



September General Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 17th, 2025

Start Time: 9:30 AM

End Time: 10:45 AM

Location: Administration Building

Administration

- | | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|---------------|
| 1.) Dr. Garibay | 2.) Dr. Rigby | 3.) Mr. Osmond | 4.) Mrs. Barr |
| 5.) Mrs. Milano | 6.) Mr. Marasco | 7.) Dr. Reynolds | 8.) Dr. Beck |

PTO Executive Board

- | | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| 1.) Kim Kaufman | 2.) Kara Brick | 3.) Amy Linquito | 4.) Jess Dudek |
| 5.) Linda Kraszewski | 6.) Jennifer Mulé | 7.) Kristen Denora | 8.) Penelope El-Dalati |
| 9.) Alana Ventrice | 10.) Sereena Gill | | |

Attendees:

- | | | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| 1.) Melissa Pistilli Fischer | 2.) Tara Edgette | 3.) Kristen Stark | 4.) Tara Cuddyer |
| 5.) Danielle Natal | 6.) Ashley Marrazzo | 7.) Claudia Monteforte | 8.) Elisa Spada |
| 9.) Allison DiSimone | 10.) Danielle Quigley | 11.) Rosalie Mannarino | 12.) Lena Nicholson |
| 13.) Chris Traks | 14.) Joanne Passalacqua | | |

Opening:

The meeting was called to order by our President, Kim Kaufman and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Administration Reports

Dr. Garibay (Superintendent):

- Welcome to all attendees
- Have improved issues with transportation
- Expressed appreciation for the PTO
- Dr. Garibay will try to be at all general meetings
- Discussed chain of command: call classroom teacher first

Dr. Rigby (CDMS):

- CDMS had a great back to school night turnout
- Fall sports & intramurals have started
- CDMS picture day is 9/18/25
- High School Informational Night for 8th grade students on 9/18/25

Mr. Osmond (CRES):

- Thankful for the support of the PTO
- 3rd graders have transitioned over well
- Strive to give every student the best possible experience and encourage all attendees to provide feedback throughout the school year
- Continuing “bucket filler” initiative this year and emphasizing it more than the past years
 - Being a bucket filler means being a good person, someone who makes someone's day better, adding to their “bucket of positivity”



- Each homeroom will have a bucket filler of the month to recognize students who will then get a bucket filler ticket
- Staff will then go to the students classrooms to recognize them
- Back to School night was a success
- First school-wide meeting occurring this Friday, 9/19/25
- Clubs should be up and running by October

Mrs. Barr & Mrs. Milano (CRPS):

- Thank you to the PTO
- CRPS has had a smooth start
- First two emergency drills have already been conducted
- First grade-level meetings occurred last week on 9/11
 - Theme was being a “Resilient American” by using the book *The Little Chapel That Stood*
- SLEO officer helped co-facilitate safety training
- Friday, 9/19/25 is the first school-wide meeting of the year based on the school theme of the year “What is your Superpower?”
 - Positive behavioral interventions and support discussion
 - Kids will receive “Colts Cash” being a for caring, on-task leader and showing initiative
 - 25 names are called every Friday, children are invited to come to the office and spin a prize wheel
- Picture day will be 10/1/25
- Encourage parents to call to check-in on students
- Writing program has received excellent feedback so far

Mr. Marasco (Business Manager):

- Eleventh year working here, expressed gratefulness for the PTO
- Around to discuss ideas with the PTO, including procurement

Dr. Reynolds (Director of Curriculum and Instruction):

- Notification went out for NJSLA scores published in Genesis
- Still waiting on district assessment calendar from NJBOE
- Field test to occur in October (for grades 4-8)
- Everyone who took the NJSLA will be taking the field test (based on end of 3rd grade)
- Dr. Garibay has a state meeting on 9/19/25, more information to come
- Launching an “open book source” - for parents to see which books are in each classroom
 - All books have been inventoried for CRES and CDMS
 - Starting CRPS soon
 - Within 2 years, parents will be able to see all books available to all district students

Dr. Beck (Director of Special Services):

- Off to a great year with student transitions
- Therapies for students have started and are underway



Executive Board Reports:

Kim Kaufman (President):

- We have a brand new board
- 4 members timed out from last year
 - Samantha Amato (Previous VP)
 - Joanne Passalacqua (Previous Fundraising Director)
 - January Nicoletta (Previous Secretary)
 - Monica Kozicz (Previous Treasurer)
- Our volunteers of the year are here today (Danielle Q, Kristen Stark, Lena Nicholson)
- Introduction of the Board
- Last year events:
 - Harlem Globetrotters brought in more than 12k
 - Read-A-Thon brought in 25k
 - Spring Gala brought in 56k
 - Had many 8th grade events (pancake breakfast, dance, ice cream social, etc.)
 - Thank you to parents who helped with these events
- If you know someone who is not a PTO member, please encourage them to join
 - Does not mean you will be an automatic volunteer
 - Will help keep you in the know
 - Will receive newsletter and be able to volunteer for our events (must be member of PTO to volunteer for our events)
- Save the Date for Ladies Spring Gala on 3/19/26
- Vineyard Vines spiritwear left in youth sizes 14-16
 - Will not be ordering more in the future, too costly
- BoxTop\$:
 - Sign up and scan your receipts
- Trunk or Treat:
 - On 10/25
 - Reach out to Joanne Passalacqua if you want to volunteer

Kara Brick (Vice President):

- Mini Grants:
 - 25k available to divide among the schools
 - Teachers can apply and the board will choose who to award to
 - CRPS got author visit, light show, custom cornhole, etc. last year
 - CRES: gardening and sushi club, trip to Liberty Science Center and Once Upon A Time, etc. last year
 - CDMS: Boston Tea Party celebration, girls STEM club, peace garden, field trips and podcast equipment, etc. last year
 - Application closes 10/8
- Spiritwear drive is going to start soon
 - New designs and styles will be available
- On Friday, 9/19 we will have our first "Walk & Talk" event
 - Encourage new parents to attend, kids welcome too



Amy Linquito (Communications Director):

- First newsletter went out on 9/10, next one coming out on 9/24
- We will update the members once the membership drive closes
- If you are not getting emails, please reach out
- All information is also available on the PTO website
- Upcoming event reminders go out throughout the year
- If you want to pick up your saver card, you can pick it up today from Amy

Kristen Denora (Digital Media Director):

- 854 followers on IG
- 104 followers on FB
- 120 followers on X
- If you see posts that you like, share it so more members/followers will join
- Grade-level events are not posted on social for security reasons

Penelope El-Dattali (Student Activities Director):

- 2nd grade carnival is great to chair because the students are transitioning
- Chairing events is a great way to meet other moms and to be in the know
- If you have interest, check it off on the membership application
- We will be selecting chairs in October
- Chairs lead events with another person or two and have the full support of the board

Jessica Dudek (Treasurer):

- Summarized the financial reports for May, June, July and August 2025

Linda Kraszewski (Assistant Treasurer):

- Deposit all money raised
- Manages cash box/tips

Jennifer Mulé (Membership Director):

- Membership drive closes on 10/2
- 42% sign up for staff and 34% sign up for parents (would love to hit 50%)
- Membership is for one year, need to sign up every year

Alana Ventrice (Fundraising Director):

- Excited for new ideas this year
- 2 events for November
 - Turkey Trot/Color Run
 - Partner with Shake Shack donation dinner during week of Thanksgiving

Sereena Gill (Secretary):

- Minutes will be posted on the website shortly after each general meeting

Approval Reports

- Approve May 2025 Treasurer Reports (Danielle Quigley, Lena Nicholson)
- Approve June 2025 Treasurer Reports (Lena Nicholson, Rosalie Mannarino)
- Approve July 2025 Treasurer Reports (Joanne Passalacqua, Rosalie Mannarino)
- Approve August 2025 Treasurer Reports (Tara Edgette, Elisa Spada)
- Approve Minutes from June 2025 General Meeting (Allison DiSimone, Melissa Fischer)



Questions/Comments

Q: Is the Walk & Talk every Friday?

A: We may do another one based on turnout

Closing:

- The next general meeting will be on Dec 10th. The meeting is adjourned.