

Maplebrook Home & School

General Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, September 17, 2024, 7:00 PM C.T. Via Zoom.

Present

1. Denisse M.
2. Lin Xiong
3. Jeannie Gentile
4. Kourtney Vaccaro
5. Jillian Langer
6. Greg Mulvey
7. Abigail Priest
8. Amy Irvin
9. Principal Ordaz
10. Blythe Munoz
11. Colleen O'Donnell
12. Emily Tonon
13. Erin Morton
14. Jena McKinnon
15. Jess Harnish
16. Jillian Langer
17. Lewis and Rachael Berkover
18. Megan Masar
19. Melissa Gross
20. Nadia Sheehan
21. Nicole Arient

Welcome

The meeting was called to order with a motion by Ms. McKinnon, seconded by Ms. O'Donnell
The meeting began at 7:04 P.M. Central Time.

President's Report (Jillian Langer)

Ms. Langer led the discussion, Jeannie Gentile as the Vice President and Denisse M. as the Secretary, were introduced and were to be voted in. A motion to vote the new board members was proposed by Ms. O'Donnell, seconded by Ms. Masar. Next, Ms. Langer expressed gratitude to Mr. Mulvey for his contributions to the Home and School Executive Board and introduced Ms. M. as a new member. Also noting that Ms. Xiong will continue as the Treasurer. Ms. Langer also thanked Dan Calandriello and Corey Diedrich for their work with the watchdog program and encouraged families to sign-up for available dates. She also thanked Margery Altman for organizing the greeter program and Jamie Calandriello and Stephanie Manfredo for their work on sign-ups and social media, respectively. Ms. Langer announced that the ice cream social raised \$3,215, with a thank you to Sarah Baker and Lindsey Swanson for their efforts. She also encouraged participation in the upcoming Walk to School Day with a parent coffee break afterwards. However, noting that due to lack of participation, the golf outing

was canceled. She followed with a call for more volunteers to help with future events and highlighted vacant positions for field day and fun fest.

Ms. Langer continued her focus on the need for volunteers to fill various positions within the organization. She mentioned that several positions, including the chair of family connections and the 5th grade outdoor ed shirt purchase, were currently vacant. Blythe suggested promoting these opportunities through social media and the WAG and Principal Ordaz agreed to do so. Principal Ordaz also reminded the attendees about the upcoming fall party and the policy of not bringing any food into the classroom due to allergy concerns. The sign-up for both the fall and winter parties would be combined to avoid duplication and ensure families only sign-up for one party.

Ms. Langer then discussed the changes in the sign-up process for parties and events, aiming to make it more equitable and efficient. Ms. Arient suggested a 7 pm sign-up time to ensure fairness, which Ms. Langer agreed to consider. Ms. Tonon proposed having a dedicated photographer for each grade level to focus on capturing photos during events, which Ms. Langer found a good idea. She also mentioned an upcoming yearbook deadline and encouraged everyone to buy it with a 10% discount. Ms. Tonon added that there would be another yearbook discount opportunity in October.

Principal's Report (Principal Ordaz)

Principal Ordaz discussed the school's community building events, such as Walk to School Day and the importance of fostering a sense of belonging among students. Principal Ordaz highlighted the school's improvement in academic and social-emotional learning, with a 7% increase in students feeling they belonged at school. She emphasized the need to continue these efforts, particularly in supporting English language learner (EL) parents and students with disabilities. Principal Ordaz also mentioned the success of the EL parent mentors program and suggested the possibility of expanding it to kindergarten families.

Principal Ordaz discussed the progress and future plans of Maplebrook in the areas of academics, particularly math and reading. She highlighted a significant 18% increase in math achievement and a 16% increase in math performance among economically disadvantaged students. However, she noted the need for improvement in reading, with a focus on vocabulary instruction and comprehension. Principal Ordaz also introduced the "Wildcat Fridge" initiative, a bulletin board where students can share their achievements and contributions outside of school, aiming to connect home and school. Lastly, she mentioned Maplebrook's participation in the national "Hello Week" initiative.

Principal Ordaz discussed the school's focus on fostering a sense of belonging and empathy among students, with activities planned for the week. She also mentioned the 50th celebration, which has been postponed to Spring to allow for more time to involve retirees and the community. Principal Ordaz also asked for donations for the teacher's lounge, which was agreed upon.

Vice-President's Report (Jeannie Gentile)

None

Treasurer's Report (Lin Xiong)

Ms. Xiong then presented the treasurer's report, detailing the school's financial transactions for July and August, including expenses and interest income. The report also included a summary of the school's budget balance for the year.

Committee Updates

Ms. Xiong was praised for her work as treasurer. Ms. Gentile was introduced as the new contact for chair positions, working with Ms. Langer. Chairpersons' responsibilities include signing forms, updating the public before meetings, and actively participating. Volunteers were requested for the upcoming Fall Book Fair. The next home and school meeting was announced for October 17th.

- CoVenture Nights
 - September 25 - Little Pops (Wehrli Rd.) 11am-9pm
 - October 3 - Jojo's Shake Bar (Naperville) 12-8pm
 - October 14 - Chick-Fil-A (Bolingbrook)
- Yearbook
 - We need your photos! Upload your favorite photos from the Ice Cream Social to the dedicated treering album (please note grade levels). Don't have a treering account? See the flyers linked below for instructions on getting started. Save 10% off your yearbook purchase by placing your order by September 20th! Pre-ordered yearbooks can still be customized through March. Contact Emily Tonon (emtonon@gmail.com) with any questions.
- Spiritwear
 - Get ready to show your Maplebrook pride! The Maplebrook spiritwear store is open! Orders can be delivered to school or picked up from Big Frog Tees in Naperville. Contact Emily Tonon (emtonon@gmail.com) with questions.
- Hospitality
 - Grab and go sign up coming soon for PTC's.

Upcoming Events

- ★ October 2nd - Walk to School Day 7:45 AM
- ★ October 2nd - H&S Parent Coffee @ Maplebrook School - After walk 7:45-8:45 AM
- ★ October 3rd - 5th Grade Outdoor Ed Field Trip 8:15 AM - 5:30 PM
- ★ October 9th and 10th - Fall Book Fair - Maplebrook School LC 5PM - 8:30 PM; 8AM - 12PM
- ★ October 17th - H&S Meeting 7:00 PM

- ★ October 18th - Vision and Hearing Screening
- ★ October 22nd - Picture Retake Day
- ★ October 31st - Fall Party

Next Steps

- Ms. Langer to create and distribute a list of open home and school positions via social media and the WAG.
- Ms. Langer to send out communication specifically to kindergarten parents about getting involved in home and school.
- Nicole to coordinate with Jamie to include Book Fair volunteer sign-up information in the next wag.
- Susan Oppenheimer and Courtney Vaccaro to organize classroom parties for fall and winter.
- Chair position holders to complete and return the required Google form for home and school.
- Jenny Dodson to organize grab-and-go snacks for teachers during parent-teacher conferences.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ms. O'Donnell and seconded by Mr. Mulvey. The motion was passed and the meeting ended at 7:56 P.M. Central Time.