book repair machine and thanked the PTO community for helping fund it.
 - Student artwork from both classrooms will be displayed at Trader Joe's in Ann Arbor.
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4. Treasurer Report – Lindsey Kerkez & Sara Hammerschmidt

Treasurer Introductions

- Sara shared that she chaired last year's Silent Auction alongside two third grade parents and wanted to become more involved this year. She also serves on the City of Ann Arbor planning commission.
- Lindsey shared that she has two daughters at King (1st and 5th grades), works as an environmental engineer, and has served as co-treasurer for the past two years.

Budget Presentation

- Total projected income: \$78,000
- Total projected expenses: \$106,660
- Projected net loss: \$28,660

The treasurers emphasized that the PTO is a dedicated group of volunteers committed to being responsible stewards of the budget.

Additional notes:

- Field Day is no longer operated as a fundraiser.
- Tiffany thanked Jessi for starting Mini-Monthlies several years ago, noting that the program has become very popular.

- Appreciation was expressed for all volunteers who support PTO events and fundraising efforts.

Proposed Budget Amendments for 2025–26

- Harvest Moon Festival:
 - Increase to both income and expense budgets
- Learning Garden:
 - Increase funding to build a new fence
- Science Olympiad:
 - Increase funding for scholarships and expenses previously covered personally by coaches
 - Budget returned to 2024–25 funding levels

Budget Vote

Motion to approve the 2025–26 PTO budget:

- Vote passed by majority approval (36 yes votes)

The approved budget will be posted on the King PTO website.

5. Committee Reports

Harvest Moon Festival – Lisa Arnsdorf

- Wednesday, October 22, 5:30–7:00 p.m.
- Costumes are welcome, but no pretend weapons are allowed.
- Donuts and pizza will be available.

Silent Auction

- Raised \$25,000 in 2025.
- Kick-off meeting scheduled for October 26 from 5:30–7:30 p.m.
- Anyone interested should email aakingpto@gmail.com.

Book Fair – Sam Scherba

- December 1–5, 2025
- Information will begin going out after Halloween.

Bagel Friday – Katie Dobbie

- December 5, 8:00–8:45 a.m.
- Scheduled alongside the final purchase day of the Fall Book Fair.

Restaurant Community Nights – Erin Hill

Upcoming events include:

- Moonwinks – October 10
- Panera – October 14, 4–8 p.m.
- Spenga – October 23, 6:30 class
- Shake Shack – November 4, 10:30 a.m.–10 p.m.
- Plate Sushi – November 14, 11 a.m.–3 p.m. and 4–9 p.m.

Additional fundraising:

- Sticky Monkey Labels offers 20% back to King using code: MLKPTO

Erin encouraged families to share ideas for future community events and partnerships.

Teacher Appreciation

- Staff treats/snacks are provided monthly.
- Next appreciation date: October 15.
- Two volunteer sign-up slots remain open for February 11 and April 8.

Math Club – Yunus

- Open to students in grades 1–5.
- Meetings held Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. for approximately 40 minutes.

Turkey Trot – Nav Cheema

- Coordinating with Mr. Matulis.
- Event date: November 13
- No rain date planned.
- Students run around the back track and receive donuts and cider afterward.
- Volunteers will be needed to help distribute refreshments.
- A Sign-Up Genius will be shared closer to the event.

King Gear – Harini S.

- New vendor this year: 1st Place Spiritwear.

- The online store will remain open year-round.
- Updated King gear options are currently being finalized.
- Website link coming soon.

Learning Garden – Whitney Wilkes-Krier

- A new fence is being installed.
- Families are donating and building colorful new benches.
- Fall classroom visits will include planting spring bulbs before the garden closes for winter.
- Tiffany thanked Whitney for all of her hard work supporting the garden.

International Night

- February 21, 2026, from 6–8 p.m. at Huron High School.
- Organizers are looking for:
 - 1–2 additional performances
 - Volunteer coaches, especially high school or older students
- Performances may include dance, music, poetry, martial arts, and other creative talents.

Coffee Truck

- PTO is currently confirming an October date with Koren and Tracy.

Science Olympiad

- Coach recruitment begins in November.
- Practices begin in January.
- WESO Tournament scheduled for May 9.

Labyrinth Project

- Proposed budget: \$2,500
- The Learning Garden will include a mindfulness labyrinth in a previously overgrown area.
- The project is being designed by a King parent who is an engineer.
- A botanist is assisting with selecting native plants to reduce weeds.
- The labyrinth is intended to serve as a therapeutic and mindfulness space for students.
- The project reflects strong collaboration between families and Lindsey Birrell.

6. Questions & Discussion

PTO Board Roles

- Jessi asked about how PTO board openings are filled for next year.
 - Tiffany explained the process of how board openings are filled each year and that anyone can nominate themselves at any time for the following year's board
- Vani asked whether role descriptions could be shared to help families better understand responsibilities and time commitments.
 - The Board members agreed that this is a good idea.

Family Donations & Fundraising

- Lindsey Kerkez shared that a broader donation push would begin following budget approval.
- Vani noted that since Field Day is no longer a fundraiser, families who were waiting to donate through a fun run could contribute directly now.

Budget Questions

- Jessi asked about the \$23,500 expense line for events and fundraisers.
- Lindsey provided additional explanation regarding associated event costs.
- Missy asked whether all staff have equal access to innovation grants; the answer was yes, and all requests so far have been approved.
- Missy also suggested adding a note regarding Scholastic dollars within the budget presentation.

Supporting Other Schools

- Missy reflected on differences between King's PTO budget and Mitchell's and shared how meaningful previous support had been.
- Several attendees discussed whether future surplus funds could support other schools or community initiatives.
- Tiffany noted that beginning next year, parents will no longer need to pay for camp chaperones and that suggestions would be passed along to the next board.
- Emily Fine noted that PTOC already provides opportunities for families to donate directly to schools in need.
- Kathlynn cautioned that her previous school experienced an audit after giving funds directly to another school.

Winter Giving

- Lindsey Birrell suggested creating a dedicated winter giving budget line to avoid relying on emergency fundraising requests each year.

- Erin Hill agreed and shared support for ensuring King-raised funds directly support King students and families.

Additional Notes

- Liz requested that the Busch's MyWay fundraising link be included in the next PTO newsletter.
- One community member asked whether the PTO might consider gifting a labyrinth to another AAPS Title I school in support of SEL initiatives.