Minutes
General Membership MEETING
September 28, 2026
In-Person

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm.

In Attendance: Lydia DiCola, President; Dwight Hampton, First VP; Stacy Weiner, Second VP; Sara Sousa, Secretary; Eileen Patterson, Communications and ANGP; Roman Vad, Webmaster; Liz Carroll, Reflections Chair; Betsy DeSouza-Wyatt, Teacher Rep; Annika Sypher, Teacher Rep and Mini Grants; Alejandra Pena-Ulloa, LBSS Family Liaison; Xavier Markels, Student Rep; Lindsey Kearns, Principal; Scott Darwin, Associate Principal

Absent: Nancy Reyes, Third VP; Andrew Lange and Sean Stegmaier, Treasurers; Maltianna Livingston, Fundraising Chair; Ana Amaya, Communications; Alexandra Corbitt, Student Rep; Parker Tran, Student Rep; Temuulen Byambadorj, Student Rep

President's Report: Lydia called the meeting to order. The previous meeting minutes from 06/23 were presented for approval. Annika made a motion to approve the minutes, Elizabeth seconded the motion. The minutes were approved without dissent. Lydia proposed a 2-minute time limit per person for the new business and Q&A portions of the meeting, which was approved without dissent.

Treasurer's Report: Was postponed until the next meeting due to the absence of Treasurer Andrew. Financial updates, the end-of-year audit, and the 2026–2027 budget will be presented at that time.

Membership Update: Roman reported approximately 104 memberships have been recorded since the start of the school year (up through September 25th). Yet the total membership count includes multi-person family memberships, so total individual members exceed 104.

Reflections: Elizabeth reported that the theme for this year is *"What My Culture Means to Me"*. Categories include physical art, dance, music, sculpture, photography, and literature. Information and application details are posted on the PTSA website. Elizabeth will reach out to art teachers in the upcoming days.

ANGP Update: Eileen reported that 350 yard signs were purchased this year, over 240 sold, and 225+ hand-delivered. 105 ANGP tickets sold to date (a record for September); target goal is 400 tickets. $11,852 raised through ticket sales and add-on donations. First vendor deposit (Ultimate Amusements) has been sent. Upcoming events include **10/5:** Class of 2027 Senior Parent Meeting. **10/6:** ANGP Kickoff Meeting at The St. James. **10/16:** ANGP / Class of 2027 table at the "Bite of Braddock" event.

Fundraising Update: Lydia reported that the traditional fall virtual auction has been replaced with a raffle system for remaining prize inventory. A Savers donation drive (pay-per-lb.) is being organized for either Fall or Spring.

Principal's Update & Town Hall: Ms. Kearns introduced administrative roles for the school year. Noted new addition Mr. McCauley (Subschool Principal, Middle School, Alpha A–G). Outlined the shift in Middle School administration from team-based to alphabetical-based (Alpha) supervision:

- A–G: Mr. McCauley
- H–O: Ms. Ward (Subschool 1.5)
- P–Z: Mr. Amas

School & Community Highlights:

- Bruin Bear Restoration: Restoration of the school's bear sculpture is complete. A re-dedication ceremony will take place on October 16th during the Homecoming Parade.
- Middle School "Houses": Middle School has transitioned from "Teams" to 6 "Houses" (Canyon, River, Summit, Timberline, Tundra, Valley) to improve scheduling flexibility and support PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) with the "BEAR Card" reward system.

Logistics & Safety Procedures:

- School Hours: Bell rings at 8:00 AM; building opens at 7:30 AM; dismissal at 2:45 PM. Buses depart 10 minutes after dismissal.
- Early Pick-up: Recommended before 2:00 PM (ideally by 1:45 PM) due to bus traffic. Parents are asked to send a note or call the attendance line in advance.
- Bus Tracking App: FCPS has introduced the "FCPS MyRide" app (replacing/supplementing "Here Comes the Bus").
- Security & Weapons Screening:
  - Walk-through scanners/screeners at entrances.
  - Guidance/lists provided regarding items that trigger false alarms (e.g., binders, umbrellas, metal eyeglass/hair accessories).
  - Clear bag policy, no outside food/drinks, and ID requirements for stadium/event entry.
- Cell Phone Policy: Off and away for all students (MS & HS) from 8:00 AM to 2:45 PM per state/FCPS policy. Confiscated phones can be retrieved by students at the main office at the end of the day (first offense carries a mandatory detention per FCPS policy).
- Laptops / BYOD: FCPS-issued devices are required during school hours (8:00 AM–2:45 PM). Personal devices are not permitted for classwork during these hours.
- Instructional Focus: Emphasizing "Purpose before Platform"—balancing technology use with non-digital learning methods.

New Business: Annika made a motion to send out the PTSA Teacher Grant applications this week. Elizabeth seconded the motion. The motion was approved without dissent. *Note: Teachers must be PTSA members to apply for/receive grants.* Alejandra shared dates and times for a ParentVUE & Tech Workshop, and a Community Resource Fair (noted in Save the Dates). Betsy volunteered to handle the BoxTops program coordination and will send information to the board to post online. Bill McCabe (LBSS Teacher) spoke regarding teacher safety and workload, expressing concerns about non-security staff/teachers being assigned to staff the weapons/security screening stations at school entrances. He shared that 82 staff members signed a petition requesting that dedicated security officers handle these duties instead of teachers, and noted that a formal grievance process has been initiated.

SAVE THE DATES:
10/05: Class of 2027 Parent Meeting
10/06: ParentVUE & Tech Workshop, 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM in the Library
10/15: Community Resource Fair, 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM in the Cafeteria
11/16: PTSA General Membership Meeting, 7:00 PM in room L-167

Meeting Adjourned at 8:05 pm
Submitted by:
Sara Sousa, Recording Secretary