

**Tahoma Elementary School PTO**  
**March 2026 General Meeting Minutes**  
Wednesday, March 18th, 2026

**Meeting Began:** Meeting called to order at 7:00pm by Liz Karkoski-Gardner

**Attendance:**

In-person: Karin Morea

On Zoom: Jerry Gaston, Teresa Eccles, Dave Gardner, Liz Karkoski-Gardner, Karin Morea, Alicia Small, Corie Jeske, Ashley Barrett, Cathy McDonald, Annie Dinsmore, Sarah Shaw, Corie Jeske

Motion to approve January meeting minutes by Teresa Eccles, 2nd by Dave Gardner; Approved

**New Business:**

- Any interest in being on the nominating committee (needs to be formed by March - 3 people; voting for next year takes place May - Teresa Eccles, Alicia Small, Corie Jeske
  - All positions on the board are open
    - Dave Gardner interested in President role
- Cashier position also opening for next year (Cathy will explain); takes the money we receive to the bank and comes back with a receipt, involves coming to the school every so often to grab deposits that have come in. Ashley Barrett interested, Cathy McDonald to connect.

**Principal's Report:** given by Jerry Gaston

- Spring is being felt at school, open house was a huge success
- Levy was passed
- Already talking about class placement and staffing for the fall:
  - Julie Rude will not return; Kelly Smith will not return - probably won't be replaced
  - Incoming kindergarten slightly larger than this year but same number of classes
  - Next Tuesday, the school board will give final approval for the new principal; interviews were conducted with 15 families to gain insights for the new principal - what have you appreciated and hope will never change and if you had a magic wand what would you change or consider for the next step. They expressed interest in getting involved but were unsure how to get started, worried about a sense of belonging - what else can we do to reach out and let people know we aren't scary people?

**Teacher Update:** given by Teresa Eccles

- Suggestion on getting to know the PTO - social gathering for a "get to know PTO" and programs that we run.

- Is staff appreciation a strain on the PTO? Could we meet in August/September around how to best show appreciation for staff and teachers.

### **Officer's Reports:**

President: given by Liz Karkoski-Gardner

- Facilities committee update

Treasurer: Given by Cathy McDonald

- Budget will be updated on website
- Change to how staff grant will work is being worked on; school will ask the PTO directly through principal to get funds out quickly and not as restricted by certain rules

Fundraising: given by Karin Morea for Katie Van Patten

- Next Year - Boosterathon fundraiser planned for next year; \$1000 deposit holds the date of October 7th; kick off September 25th. Color Run. Prize Shop instead of PTO handing out prizes.
- Recent:
  - Top Golf: about \$760 profit
- See's Candy
- Upcoming:
  - Mariners - Friday, May 29th; tickets go on sale after Spring Break
  - Red Robin - April 18th
  - Chipotle - May 2nd
  - Crown Donut - May 29th-30th
  - 5th grade yard signs - pick up at Camp Casey pickup

### **Committee Reports**

Yearbook: update given by Karin Morea

- Deadlines - final due date where the book is ready to submit and print is April 23, 2026. Deadline to purchase April 3rd, last Friday before spring break. Flyers going home.
- 392 yearbooks ordered
- Class photos - March 26th
- 5th grade class photo - April 15th

Staff Appreciation: update given by Karin Morea

- Corie Jeske confirmed chair for next year

Popcorn: No update

- Patsy Gonzales confirmed chair for next year

Book Fair: update given by Alicia Small

- Alicia Small & Cathy McDonald confirmed chairs for next year

- Spring book fair BOGO will be offered at Cub Fest, June 12th; trying to spend down our Scholastic dollars

Summer Cub Fest: update given by Liz for Amy Moore & Corrine Shaw

- Amy & Corrine taking lead on Cub Fest; Liz helping hand off
- Friday, June 12th

Roaring Readers: No update

- The sheets will be printed black and white next year
- Greta Huntly confirmed chair for next year

Watch Dogs: No update

- In need of committee chair - it's a streamlined process now
- Liz can connect Corie and Jake Jeske with Brooke and Chris

Movie Night: given by Dave Gardner

- Friday, TBD - 5th grade movie night; had to move for Mariner's Night
- May be in need of a new chair since Dave is interested in the President role

Social Media: No update

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Membership update: update given by Cathy McDonald

- You can still join and get member pricing on yearbooks & Cub Fest tickets.

Spirit Wear: update given by Katie VanPatten

- Trying to reopen the store
- Needs a committee chair & new company
- Will be doing flash sales on FB

Gift a Book: update given by Cathy McDonald

- Steady stream of book donations coming in- Thank you!
- Letters go out when it the students birthday month; there was confusion around thanking parents in Cub News because they didn't know what the program is or how to donate

Art Docent: No update

- Molly Christensen confirmed chair for next year

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, May 20th, 2026

**Meeting adjourned** at 8:03 pm

Minutes compiled by Karin Morea, PTO Secretary