



# Meeting Minutes

Date:

11/6/2024

Time:

2:50 PM – 4:00 PM

Facilitator:

Kelli Binder, PTA President Elect

In Attendance:

Allison Grigel | Allison Windes  
Andy Schrant | Larissa Quirk  
Hillary Joseph | Allie Kaufman  
Sarah Booster | Anna Freeman  
Sarah Sterling | Kristi Reindl  
Rachel Trauner | Katia Dougherty  
Madelaine DeVan | Barbara Beasley  
Christina Heard | Natalie Fehn  
Samantha Walker | Majken Berglund  
Kim Davis | Stephanie (Stevie) Hardi  
Kelli Binder | Tara Santi  
Ashley Palubinski | Kelly Bryant  
Sara Stites | Simon McGowan  
Autumn Oertli | Alicia Marsi Covetere  
Taylor Luedtke | Amy Carmack

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes were discussed from the October meeting and were approved with no questions.

- ★ Hillary Joseph made a motion to approve
- ★ Allison Grigel seconded the motion
- ★ November's meeting minutes will be approved at the December meeting scheduled for 12/05/24

PTA Board

Shannon Thomas – President  
Kelli Binder – President Elect  
Larissa Quirk – Treasurer  
Majken Berglund – Secretary

# Meeting Minutes



## PTA Mission Statement

The Mission of the Prospect Valley PTA is to support our PV families, teachers, and staff and to help nurture a strong community that promotes connection, inclusion, and fun.

## Welcome & Intros

The 2024-2025 board members and attendees introduced themselves.

## Robert's Rules Reminders: Meeting Process Review

Below is a list of relevant key terms, if needed:

Key Term	Description
Motion	<p>A formal proposal to put a topic to vote beginning with two different phrases from two different PTA members.</p> <p>Motions begin with the following phrase: <b>"I move that..."</b></p> <p>Motions progress with the following phrase by a member who agrees with a motion: <b>"I second the motion"</b> or <b>"I second"</b></p>
Discussion	<p>Every member is given a chance to communicate their views on the motion topic one after the other.</p> <p>Discussion Rules:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>I. <b>Listen respectfully</b>, without interrupting</li><li>II. <b>Listen actively</b> and with an ear to understanding others' views</li><li>III. <b>Criticize ideas</b>, not each other</li></ol>
Votes	<p>All votes will be conducted electronically via email after the close of a meeting.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> A <math>\frac{2}{3}</math> majority is required to pass a vote.</p>



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Below is the Robert's Rules process for the PV PTA:

- A member Makes a motion
- Another member who agrees seconds the motion
- The Board calls for discussion and invites open discussions on every topic
- An electronic voting form is sent after the meeting
  - ❖ A 2/3 majority is required to pass a motion

## President's Report – Kelli Binder

- I. Kelli reported out on some October activities and thanked some volunteers who headed the effort(s).
  - ★ The October PTA meeting was held at Esters
    - ❖ **There was a great turnout** – Many thanks to those who attended
  - ★ Bike/Walk to School day got the whole community out and moving
    - ❖ **Emily Daniels & Jessi Streeleman** – Thanks for all you do
  - ★ Fun Run: We met our goal and then some!!!
    - ❖ **Alisa Nicholson, Sara Stites, Jenn Powers, Anna Freeman & Allison Grigel** – Thanks for all of your hard work and to everyone else who volunteered. This event takes the village
  - ★ The Hospitality committee provided a fantastic dinner during parent/teacher conferences
    - ❖ **Kim St. Martin & Marycate Brickey** – Thanks for supporting the staff
  - ★ The Landscape committee received a donation of planters from Lutheran Hospital
    - ❖ **Christina Heard** – The planters out front are awesome; the flowers look beautiful
  - ★ The first Halloween costume drive was a **BIG** success
    - ❖ **Kim Davis** – Thanks for all of the hard work
  - ★ The Halloween dance was beyond spooky and fun
    - ❖ **Samantha Walker** – Thanks for all of your hard work; you always crush it
  - ★ The classroom Halloween parties
    - ❖ **Allison Grigel** – Thanks for helping the room parents
- II. Teacher Spotlight



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- ★ **The TRAILS Affective Needs (AN) program** – Strengthens academic learning while fostering qualities such as empathy, self-awareness and respect. There are 2 stand-alone classrooms in the basement that offer a safe space to kids who need additional strategies to maintain the demands of school – Primary (K-2) run by **Sarah Sterling** and Secondary (3-5) run by **Allie Kaufmann**. **Sarah Booster** is the TRAILS social worker, and a huge asset to the team. There are also a host of paras (**Andy plug: we are hiring 2 more if anyone knows anyone who is interested**)
  - ❖ All TRAILS kids have an IEP and a behavioral plan, but only a small subset have a developmental delay. Some diagnostic kids face who qualify for the program are ASD and ADHD. Intervention is most successful the earlier it is introduced
    - Kids are often identified to need to be in TRAILS via observation in gen ed
  - ❖ TRAILS uses a mountain model – most restrictive environment to least:
    - **Trailhead** is the most restrictive and occurs when students have made unsafe/inappropriate choices and need a reset
    - **Camp 1** is the beginning of independence
    - **Summit** is when they are the most independent
  - ❖ Secondary has 10 students
  - ❖ Both Primary and Secondary has a great student community
  - ❖ Gen ed students are not being talked to about their TRAILS peers officially. We would like to normalize that more
    - You are our best advocates – encourage kids to understand that even though they want to help, adults are who needs to step in. Let your kids know that they should tell an adult if a kid in TRAILS behaves badly. These kids mostly have bad social skills, and they all want friends
  - ❖ There is a lot of modeling with the TRAILS kids – learning by example
    - TRAILS uses a lot of restorative practices on both sides to close loops when kids have social/behavioral conflict

## Treasurer's Report – Budget Update

- I. Expenses line item update: Enrichment scholarships is a negative number at present (we got the \$500 award from Farmer's which we can allocate for additional support)



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- II. The PV Fun Run expenses were over budget, but aligned with what we anticipated (13-14%) at the end of October so at present we have a little over \$120K:
  - ❖ The remaining parts of the approved budget are around \$79K
  - ❖ We carry over \$15K each year
  - ❖ We have \$26K remaining
    - ⦿ The Fun Run came in above budget at \$85K thus far. We will have final numbers at the end of November, once the company matched checks come in

**Note:** Parent ?: What is the process if someone wants something approved or has an idea?

- ★ Hillary explained that there is an expense approval form in the office/on the PTA website that anyone can complete and submit to the board 2 weeks or a before an upcoming PTA meeting so the board can discuss. If the board chooses to move the ask forward, they add it to the PTA meeting and then the vote goes out online

## Principal's Report

- I. Andy explained that executive level school leadership make decisions about canceled school days – Snow days were not called until late night/early am when I was a kid/young principal, but it is not up to us
  - ⦿ Indoor Recess criteria:
    - ❖ 25 degrees or colder in the shade
    - ❖ Active precipitation
    - ❖ Bad wind that causes debris to fly around

**Note:** Parent ?: What does indoor recess look like?

- ★ Andy explained that it depends. Sometimes it's a calisthenic routine or games (math games involving dice); physical exercise guided by music or tech; we try to avoid screen time if we can avoid it

**Note:** Parent ?: And the kids can't play in the gym...?

- ★ Andy explained that it isn't possible because only Kinder has a recess time when a class is being held in the gym
- II. Security and Safety presentations: The board discussed online safety/phone security. Andy is seeking parents feedback- any ideas as to what you all want? (email the PTA or Andy)



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**Note:** Parent ?: Where is the right place to talk about pedestrian safety? Barricades so walking is safer during pick up/drop off?

- ✦ Andy: The best way is to contact the city council and/or county leadership – a lot of it comes down to budget. 32<sup>nd</sup> and Qual as an example – where the 2 ends are offset... this was an issue when we were in the old bldg. 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, the side closer to our school, is controlled by Lakewood so there are 2 different jurisdictions. It takes time, traffic studies – you could reach out to Michelle Applegate
- ✦ Kelli: There are a lot of concerns around the 32<sup>nd</sup> crosswalk. I have some names of folks you could call. There was a traffic study when we got into the new building, and they decided that there were not enough button pushes to warrant more enhancements
- ✦ Sarah Stites: My husband is on city council so folks could maybe email him at: [kstites@ci.wheatridge.co.us](mailto:kstites@ci.wheatridge.co.us) and he can help perhaps...?

## Committee reports

- I. **Carnival** – Becca Higgins: N/A
- II. **Accountability** – Laura Mattox & Kristin Hume: N/A
- III. **Connection Team (DEI)/Membership** – Madelaine DeVan: Our membership is lower than years past – all the people in the PTA are the best recruiters. Please let people know to join
- IV. **Directory** – Katia Dougherty: Their out and were sent home in Monday folders.
- V. **Fun Run** – Allison and Sarah: This is the sixth year of the fun run, and it went well! The biggest thing now is that we have finished up with most prizes, but if anyone is missing prizes let us know. If you did not hear about the Orbeez event (non-toxic water beads), it was an absolute blast to watch the kids. We determined that we had 457 donations (405 donated at least \$25, which was the qualifier for the Orbeez event) – that prize helped boost that bottom number
  - ✦ Allison: Fun facts – McConnell's class participated entirely
    - ❖ Daugherty & Dicroce's classes had all but 1 kid participateThe donation website was hard we know; the vendor said it should be fixed by next year. Reach out if anyone needs to know who donated.

If you are interested in helping next year, [we would love help](#). We had 9 folks last year and only 5 this year. The givebacks and whatnot have been streamlined, which helps.

Reach out with any questions/comments to: [prospectvalleypta@gmail.com](mailto:prospectvalleypta@gmail.com)



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The trophy will be announced next week! We had a lot of company matching donations, so we have some additional funds that will be coming in – in the next few months

- VI. **Special Persons Day** – Allison Windes: On 11/22, we have a quick event (8:30-10 for all grades) and then it is done. Kiddos get to invite special people to come meet their teachers and see their classrooms. The timeline is 30 minutes per grade. (Special) people come in through the office, with a table set out by the cafeteria with the grades and teachers classroom info. There is a light breakfast. The sign holders count how many people came to that classroom, so we measure participation. It is very volunteer intensive day of – thanks to everyone who has volunteered already!
  
- VII. **Room Chair** – Allison Grigel: N/A
  
- VIII. **Teacher/Staff Liaison** – Allison Grigel: N/A
  
- IX. **Community & Family Engagement** – Theresa Woodhull & Lisa Denton: Last year Lisa was funded to go to a Family Liaison conference. It was awesome.
  - 👉 Lisa: I have some great ideas. Simon went with me and attended a male/father involvement session
  
- X. **Social** – Kim Davis: N/A
  
- XI. **Load the Lounge** – Moniquea Reef: N/A
  
- XII. **Movie Night** – Samantha Walker: N/A
  
- XIII. **Landscape** – Christina: We got the planters from Lutheran Hospital gifted and moved here. We met today (11/6) and want to start a garden club – an after school care opportunity where kids can get in the dirt (K-5). 20 kids or so that “pay what you can” maybe?

We are going to upgrade the outdoor classrooms that are not utilized. There are 2, we just need to make it easy to utilize them. Long term planning is to develop an area of the lot – could be a future garden, a nature area, etc. Hoping to fund through grant writing.
  
- XIV. **Bike/Walk to School** – Emily Daniels & Jessi Streelman: The event is Wednesday, 10/9. This seeks to encourage kids to promote health activities by walking and biking. There will be some sort of participation treat, and we are also working on prizes by grade. If you know of businesses who would like to donate a prize, let



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Emily know. Also, we will need volunteers to help with the day of event, some volunteers in the morning or the afternoon. Please email [prospectvalleypta@gmail.com](mailto:prospectvalleypta@gmail.com) if interested in helping. Also look for something in the flash.

- XV. **Yearbook** – N/A
- XVI. **Advocacy** – Ashley Palubinski: The PTA does advocacy work at the state and national level. If anyone is interested, CO PTA is hosting an advocacy open house on a Saturday – see the PTA website for details. There will be PTA folks, and legislators. There may be lawmakers. All PV PTA members are invited.
- XVII. **Volunteer** – N/A
- XVIII. **Science Fair** – N/A
- XIX. **Dance** – Samantha Walker: The dance went well! We served 400 meals, which is the best turn out yet.
- XX. **Nominating** – N/A
- XXI. **Corporate Sponsorship** – Hillary Joseph: there will be a presentation about 529 college savings plans @5pm next Tuesday, 11/12, in the library and then the connections team meeting is directly following.
- XXII. **PV Showcase** – N/A
- XXIII. **After School Enrichment** – N/A

## ANNOUNCEMENTS – New Business

- I. Kelli: There are two new funds request. The first is that Andrew McConnel is requesting \$2790 for 2 Tower Gardens to grow plants using aquaponics.
  - ⊕ Andrew: There are wheels on the bottom. I can push them all over the school. The entire school will benefit from them – they will be available to any homeroom teacher for their students to learn about:
    - ❖ Healthy lifestyles
    - ❖ Plant growth

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- ❖ Cooking
- ❖ Nutrition
- ❖ Food from gardens vs factories
- ❖ Aquaponics – this is a great topic for city kids

- ★ This project adds value by measuring the kids having hands on experience growing their own food. Students who use them will see the joys of gardening. Success can be measured by student engagement
- ★ I want to show that beautiful gardens can grow in classrooms across all classrooms – this provides interactive learning opportunities
- ★ For Back to school night the towers can be in the hallway to show prospective parents that PV cares about healthy eating, and it adds a great esthetic, etc.
- ★ There are 4 homeroom classrooms so I could share one with another teacher and the other 2 can share one

**Note:** Parent ?: What type of plants can be grown on it?

- ★ McConnell: anything really – tomatoes, kale, spinach, micro greens,

**Note:** Parent ?: Are they self-watering?

- ★ McConnell: Yes, and they are soil free – the watering process makes a nice sound, but that feature can be turned off. Google “Tower Garden” for more information

**Note:** Parent ?: Kindergarten will determine what is in it?

- ★ McConnel: No, any project in any grade can utilize them. Right now, if a teacher wants to teach plant growth there is no way to do that without a garden. We can put seeds in a baggie and then they get moldy and gross...

**Note:** Parent ?: The lifecycle of a plant goes fast, right?

- ★ McConell: Yes, 6 weeks max, so it can be leveraged quickly by other grades/classes

**Note:** Parent ?: What happens in the summer? Any ongoing maintenance?

- ★ McConnell: We clean it and store it, which is easy to do – You take the base, tip it over outside in the grass or in the sink in a classroom, let it dry and then store it. The only ongoing expenses are fertilizer for the water would need to be purchased every 1-2 years and the reusable pods will eventually need to be replaced



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**Note:** Parent comment: This is an easy way to teach kids how to garden year round. It has lights, right?

- ★ McConnell: Yes. In the 2 years I had them at my last school the bulbs did not go out – the bulbs are sold on the company website however if need be

II. Kelli: The second funds request is that the PTA board is requesting \$3000 to fully fund the Carnival. There is \$4,000 set aside for the carnival in the current budget. To fully fund this event, the board is requesting \$3,000 in additional funds. A fully funded carnival will allow all PV students to participate at no cost.

**Note:** Parent ?: We are bringing in a vendor that costs \$7K, could we do it cheaper? The costs are climbing YoY.

- ★ Andy: Becca Higgins would be the person to talk to about the vendor costs. The overall costs climbing are due to enrollment changes YoY

## Dates to remember in November:

- ★ 11/12 – Connections team meeting
- ★ 11/12 – 529 college plan event in the library
- ★ 11/21 – Accountability team meeting
- ★ 11/22 – Special Person's Day
- ★ 11/25-11/29 – Thanksgiving break

## Dates to remember in December/January:

- ★ 12/5 – Kindergarten Interest Night
- ★ 12/23-1/6 – Winter break
- ★ 1/6 – Teacher Work Day; No school
- ★ 1/20 – MLK Day; No school
- ★ 1/28 – Skate City

## Next meeting

5 December 2024 | 5:30-6:30 at ... TBD