

Minutes Approved: May 20, 2026

March 4, 2026

PTO Meeting Agenda/Minutes

In Person PTO Meeting

In attendance: Tiffany Walther, Katie Dobbie, Lindsey Kerkez, Sara Hammerschmidt, Ann Lin, Koren Clinkscale, Trisha Shah, Kristen Berger, Kyle Walther, Erin Hill, Buffy Beattie, Lisa Arnsdorf, Sam Scherba, Maeren Uhn, Jessi Kishiyama, Maggie Allen, Aarti Raheja, Missy Plegue, Emily Fine

Called to order: 6:04 pm

1. **Minutes** - Reviewed previous meeting's minutes
 - a. Motion to approve minutes: Tiffany
 - b. Seconded: Maeren Uhn
 - c. Vote: Approved

2. **Principal Report - Mrs. Clinkscale** - NAAPID had the largest turnout we have ever had. It is important to continue marketing this event to all families.
 - International Night was a huge success. The dancing, costumes, and food were all wonderful. Mrs. Clinkscale also shared highlights on the Ann Arbor Facebook page.
 - The teacher "learning walks" have been very beneficial, allowing teachers to visit each other's classrooms and observe implementation of the new Arts & Letters curriculum. The school looks forward to continuing the program this spring. Thank you to the PTO for funding substitute teachers to support this initiative.
 - Kindergarten Round-Up went very well, with the MPR packed. King was one of nine schools holding Round-Up that day.
 - During March Reading Month:
 - Students enjoyed district-wide Green Eggs and Ham activities.
 - Students received notebooks to celebrate reading month.
 - Upcoming events and reminders:
 - Spring Picture Day: Friday, March 6
 - Silent Auction: March 18
 - Spring concerts: reminders will be sent this week by Mrs. Berger
 - School safety drills:
 - Schools are required to complete 10 drills each year.
 - Remaining drills include one severe weather drill and two fire drills.
 - Soft and hard lockdown drills were completed in the fall.
 - Prospective family tours are now available since they could not be offered during Round-Up.
 - Student Council members will lead tours.
 - Families can sign up online.

- Spring assessments:
 - NWEA and M-STEP testing will take place this spring.
- Additional upcoming events:
 - Spring Book Fair: April 13
 - Science Olympiad: May 9
 - Girls on the Run and Field Day Frenzy: May 13
 - Fifth Grade Clap Out: June 9 at 9:30 a.m.
- Building update:
 - Building construction has been delayed at least one year.
- King Care:
 - Lottery applications for next year are open through mid-April.
 - King Care also has a new website.
- Classroom placement forms will be released on March 20
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- 3. Teacher Report - Mrs. Shah/Mrs. Berger -

Classroom Spotlight – Ms. Reed

- Students participated in “Classroom Olympics,” promoting positive behavior through fun Olympic-style challenges.
- Closing ceremonies celebrated teamwork and good sportsmanship.

March Reading Month

- Literacy activities are taking place throughout the building.

Field Trips

- Many spring field trips are planned.
- On March 20, 2nd and 3rd graders will visit pen pals at the University of Michigan through the K-Grams program.

Library & Community Involvement

- Arts & Letters music integration is taking place in the library.
- Jason Morgan visited to read to a first grade class.
- KB appreciates the strong community involvement this month.
- Special thanks to Rochelle Eady for helping scan and return books to circulation.

Music in Schools Month

- King received a grant allowing students to perform recorder music at Hill Auditorium with a symphony orchestra.

- Spring concerts are coming up in March (see calendar for dates).
- Music Showcase:
 - Scheduled for the week before spring break.
 - Open to all students who would like to share musical or singing talents.

PTO Appreciation

- Teachers thanked the PTO for continued support through:
 - Coffee truck events
 - Mini-Monthlies
 - Mini grants
- Vani thanked teachers for their hard work and asked how parents can continue supporting teachers.
- Parents were encouraged to follow the “Ann Arbor Education Association Crisis Team” Facebook group for information and action items.

4. Treasurer Report - Lindsey Kerkez/Sara Hammersmidt - Budget Overview

- The PTO is comfortable maintaining a bank balance between \$60,000–\$80,000.
- This year’s budget includes:
 - \$80,000 projected income
 - \$108,000 projected expenses
 - A planned deficit of \$28,000
- If fundraising goals are not met, the deficit could grow larger.

Financial Context

- In previous years, the PTO was able to approve large projects, including:
 - \$15,000 for a resource reading room
 - \$5,000 for world language books for the library
- The PTO has historically budgeted for deficits while relying on reserve balances, though those reserves have decreased over time.
- The current \$28,000 planned deficit is the largest budgeted deficit in recent years.

Fundraising & Revenue

- The income goal was recently increased from \$78,000 to \$80,000 due to a \$2,000 grant pass-through.
- A significant portion of the budget depends on meeting the \$10,000 PTO General Fund goal, where fundraising is currently behind.
- Major upcoming fundraisers include:
 - Silent Auction

- Spring Book Fair

Expense Areas

Current major expense categories include:

- Field trips
- Science Olympiad and Academic Games
- Book Fair inventory costs
- School community support:
 - King Gear
 - Spring break gift cards
 - Support for families in need

Discussion Highlights

- Missy asked whether PTO reserves are still large; the board shared that reserves have decreased significantly and are no longer considered a surplus.
- Jessi asked whether \$108,000 in expenses is typical; the board noted that expenses have increased for many reasons.
- Maggie emphasized the importance of sustainable spending.
- Vani expressed support for maintaining a healthy reserve balance during uncertain times and preserving PTO programs for students and staff.

Budget Adjustments & Votes

Academic Games

- Approved use of the remaining \$550 line item plus an additional \$350.
- Funds will help provide scholarships for King students through A2AG.
- Board approval was sufficient because the adjustment was under \$500.

Innovation Grant Increase

- Proposal: Increase Innovation Grant budget by \$1,700.
- Funds will support Katie Russell's Phase 2 learning walks for Arts & Letters collaboration.
- Vote: Majority approved.

Volunteer Appreciation Reallocation

- Proposal: Move \$750 from Volunteer Appreciation to the PTOC Title I Community Donation fundraiser.
- Reason: Historically low turnout for the volunteer appreciation event.

- Vote: Majority approved.

DAW Fund Reallocation

- Proposal: Move \$1,000 from DAW to the King Community Fund.
- Reason:
 - The company has disbanded.
 - Greater need exists within the King community this year.
- Vote: Majority approved.

Additional Notes

- The PTO donates to the district-wide Title I fundraiser each March.
- The King Community Fund, created in the 2021–22 school year, has increased from \$500 to \$5,500.
- PTO support includes:
 - King T-shirts
 - Spring break gift cards
 - Winter gear, backpacks, and shoes
 - Book Fair books
 - Student Council and Safety budgets
- Staff appreciation spending has increased from \$295 to \$7,500 over time.
- The PTO also provides a \$500 annual donation to Community Action Network.
- Post-COVID programs restored include:
 - Silent Auction
 - International Night
 - Book Fair
 - Restaurant Nights
 - LEGO League
 - Mini-Monthlies

5. Committee Reports

Silent Auction – Buffy Beattie & Angelica

- Silent Auction will take place Friday, March 13, 2026.
- Families are encouraged to:
 - Donate to the wine pull
 - Volunteer the night of the event
 - Sign up as runners

International Night

- Thank you to all volunteers who helped make the event successful.

Mini-Monthlies

- Thank you to Megan Spitz-Pelock for coordinating February's Mini-Monthly.

Spring Book Fair – Sam Scherba

- April 13–17
- Volunteers are needed.
- Volunteers will receive coupons this year.

Bagel Friday – Katie Dobbie

- April 17, 8:00–8:43 a.m.

Restaurant Nights

- April 17: Starbright Entertainment fundraiser
 - Mention King when booking a birthday party and King receives 10% back.
- April 26: Trivia Night
- “BACK2KING” code available for Future Innovators events.

Science Olympiad – Nicole Bhave & Maeren

- 125 students are participating.
- Over half will attend the May 9 competition.
- Nicole Bhave is stepping down after:
 - 4 years as head coach
 - 6 years volunteering overall
- A new lead volunteer is needed.

Field Day Frenzy – Lisa Arnsdorf & Dana Rosselot

- Parents may attend while their child's group is outside.
- Students will participate outdoors for part of the day.
- Dana Rosselot, who runs the Saline Field Day program, is helping plan activities.

PTO Board Openings

- The new board slate will be voted on at the final PTO meeting on May 20.
- The proposed slate will be announced via newsletter on April 20.
- Anyone interested in self-nominating should contact:
 - aakingpto@gmail.com

PTO Governance Reminders

- PTO board decisions are made by majority vote, not single-person veto.
- Per PTO bylaws, committee chairs term out after four years.

6. **Addressing questions:** Liz Arnkoff, why are there committee term limits?

7. **Old Business:**

8. **New Business :**

- a. Spring Picture Day - Friday, April 6
- b. Ann Arbor Parent Advisory Committee (AAPAC) needs a parent representative from King. AAPAC's mission is to positively impact the education of ALL students in the AAPS schools, with an emphasis on representing students and parents of students needing or receiving special education services. AAPAC's goal is to work more closely with the PTO's of each school to ensure parents know there is a place to direct special education questions and to put an emphasis on inclusion in every building. Meetings are the first Monday of every month from 7 pm - 9 pm. Please email aakingpto@gmail.com if you are interested.
- c. PTOC Rep still needed. Attend once monthly zoom meeting with a representative from all other PTO's in Ann Arbor to work on equity across the district. The meeting is usually 1 hour on the 3rd Monday of the month. Gather and share ideas across the district.

9. Meeting Adjournment: 7:07 pm

10. Motion to adjourn: Tiffany

11. Seconded: Vani Patterson