

PTO General Body Meeting Minutes

September 9, 2026

In person attendees: Uso Sayers, Nicole Rijo, Tully Fletcher, David Dowty, Anne Huff, Whitney Marshall, Yolanda Traylor, Eric Mack, Eva Leidman, Terra Gay, Angela Cleveland, Kristy Mugavero, Rosaline Tio, Lindsey Luczynski, Peter McKnight, Sara Patterson, Uso Sayers, Stephen Moore, Sammy Merck, Rahn Mayo, Monica Clay, Lee Ann Bonomo, Allison Gosnell, Terriea Williams, Bryan Thomas, Laura Vonnahme, Alicia Warner, Natalie Lee

Virtual attendees were not logged but more than 25 people participated virtually.

Drew CARES – Lindsey Luczynski and Anne Huff

Drew CARES Drew CARES raised almost \$610K in year one, almost 10 times more than raised in any previous year. Thanks to families for all of the support. Slide shows breakdown of where money came from and how it gets used. If every family gave \$35, would reach goal, but we anticipate that all families can't support. Raising money in other ways, such as bricks, sponsorships, etc.

Boosterthon Fun Run for PreK-8th grade leading up to Homecoming, November 10-17. Goal is \$100K. 60% of those donations come from non-parents. Will have lots of promotional volunteer opportunities. Will do a similar fundraiser for the SA by grade level. The grade level that gets the most donations wins and gets to pie or slime an administrator.

Eagle Giving celebration planned for December.

Third annual minigolf fundraiser March 12-13 in the EA. Work to get business sponsors to sponsor a hole (total of 9 holes).

Will do some sort of adult engagement activity/celebration in the spring.

The bricks will be an ongoing fundraiser. Will likely place a couple of orders each year. The layout will look like eagle wings as it grows over time.

Drew CARES web page has various ways to give, including a recurring donation. Will be leaning on parent owned and local businesses to help sponsor.

Drew CARES also supports the PTO.

PTO Election – Nicole Rijo

Nicole laid out the PTO nomination and election process and then listed the current slate of nominees. The co-presidents will always overlap (1 year and 2 year term to start, with staggered elections in future years) so there is one person with more experience. Currently

no nominees for the SA VPs. Quorum is 10 people and we have met/exceeded the quorum. Every seat is currently uncontested. All nominated candidates were elected with approximately 25-26 people voting, and all votes were unanimous. The elected positions are:

Co-Presidents: Uso Sayers (one-year term) and Lee Ann Bonomo (two-year term)

EA VPs: David Dowty, Eric Mack, and Stephen Moore

JA VPs: Luciana Gresham and Natalie Lee

SA VPs: No SA VP candidates were nominated or elected. Nominations can still be accepted! This is an important role to fill for our PTO community.

Secretary – Sara Patterson

Treasurer – Tully Fletcher

Congratulations to all of those who were elected!

Lee Ann and Uso took over chairing the meeting with an enthusiastic thank you to Nicole and Arlissa Williams-Jennings for their previous co-presidency. They walked through the nominees for all committee chair/co-chair positions. Goal is for every committee to have at least 2 co-chairs. Tully and David moved to vote on the slate of candidates for the co-chair positions. The motion was approved unanimously.

Budget Update – Tully Fletcher

Tully walked through the PTO budget. Drew CARES supports approximately 80% of the PTO's budget. The rest of the revenue comes from memberships and other fundraising events (such as the pumpkin sales, swag, etc.). We now keep 100% of our membership fees as a PTO.

We anticipate \$55K in revenue this year. Expenses include activities of each committee and the academy VPs. The SA VPs support things like Homecoming and Prom. Grade level contributions give the teachers in each grade the ability to work with the academy VPs to do grade-specific activities. The decision on expending those funds is made in partnership between the teachers and the academy VPs.

For committees, community engagement includes things like screen on the green and parents' night out. Family/staff partnership largely supports teacher appreciation. Community support includes babysitting courses (certification for babysitters that includes CPR, etc.), which brings in some revenue but is overall subsidized by the PTO. It is much

less expensive and also more convenient for families to do this certification at Drew. The pumpkin patch will likely bring in new money and is truly a fundraiser.

Health, wellness, and safety includes the bike bus. Membership includes dues for people to join the PTO. Grants is \$7000 for teachers to apply to receive funding for classroom and other school events. Supplies, storage unit, etc. are also expenses.

We try to have a balanced budget and will end the year with \$6 in profit if everything goes as planned. We are a new organization and don't have a lot of cash reserves so we want to have a balanced. A question was asked about utilizing storage on campus, but there is currently not space on campus and we need 24/7 access. We are looking into options to control costs for storage.

Many thanks to Tully for his leadership and organization of the budget. A motion was made to approve the budget (Yolanda) and seconded by (Natalie). The motion carried by unanimous vote.

Uso described the various activities the PTO supports (see slide). One of our strengths at Drew is the community, and many of our activities are designed to build that relationship. The bike bus is now every Friday and is one of the largest school bike buses in Atlanta. Screen on the Green is our movie on the green at one of the campuses (likely the JA/SA campus). Milestone snack packs are provided for 3rd graders through 12th graders when they are going through testing. Talked through the Kindergarten Walk, the Senior Walk, and other events like dances. Spirit nights/dine outs are usually at restaurants in the area that have a portion of proceeds go to Drew's PTO. The graduating class mural on 2nd Ave is now supported by the PTO after a student was supporting this with his own money initially.

School Updates

Head of School – Peter McKnight

Wingspan is our new newsletter and we have a new website. Two weeks ago was our annual board meeting. We have a new chair, vice-chair, and treasurer; the secretary remained the same. Added a new board member who works with Purpose Built Communities. The board renewed memberships of 2 existing members.

At the board meeting, had a presentation on the AP program. We have the highest AP participation in APS. Almost 70% of students take an AP course. We have the highest participation for Black and economically disadvantaged students. The performance of those AP students is increasing as well. Also had a presentation on college and career readiness and the support SA students receive. The class of 2026 was our 10th graduating class. The class of 2026 is projected to have a 100% graduation rate (have had a 98%

graduation rate every year except the first year), \$23M in scholarships, 6 in a scholar program, and 100% college acceptance rate. First time that the majority of the class were Drew babies (64 out of around 115 students). Demonstrates the work of the students, families, and staff at Drew. College graduation rate for Drew is an important long-term indicator, and Drew has the highest college graduation rate by 13 percentage points among APS schools. College and career readiness staff work hard to get students matched with colleges that will be right for them.

Milestones results from last year were excellent. Our highest achievement was right before the pandemic, and then we saw a significant drop. This year, we are 5 percentage points higher than we have ever seen before. The only results that haven't been released yet are language arts (they come out later). Students with disabilities had some great gains. Last year was one of the best years we have ever had. Excited for the year ahead.

A question was asked about whether there is a list of colleges students have gone to, and the leadership is going to work with the communications office to place on the college and career page.

A question was asked about the budget and what happened to teacher bonuses. On the asynchronous day during the Tour Championship, Mr. McKnight shared with staff that we will not be able to pay teacher bonuses in December. We have a number of holes to fill in our budget, and we have seen a plateau in our revenue. There are also some changes in how funds are coming in that disadvantages charter schools. We also have seen increased costs and increases in compensation. On average, our staff got a 19% increase that year. Personnel costs are nearly 83% of our budget and those costs always grow. Had to close a \$3.1M budget hole last year. This happened in the same year we introduced Drew CARES. Drew CARES neither created the budget hole nor can it solve it. Drew CARES costs can't supplement operating costs. Not related to the changes in the Tour Championship. The budget hole was addressed in various ways, including reducing some staffing, increasing enrollment by around 50 students, and cutting non-personnel expenses. APS is currently closing 16 schools and macro-economic conditions have impacted us and the rest of the education sector. Optimistic that we will still be able to pay a performance bonus this year but need to assess the situation as the year goes on. The current budget hole is approximately \$60M for this fiscal year.

A question was asked about how to support staff and teachers in light of the news about bonuses. Staff engagement is up and we can all continue to support them in as many ways as possible. Recognition within the past week is important. Anything families can do to recognize and support teachers and staff real time is appreciated.

A question was asked about the county reallocating money to disadvantage charter schools and where that money went. Mr. McKnight said it wasn't likely a concerted effort to reallocate funds from charter schools and that anyone with a large budget hole would want to look everywhere to ensure its traditional schools are covered. It is also in line with the statute but less than we have received in the past.

A question was asked about room parents and whether parents who volunteered are confirmed as official room parents. There will be official communication from the room parent co-chairs in the coming week to confirm.

A question was asked about the partnership between teachers, parents, and staff and whether other events/activities can be supported by room parents (such as sports, enrichment, or other activities). Uso will reach out and ask about this. There is a grassroots group called Drew Arts and Resource Team that is actively engaging with teachers. They would be interested in more engagement with the PTO.

Questions were asked about screen time and whether Drew is considering going screen free or going toward handwritten notetaking. Mr. McKnight mentioned that Drew has been looking at ways to reduce screen time but is also a supporter of tech use. Drew has always been a one-to-one school. Working on strategies to both reign in tech use and use it appropriately. Handwriting also came up and how we might address it when students aren't writing as much. Mr. McKnight will follow up.

A question was asked about whether 2 picture days could be offered each year. Mr. McKnight said that Drew administration would follow up on feasibility and interest.

Will start conversations with the Head of School soon.

Drew Culture and Equity – Terra Gay

This is the fourth year of partnering with the Out of Hand Theater to do a recreation of the 1906 massacre. Will have an event that includes a meal. SA equity committee is facilitators of this event. This will also be a recognition of Indigenous People's Month and will include a performance by an Indigenous artist. Families are asked to bring a dessert for potluck and nonalcoholic beverages. Will take place September 20 in the afternoon prior to the Jewish holiday sundown.

New to Drew families have 2 activities coming up. One is during the day on September 25 – doughnuts and coffee. Another is September 30 in the evening for families new to Drew.

Drew has a new process for engaging volunteers. Teachers hosting an event that requires level 2 clearance will create a sign up process. Volunteers will also complete a self-guided orientation, even if cleared to volunteer in the past. This includes the distinction between

volunteer levels, responsibilities in the school, how to report issues, etc. After this, parents can present ID and volunteer in the classroom with level 2 clearance. The level 3 clearance process (chaperones for offsite events) will involve a 7 day minimum process to ensure clearance and fingerprinting can take place in time for the event. Will do an event to show what tools exist. Level 3 fingerprinting can now be done using a voucher to go offsite or at Drew onsite. If a person misses the appointment, they will have to pay because the cost is incurred once an appointment is made. Process will start October 1. Anyone showing up without completing these steps will be turned away and will be unable to volunteer. A question was asked about how the PTO should incorporate this process into their events. Terra Gay and Angela Cleveland will work with the PTO on any events that require volunteers to use this same process. Will train room parents and will likely slate a time for PTO executive committee/officers to be fingerprinted if they need clearance.

Terra and Angela are points of contact for all things culture and equity, parent support, etc.

A question was asked about how to determine if a person has volunteer clearance. Reach to drew volunteer email address to confirm. If you had a level 2, don't worry about status because it's not required to re-registered. Level 3 inquiries can be handled via email.

A number of slides will be shared via our website and newsletter in the interest of time.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:27pm by Lee Ann with thanks to the previous co-presidents, the new and outgoing officers, staff, and all who attended/participated, etc.