

PTO Leadership Council Meeting Minutes

September 1, 2026

Attendees: Lee Ann Bonomo, Eric Mack, Angela Cleveland, Yolanda Traylor, Peter McKnight, Jaida Holbrook, Lindsey Luczynski, Terra Gay, Miesha Lanes, Sara Patterson, Tully Fletcher, Nicole Rijo, Nichole Vickers, Anne Huff, John Patterson, Uso Sayers, Christa Johnson, Danielle Edwards, Karen Hatcher, Kristy Mugavero, Rosaline Tio

Nicole Rijo kicked off the meeting at 8:25.

PTO Election Updates – Nicole

The initial focus is on elected positions. Other spots will be appointed by the new co-presidents. Elected positions need to be posted on the newsletter this week. Nominations can be taken on the floor at the meeting. The elected positions are two co-presidents, Secretary, Treasurer, EA VPs (up to 3), JA VPs (up to 3), SA VPs (up to 3). We currently don't have any nominees for SA VP and need volunteers. Nicole encouraged outreach to potential SA VP candidates in particular. All room parents and leadership council members must be paid up on PTO dues.

Nicole will share the list with the leadership council and walked through the list in the meeting. Nicole reminded participants that all content will be hosted on the shared Google drives. Jaida asked about the size of the drives because the bike bus files are relatively high. Tully believes our max space is high but will double check. Could also put files on our YouTube account as private so they aren't completely available to the public.

Many parents also signed up to volunteer but did not sign up for leadership roles. Nicole has divided them up by committee so co-chairs can reach out to those who were interested. That will allow volunteers to get personalized outreach based on their interests.

Will have a Zoom option for the PTO general body meeting on September 9. The meeting will take place after the ribbon cutting for the bricks at the EA entry.

Proposed Budget

Tully walked through the proposed budget for the PTO. Revenue projections include 3 levels of expenses. Parents night out last year was \$10/person. Planning a change for this year to require \$15 to get in but include a suggested donation above \$15 for those who can give. Drew CARES' contribution has not yet been determined.

Health, Wellness, and Safety has a request for swag in the budget. They would sell merch but would need a budgetary commitment up front. Drew Dads, PTO stickers/magnets/swag, etc. would all be part of merch sales.

Kirkwood Wine Stroll plans to give us \$\$ each year. The dollar amount is TBD based on their income. Kirkwood intended to give us the grant last year. The babysitting course plan is TBD, including a question about whether CPR will be included. A suggestion was made to ensure CPR is included because that's a necessary part of babysitting training.

In communications, the assumption last year was that Drew CARES would fund the PTA and that the PTA wouldn't engage in major fundraising on its own to consolidate fundraising to one place. Drew CARES is the majority but not the full budget (about 75% of the total PTO budget). Dues and other expenses fill in the holes in our PTO budget (e.g., merch, dine outs, pumpkin patch). If anyone asks about PTO dues, that is the reason we have dues for the PTO.

An idea was shared to provide concessions at games outside of the building since there are not currently any options for concessions at outdoor games. This is something that Drew could explore. Mr. McKnight will reach out to the Athletic Director.

The last 2 years of the PTA started with \$10K in the bank and planned to end the year with \$0. Moving forward with the PTO, we started this year with about \$3K and want to hold that or grow it a bit to give future wiggle room. Want to maintain at least \$2K at any given time to avoid any possibility of bank fees.

Expenses include budgets from all academy VPs and most requests are similar to last year but at a higher dollar amount. The EA VPs included a few new things. The JA snack packs request was higher than the EA despite having fewer students. Tully will adjust JA snack packs to \$1K. Most other requests are standard and aligned with last year's requests.

Field day had some major issues with food access across the course of the day. Need more funds, especially for the afternoon. Field day is normally a school-led event and follow up will be needed to coordinate between the school and the PTO/families. Clarification will also be helpful about what is allowed to be donated from families and what Drew CARES supports (and doesn't) so it's clear why all costs for all things can't be covered. Room parents has a subcommittee for field day and will coordinate with school leadership. The college trip included a one-pager on what was and was not covered by Drew CARES, and this could be helpful for field day. There was an option on Sign Up Genius to provide funds toward the purchase of items.

The storage unit is expensive and may need to move. Storage options have been discussed both on existing space and with a new storage facility. Storage needs to have 24 hour access.

The final budget will depend on Drew CARES' contribution, etc. Thanks to all committee chairs/leaders for submitting their budgets. The new form is really helpful. Tully will make

final tweaks and finalize one budget to present to the general body meeting on September 9. The PTO leadership voted to approve this plan.

School Updates

Head of School – Peter McKnight

Board of directors – A new board member was added to the board last week. She is from Purpose Built Communities. Advanced placement and college and career readiness presentations. We have the highest AP participation rate in the district, and also the highest for Black students and economically disadvantaged students. Also have increased performance on exams. Many college and career readiness highlights. Year-end financials and charter renewal petition plans were also approved. Charter renewal is due next week. A summary of the board meeting will be sent out school-wide.

Other updates – Embargo was lifted on Milestone results except for ELA. Results were excellent. Overall student proficiency increased by 5 percentage points, which is unheard of. Overall student proficiency has increased by 10 percentage points over the past several years, and we are now higher than we were pre-pandemic. Also saw increases for students with disabilities.

Culture and Equity – Terra Gay

Upcoming events – Out of Hand Theater weeklong commemoration of 1906 massacre on September 20 in the afternoon at Yates. This is a partnership with the SA equity committee students. Will finish before sundown to respect Yom Kippur.

International night is October 2 – students are working on promotional materials, which will be sent out soon. Plug will be made at the PTO general body meeting. Rosaline Tio is helping to coordinate and will work with PTO leadership to promote.

Volunteer process will be changed this year to make it easier – many thanks to Rosaline. Will be communicated next week school-wide. Level 2 volunteers won't need to do pre-application. Will be able to offer 2 options for fingerprinting now, both onsite and offsite. If someone fails to show up at the appointment, they will have to pay because it won't be recouped. A new training will be required (8 slides on safety with clear guidelines around safety of students and what volunteers can/can't do related to student engagement. The school discourages parents from driving other kids to events as official volunteers. Staff members and official volunteers can do it as private citizens but not in their official capacity.

Rosaline went over the volunteer request process for level 2 volunteers. Staff members can request volunteers through an event. The link to sign up will drive volunteers to complete

the safety orientation. The registration process will send a master list to the front desk staff to know who plans to volunteer. PTO can use this process moving forward and will use Terra's or Angela's name when identifying the teacher. Terra or Angela will help to complete the form when a PTO event is planned.

Parent Advisory Committee – Angela Cleveland

September 23 will be the first new to Drew parent event for EA parents. This will be pushed out later this week.

Drew CARES – Lindsey Luczynski and Anne Huff

When Drew CARES succeeds, Drew PTO succeeds, and the students succeed. Goal is \$750K this year, and came to \$609K last year. That was amazing for the first year. Have already raised \$30K to date.

The bricks are in and were installed over the weekend. The ribbon cutting will be directly prior to the PTO event next Wednesday night. An email went to all donors to attend.

Looking to do more business partnerships this year. Hope to host a business partner breakfast at the school. Will have a sponsorship packet for this event.

Will be doing Boosterthon homecoming events again this year with a goal of \$100K for the week. Will be engaging room parents to register students so they can send to their networks. Senior academy homecoming has grade level competitions. All principals have signed up to be slimed or pied if the goal is met.

Drew CARES is in search of testimonials with name, picture, story to help with donations. This will be included in the general body meeting presentation.

Will be doing a December holiday-associated event to do donor/member appreciation event. Will do a reception and will have Drew CARES and the PTO take on the cost jointly.

New Business

Student Lunch Accounts Overdue Balances – Terra and Peter

The school is experiencing large unpaid balances and is looking for ideas to recuperate these funds. Drew CARES can't cover these balances. Drew is looking for help and ideas from parents and PTO leaders about how to address this and communicate with parents. Ideas have been explored, starting with more intentional outreach and moving toward a soft collections process. Partial payment would be accepted. The school will also continue to work with parents to ensure their free and reduced lunch forms are completed annually. A first important step is to notify parents when they are running a balance because system

issues are prohibiting parents from knowing if they have a balance. Parents may not know they are not auto-enrolled in free and reduced lunch annually. Is there a system change that automatically notifies parents when they have a balance so it's easier to find when there is a balance? Wingspan can also include an announcement about how to check balances in the meal system. Drew leadership will work with the PTO on a communication.

Committee updates will be planned for the next meeting, which will be chaired by the new co-presidents. Committee leaders should be prepared to provide updates at that meeting. Encouraged people to join the general body meeting/election next week.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:57.

Upcoming Events:

9/4 Kindergarten Walk

9/4 JA Principal's Chat

9/9 Ribbon Cutting for Commemorative Bricks (6pm, EA)

9/9 PTO General Body Meeting and Election (6pm, EA Media Center)

10/3 PTO Screen on the Green (Yates Campus)

2026-2027 Leadership Council Meetings

10/6, 11/10, 12/8, 1/12, 2/9, 3/9, 4/13, 5/4 at 8:15am in the Eva Davis Board room or Zoom calendar invites will be sent from Secretary's mailbox)