

Winnetka Central PTO Meeting Minutes
September 25, 2026 (9:15m - 10:30am CT)

Attendance: Dr. Kelly Tess (Winnetka SD 36 Superintendent), Dan Waters (School Board President), Alyssa Rapp (School Board Vice President), Kristen Bilton (CPTO President), Jess Newell (CPTO Communications), Blakely Marx (CPTO Secretary), Laura Freechack (CPTO Treasurer), Melissa Miller (Greeley President), Jackie Hairston & Allyson Dietz (Skokie Washburne Co-President), Kristy Alexander (Crow Island President), Caitlin Eck (Hubbard Woods President)

● **Welcome** (Kristen Bilton)

- Introductions
- Approval of June minutes
- Central PTO provides: insurance for all PTOS, Directory Spot, financial oversight
- May meeting needs to be moved due to Winnetka House Tour - It will now be held on Thursday, May 20th

● **District Updates** (Kelly Tess)

- Presentation - IAR testing results show growth from new reading curriculum particularly 1, 2nd and 7th grades
- Family growth in the district is a positive thing for enrollment in Winnetka schools
- Building costs for Skokie remain an important conversation
- Expanding population at Greeley means having to get creative with classrooms and gym space

School Board Updates (Dan Waters)

- District is keeping a close eye on the re-zoning of open spaces as it pertains to the school district

● **CPTO Treasurer Updates** (Laura Freechack)

- Budget - CPTO dues will continue to be collected for the foreseeable future due to attorney costs
- PTO will continue to receive funds from CPTO in original manner
- Brief breakdown of inflow and outflow

● **CPTO Communication Updates** (Jess Newell)

- Directory Spot is up and running
- Some issues with people inputting incorrect information at registration which is then reflected on Directory Spot

● **CPTO President Updates** (Kristen Bilton)

- Updated Marla's contract
- Updated CPTO website with updated Marla's info

● **School Updates:**

- CI: added volunteer position (court yard parent)
- G: restrictions on room parents to make room for other volunteers, particularly working parents
- HW: artist in residence (mosaic), funding new rugs, interim principal working out, lots of complaints about drop off/pick-up

- Sk/W: New vice principal at Washburne, 5th grade get to mix more with this updated schedule, sixth grade social dance, Washburne back to school bash, volunteers needed for social events, 8th grade graduation committee trying to find a date and place,