

## **Maplebrook Home & School**

### **General Meeting Minutes of Thursday, May 8, 2025, 7:00 PM Central Time - Hybrid**

#### **Present**

##### Attendance Online:

1. Brian Munoz
2. Brian Sheehan
3. Callie Blakeman
4. Colleen O'Donnell
5. Corey Diederich
6. Dan Hanson
7. Elizabeth Evers
8. Erica Skelly
9. Jen Para
10. Jen Dotson
11. Jess Harnish
12. Joe Moore
13. Kate Hall
14. Katie Kiss-Zurad
15. Lin Xiong
16. Mallory McDermott
17. Mark M.
18. Megan Masar
19. Michael Manfredo
20. Robert Prevost
21. Weiyin Lin

##### In-Person

1. Jeannie Gentile (Vice President)
2. Denisse M. (Secretary)
3. Kourtney Vaccaro
4. Stefanie Manfredo
5. Nadia Sheehan
6. Dana Rauter
7. Nicole Arient
8. Indre Pranckevicius
9. Jessica Freed
10. Meghan Horsman
11. Alexandria Luppi
12. Amy O'Shea
13. Yulia Levadnaya (Treasuer)
14. Greg Mulvey

15. Chrissy Mulvey
16. Ellen Hanson
17. Blythe Munoz
18. Ashley Cook (General Home & School President)
19. Milanka Van Osdol (General Home & School Treasurer)
20. Jillian Langer (President)
21. Principal Ordaz

### **Welcome (Jillian Langer)**

The meeting was called to order and began at 7:17 P.M. Central Time.

Ms. Langer opened the meeting by noting the need to follow Robert's Rules of Order ("Robert's Rules") for this specific meeting and commented on other general meeting housekeeping matters.

### **Minute Approvals**

Ms. Langer turned the meeting over to the Secretary for the approval of the April 2025 minutes. Before a motion for approval was made, the following requests were made to be noted in the April minutes:

- Ms. Hanson requested that a concern raised during the April meeting about expenditures attributed to the current President in the March budget be noted. Ms. Hanson stated Ms. Langer had denied commenting about the expenditures in question at the April meeting, and Ms. Langer declined to comment further. Later, Ms. Langer noted that said budget expenditures would be noted in the end of year audit.
- Ms. Gentile requested that her concerns be noted. She stated that her experience from the past school year was that the Executive Board had not followed Robert's Rules of Order, and that these rules had not been shared with the board members by Ms. Langer. Ms. Gentile also stated she had received several threats from Ms. Langer, including legal threats, which she felt were not in alignment with Robert's Rules.
- Ms. Freed requested that it be noted that a request to update the Maplebrook Home & School bylaws was denied by Ms. Langer during the April meeting.

After these edits were noted for the April and May meeting minutes, the April minutes were approved. The motion was initiated by Ms. Hanson and seconded by Ms. Sheehan.

### **President's Report (Jillian Langer)**

Ms. Langer expressed gratitude to the various chairs and volunteers for their hard work in April. She specifically thanked Ms. Sheehan and Ms. Evers for their efforts with the teacher gift card program and the success of the FunFest event.

Ms. Langer also highlighted the successful Dairy Queen Night Out and Nautical Bull Night Out, which each raised \$150 for Home & School. She recognized Ms. Calandriello, Mr. Mulvey, Ms. Evers, and Ms. Dotson for their contributions.

Ms. Langer noted that yearbooks had been delivered, and parents were reminded they could still order a 2024-2025 yearbook. Ms. Langer also specifically acknowledged Mr. Mulvey for his years of service in photography and media throughout the years, and for his significant contribution to the talent show. The Executive Board was also thanked for their dedication throughout the year.

Ms. Langer provided the following updates on from her attendance at the General Home & School meeting:

- NEF News: A student's artwork was featured on a note card, which can be purchased on the NEF website.
- New Board: The new General Home & School Board for the upcoming school year was announced.
- Annual Update: A reminder was shared for parents to complete the annual update for the upcoming school year.
- Annual Audit: The annual audit, which includes all schools, will conclude on June 30, 2025. The final results will be submitted by August 10, 2025, and posted on the local Home & School website.
- District Updates: New District Board of Education members were mentioned: Charles Cush, Amanda McMillen, Holly Blastic, and Marc Willensky. Ms. Langer also noted upcoming changes to the district website and the availability of MAP test scores.

### **Principal's Report (Principal Ordaz)**

Principal Ordaz presented her monthly report, which included:

- Teacher Appreciation Week: A celebration and thank you to everyone for their generous donations.
- End-of-Year Activities: An emphasis on the importance of completing the annual online update, as well as upcoming activities like Field Day and the End-of-Year Prowl celebration.
- 5th Grade Celebration: A highlight of the wonderful activities planned for the 5th graders' transition to Lincoln Junior High.
- Healthy Habits: Final reminders for healthy habits to practice during the Summer of 2025.

### **Vice-President's Report (Jeannie Gentile)**

Ms. Gentile next presented the incoming Executive Board members for the 2025-2026 school year. Ms. Gentile also thanked all Committees and their members for their contributions and directed each to provide their Committee Reports:

- Fun Fest: Ms. Hanson discussed the success of the Fun Fest event, which raised \$11,514 after expenses. Ms. Hanson expressed gratitude to the community for their generous donations and the many volunteers, including the janitorial staff, who helped with the event. She also mentioned that they are looking to improve certain aspects of the event for next year, such as registration and concessions.
- Talent Show: Ms. Gentile thanked Mr. Mulvey for his hard work and dedication related to this year's talent show. Mr. Mulvey shared his personal experience of participating in talent shows throughout the years and how impactful they were for him.
- Chair Report: Ms. Gentile thanked Ms. Munoz for her leadership and organization. Ms. Munoz gave an update on the open roles and thanked all for their participation. Ms. Munoz also proposed the idea of having a committee to help plan and organize classroom parties, as the current system of two people managing both fall and winter parties was challenging. The committee would be responsible for creating sign-up sheets, communicating with parents, and ensuring all activities are completed in each room. The feedback received from a recent survey suggested that having multiple volunteers in each classroom would be beneficial, especially for kindergarten classes. A need for a classroom party chair for next year was also expressed. Lastly, a need for more volunteers for various Spring 2026 roles are needed. A discussion ensued on why certain events were canceled during the school year by the current Home & School Executive Board, with Ms. Langer noting that most events were canceled due to a lack of volunteers. Several members of the school community disagreed with Ms. Langer's statements and made their comments known.
- Field Day: Ms. Xiong noted that the event was going well and confirmed several open points with the board and community. Ms. Langer provided a 5th grade update and noted all things were going well and as planned.

### **Treasurer's Report (Yulia Levadnaya)**

Ms. Levadnaya presented the treasurer's report noting the beginning balance for April as \$28,027.29 and the ending balance as \$27,268.31. The treasurer reports and reconciliation reports were saved in the Home and School Treasurer Report folder. The meeting involved discussions about the budget for the upcoming year. Ms. Levadnaya proposed presenting the budget now and allowing the new board to review it before voting on it. The budget presented included various expenses and fundraising goals. Ms. Levadnaya emphasized the importance of staying within the budget and having a plan for how the raised money will be spent. The meeting also touched on the idea of transitioning to an online accounting system, which could streamline the reporting process.

A further discussion regarding the upcoming year's budget ensued, aiming for a realistic and accurate plan that includes a reserve fund. Several comments were made by the school

community. Amongst them was to consider the possibility of an electronic vote for budget approval and the need to amend bylaws as necessary. A new policy for debit card usage was also discussed, mainly to avoid confusion and potential misuse. These changes aim to improve financial transparency and accountability for the school's funds.

The group also held discussions on the need for a comprehensive report to be created before the end of the year to identify and address any outstanding issues raised by the school community. A request was proposed to create a unified manual for all schools to standardize communication and procedures. Next, the development of a survey for committee chairs and parents to gather feedback on events and communication methods was suggested.

Motions to approve the April 2025 Treasurer's Report and the 2025-2026 Budget were discussed. A motion to approve the April 2025 Treasurer's Report pending a reconciliation at year end and a complete investigation into several open items in the March and April budgets was made by Ms. Arient and seconded by Ms. Pranckevicius.

The motion to approve the 2025-2026 Budget was declined. It was proposed that the 2025-2026 Budget be approved at the upcoming year's August 2025 meeting. All were in agreement.

A motion to approve the 2025-2026 school year chairs was made by Ms. Hanson and seconded by Ms. Vaccaro.

Next, Ms. Langer reviewed upcoming key dates to end the year.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ms. Horsman and seconded by Mr. Mulvey. The motion was passed and the meeting ended at 9:03 P.M. Central Time.