

Tahoma Elementary School PTO
September 2026 General Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 22nd, 2026

Meeting Began: Meeting called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Cathy McDonald.

Attendance

In Person: Fernanda Jacobsen, Nicollette Garfinkel, Cathy McDonald, Alicia Small, Amye Newman, Josh Neumann, Angel Ignacio, Corie Jeske, Tim Harris, Andrea Marrinan, Kelly Pedotto

On Zoom: Teresa Eccles, Julie Tepper, Karin Morea, Molly Christensen, Amy Moore, Lynda Sanchez-Houck, Jasmine Stincer/Eric Seabright, Ashley Barrett, Katie Van Patten, Alena Druhavets

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the May meeting minutes made by Teresa Eccles and seconded by Alicia Small.

New Business

- Board introductions.
- Standing Rules approved. Motion made by Corie Jeske and seconded by Angel Ignacio.
- Upcoming volunteer opportunities were discussed, including Vision & Hearing and additional opportunities through PTO committees.
- The PTO is looking to fill the open Social Media Chair position. Interested volunteers should reach out to Nicollette.

Principal's Report

Given by: Tim Harris

- Tim introduced himself and shared his appreciation for the students and school community.
- Discussed plans to create a 30-minute Student of the Month Assembly to recognize students for their hard work and accomplishments, including Future Ready, Cub Paws of the Month, and Specialist Recognition. The first assembly award ceremony will happen this Friday, September 25th.

Staff Update

Given by: Teresa Eccles

- Thanked volunteers who helped with Picture Day.
- PTO flyers should be distributed on the same day for consistency.
- Art Docent information and expectations will be clarified, including training and materials. Molly Christensen will create a one-page overview describing the program's expectations.
- Staff Appreciation was discussed.

Officer Reports

President

Given by: Cathy McDonald & Nicollette Garfinkel

- Round table meeting updates will be given once those meetings begin.
- A PTO newsletter will begin this month and will include volunteer opportunities and important dates.

- Discussed process documentation to improve tracking and accountability.

Treasurer

Given by: Angel Ignacio

- Budget overview presented and approved. Motion made by Corie Jeske and seconded by Alicia Small.
- Discussed grant funding distributed through the district. The PTO will review requests on a case-by-case basis to determine whether requests can be funded partially or fully by the PTO.

Fundraising

Given by: Nicollette Garfinkel & Cathy McDonald for Corinne Shaw

- Glow Run is scheduled for January 27, 2027. Donations will open in early January.
- MOD Pizza fundraiser that occurred last Friday, September 18th, raised the total amount of \$365.44.
- Dutch Mill Bulbs fundraiser will start soon, with spring bulbs available to order. Orders will close in early November.
- Boo Grams will feature non-food items. A Boo Gram-making party will be held, and volunteers will be needed.
- Thunderbirds game scheduled for November 14.

Committee Reports

Art Docent

Given by: Molly Christensen

- Looking for two additional Art Docents for Eccles (3rd) and Balmores (2nd) classes.

Book Fair

Given by: Alicia Small

- Tentative dates are November 16-20.
- A SignUpGenius will be created for volunteers. Additional information to come.

Cub Fest

Given by: Cathy McDonald for Corinne Shaw

- Cub Fest/Carnival is being planned for early June, tentatively targeting Friday, June 4.
- Additional committee members are needed to help share ideas and assist with planning.

Dance

Given by: Amy Moore

- Costume Dance scheduled for October 23 from 7:00-9:00 p.m.
- Volunteers are needed to assist with planning, setup, and other event needs.
- Student volunteers needing service hours will be invited to participate.
- Amy Moore will create a Signup Genius.

Membership

Given by: Cathy McDonald

- Current membership is 194, including 29 staff members.
- Membership benefits include one free yearbook and discounts on ticket purchases.
- Mrs. Eccles is working on a staff prize.

Movie Night

Given by: Nicollette Garfinkel for Josh Lange

- Movie Night is scheduled for November 20.
- A SignUpGenius will be shared for volunteers.
- Popcorn may be available at the concession stand for this event.

Popcorn

Given by: Nicollette Garfinkel for Patsy Gonzalez

- The first Popcorn Friday was held last week, and it was a success. More popcorn events will be held throughout the school year and volunteers will be needed.

Roaring Readers

Given by: Nicollette Garfinkel for Greta Huntley

- Program is up and running.
- Asking for book prize suggestions for older students.
- A new committee member has joined, Alayna Gillispie.

Social Media

- No updates.
- Social Media Chair position remains open.

Spirit Wear

Given by: Katie Van Patten

- Sales are steadily coming in and PTO receives a percentage.

Staff Appreciation

Given by: Corie Jeske

- Staff Appreciation was held in August before the start of the school year with a staff breakfast on their first work day of the year.
- The next Staff Appreciation event is scheduled for October 14. A SignUpGenius for food donations will be shared a couple of weeks prior.
- Lost & Found will be available October 6-9. Remaining items will be donated afterward.

Veterans Day Assembly Reception

Given by: Cathy McDonald for Corinne Shaw

- Veterans Day Assembly is scheduled for Wednesday, November 4.

Sign up will come out soon.

Watch D.O.G.S.

Given by: Corie Jeske

- Watch D.O.G.S. event scheduled for October 8.
- Volunteers are needed for this program & can include any adult family member & we are flexible with times you are available.

Yearbook

Given by: Karin Morea

- The committee is currently working on themes.
- 210 yearbooks have been sold to date.

- Cover contest will be held November/December. 5th grade dedications come out around January. Yearbook content will be finalized by April.

Next Meeting

Tuesday, November 17, 2026

Meeting Adjourned: 8:12 p.m.

Minutes compiled by Fernanda Jacobsen, PTO Secretary

