



PTA Leadership Meeting Minutes

September 2, 2025

Attendees: Arlissa Williams Jennings, Nicole Rijo, Sherrie Charles, Peter McKnight, Yolanda Traylor, Kristy Mugavero, Tully Fletcher, Lyndsey Luczykowski, Anne Huff, Luciana Gresham, Eric Mack, John Patterson, Lee Ann Bonobo, Lola Deitrick, Danielle Edwards, Denia Wilson, Sara Patterson, Avery Roberson, Nichole Vickers, Alexis Upshaw

Agenda:

Updates from Arlissa and Nicole – social on Sunday was great – decorated t-shirts – have extra iron-ons for anyone who missed

PTA/PTO discussion – led by Arlissa and Nicole

- Paying a lot but not getting a lot of benefit. We are paying more than we make.
- Our PTA does not support just one school (we support three), which is different from several
- Anne Huff provided resources on how to shift to a PTO. Most comes from the Georgia Charter Schools Association website.
 - Georgia PTA is out of alignment with the national PTA. Georgia is not advocating for charter schools, while the national PTA does support charter schools.
 - GCSA has a web page on how to transition over to a PTO. There are some rules around spending under the PTA that we will have to navigate while we restructure. Would essentially have two organizations for 6 months while we navigate the budget spend down.
 - Once the executive team votes, this would go to the general body meeting for a vote.
 - Will need a committee to navigate transition. President, treasurer, etc. will need to be involved, along with other volunteers.
 - The vote to move this to the general body passed executive team vote unanimously.

- Sara P. will use notes from Anne to draft a one-pager for the PTA general body meeting.
- We could consider raising dues to support the new PTO, if needed. Totem is free but Member Hub is not. The amount we're losing to the PTA could cover the shift to a different software. Will need to navigate any change to dues based on costs, such as insurance, etc. Will assess once we know the implications.
- Will likely need new bylaws if we switch to a PTO.
- PTA general body meeting – The next PTA meeting will have a tiny desk concert featuring performers from the EA, JA, and SA.
 - The next PTA meeting is September 16 at 6pm and is hybrid.
- Committee Updates
 - Community engagement (Lola and Sherri) – screen on the Green October 4
 - Family and staff partnerships (Miesha and Denia) - working to confirm September 26 for first teacher appreciation
 - Arlissa and Nicole will book 1:1 with them.
 - Family support (Nataline and Kimberly) – no updates; 1:1 this evening
 - Fundraising (Nichole)
 - Naan Stop September 10 takeout – share information on this dine out on Facebook pages
 - October 23 dine out plan is in process – Poor Hendrix, Genes, and possibly LaFonda
 - Health, Wellness, and Safety (Kristy and Jaida)
 - First bike bus on Friday last week, will be every Friday – starting a walking “bus”
 - Jaida applied for Ruby Bridges walk to school \$1000 grant – if funded, will involve stickers, other information
 - May be involved in helping with Tour Championship safety issues next year
 - Membership (Yolanda)

- 204 active members have registered since July; will add 88 families that registered starting in March until June 30 but did not get moved over by Totem so will do manually
 - Those people have been contacted to let them know they are active.
 - Next membership push will be at the general body meeting.
- PTA Grants – Erika Afeman is leaving Drew. She found a new chair Laura Lee. Nicole and Arlissa will be meeting with her.
- Room Parents (Karen Hatcher) – orientation taking place September 8 and 10
 - Considering a joint equity training for the executive board and the room parents. Chairs will talk with facilitator about this idea and also ensure we think about how we might talk about various events, etc. if we bring both groups together.
- Drew Dads (Avery Roberson) – Deigratia stepped down so Mr. Rob is now the chair. Need another chair to support him.
 - September 25 – asking 25 dads to show up at the EA and JA/SA to welcome kids to school.
 - Need to ensure dads have appropriate clearances to volunteer. Will work with Sherrie on timing.
- EA VPs (John, Eric, David) – kickoff lunch with EA leadership team, discussed calendar, schedule, upcoming events
- JA VPs (Luciana, Lee Ann, Danielle) – working to schedule meeting with school leadership
- SA VPs (Uso and Monica) – no updates
- Treasurer (Tully, Alexis) – have a budget, which has been shared via email
 - Getting Tully on to all accounts has taken some time. Getting previous folks off accounts is difficult, too.
 - Working on bank account review – August bank statement dropped over the weekend. Will be reviewing it along with June and July to double check.

- Budget will be voted on by general body. Nothing major has changed since last meeting except a few reimbursements.
- Getting some reimbursements, including Drew CARES.
- Possible change is to bump up general supplies to \$1000 from \$300 – could use a video camera for board and general body hybrid meetings (like an Owl, which costs around \$400) and also support PTO transition. Funds could come from fundraising and t-shirt sales.
- PTA executive board voted unanimously to update this line and this change will be reflected at the general body meeting.
- Setting up online forms for check requests and reimbursements. Working to set up Zelle. Tully will share form with chairs to start using.
- A motion to make the current treasurer the owner of the bank account was made. The vote pass unanimously. President and co-president are co-signers.
 - Discussion included how to ensure checks and balances. Since everything is electronic, it's easier to keep records in Zelle than using checks. Approvals would all be done by e-mail using the form, which will keep e-documentation.
 - Reimbursements can be done by Zelle or paper checks.
- School Updates
 - Head of School – Peter McKnight
 - Conversations with head of school are open for scheduling, and sign ups have gone out in the newsletters
 - Literacy night coming up September 17 (soccer theme)
 - Culture and Equity – Terra Gay not in attendance. PTA raised funding to support her and sent flowers.
 - Parent Liaison – Sherrie Charles – working to clear families who want to volunteer – if any state is offline, she can't clear any volunteers
 - Partnering with Ms. Jenkins Jones for PBL checkpoints. Family engagement is sponsoring snacks. The first is tomorrow.

- Working on scheduling office hours but no space available to meet at the Villages so checking with the senior center on possible space.
 - Screen on the green planned at the Villages. May engage there (Sherrie will ask)
- Drew CARES – Lyndsey and Anne
 - Working on official launch to parents and staff of Drew CARES. Banners, emails, etc. planned.
 - For specific activities and programs, putting together an information sheet showing what will be included and what it would have cost families to show scope of support.
 - Booster-a-thon will be school-wide fundraiser involving kids the week of November 11-18. Working on a fun run and other events. PTA will help with volunteers for the fun run. Asking Drew Dads to help with color run.
 - Calendar magnets with school breaks will be handed out at general body meeting.
 - Screen on the green October 4 will have sticker sheets or something to hand out for kids. Will speak about Drew CARES at that event.
 - Eagle Giving – transitioning this event because have already budgeted \$100 for 100 families – don't need to raise funding through this event – celebration for Eagle Giving will look different – will still have cards to accompany the gifts but will be more like an end of year celebration
 - Launching a business sponsorship package – will share with the board to help with outreach
 - Athletic-wide meeting included a one-pager about Drew CARES – the one-pager went over very well – working on similar messaging for theater performances, etc. – also well received at kindergarten walk
- New Business/Hot Topics –
 - Parents are very excited about how communication has come along – new director of communications has hit the ground running

- East Lake Neighborhood Community Association grants solicitation is open, focused on community wellbeing, K-12 education and youth development, environment and animal welfare – grants range from \$500-2500 – deadline is September 30 – Tully will share link.
 - Ideas include snack packs, walk and roll – EA VPs will support application. Could also support snacks for SA. Arlissa and Nicole will work with appropriate committees on application.
- Communications is including academy newsletters on PTA website.

UPCOMING EVENTS

9/9 A Day at the JA (5:00pm)
 9/10 NaanStop Pop-Up (pick-up EA - 5:30pm) – please promote widely!
 9/12 International Day
 9/16 PTA General Body Meeting (6:00pm EA) – please promote widely!
 9/17 SA Principal's Coffee (12:00pm)
 9/19 EA Principal's Chat (9:00am)
 9/19 Kirkwood Wine Stroll – will need volunteers at tent (sign up coming)
 9/25 Drew Dads - 25 on the 25th (7:30am EA & Yates)
 9/26 Drew Board of Directors Meeting (9am)
 10/4 Screen on the Green / Pumpkin Patch (5:30pm)

PTA MEETINGS 2025-26

8/12 Exec Team mtg
 9/2 Exec Team mtg
 9/16 General Body mtg (6pm @ EA cafeteria)
 10/7 Exec Team mtg
 11/4 Exec Team mtg (Virtual Only)
 11/19 General Body mtg (6pm - Virtual Only)
 12/2 Exec Team mtg
 1/13 Exec Team mtg
 2/3 Exec Team mtg
 2/25 General Body mtg (6pm @ JA/SA cafeteria)
 3/3 Exec Team mtg
 4/14 Exec Team mtg
 4/28 General Body mtg - Elections (6pm @ Theater)
 5/5 Exec Team mtg