

Robbins Lane PTA: Minutes January 6, 2025

INCOMING OFFICERS and OFFICERS REMAINING IN SAME OR DIFFERENT POSITION:

Co-Presidents: Carla Mondelli and Dayna Palumbo

Vice Presidents: Melissa Henricks, Janine Odell, Len Pusposuharto, Lori Bothos

Treasurer: Jasmeet Baweja

Recording Secretary: Nelli Rahman

Corresponding Secretary: Nina Grieco

Council Delegates: Joanna Avram, Danielle Krongel, Allyson Shepard Zubli, Jennifer Kombogiannis, Mariam Khwaja, Sabrina Chen, Christina Nawabi Nadi, Svetlana Iosilevich

Meeting called to order at 10:04 am _____

Introduction:

Thank you so much for being here. Carla was unable to attend the meeting this morning due to a scheduling conflict. We hope you had a wonderful break filled with family time and some relaxation.

Before the break, the PTA had a lot of fun helping kick off the holiday season for the kids. We treated them to cookies on Polar Express Day because no train ride is complete without snacks. We brought the magic of the Polar Express to life by creating a train display in the front hallway for the kids to enjoy. We would like to thank Melissa and Jennifer Kombogiannis, who helped us bring our Polar Express vision to life! Also a special shout-out to Mrs. Ocuto, our school nurse who has tirelessly been working and accommodating all the children with allergies in both birthday bags and polar express day!

We also rang in the New Year with our annual countdown, streamers and a balloon drop. And when we say balloon drop, we mean 500 balloons. Thank you, Julie Brottman and Joanna Avram for your time and effort you put into making the countdown so special.

As a holiday gift, the PTA will be catering lunch for the staff to show our appreciation for their hard work and dedication.

We have some great events coming up over the next few months, and we hope you'll be able to join us.

Be sure to keep an eye out for Bingo Night in January, where we promise fun, prizes, and very competitive bingo players. Our Special Person Dance in February, which is always a favorite. We also have PARP kicking off at the beginning of March and Multicultural night at the end!

We're really looking forward to these events and hope to see you there. Thank you, as always, for your continued support of the PTA we couldn't do any of this without you!

TREASURER'S REPORT: Jasmeet to read

As of January 5th, 2026

Ending checking balance: \$ 64,954.09

Ending saving balance: \$1

Total Cash on hand: \$ 64955.09

For the month ending December 31st 2025:

Total revenue: \$ 21197.34

Total expenses: \$24722.60

Loss of: \$3525.26

As of December 31st, 2025

Outstanding Checks: \$2131.71

All balances were reconciled to the bank statements. The books were reviewed and found to be in order by Melissa Hendricks, Thank you!

CORRESPONDENCE: Nelli to read

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT: Mr. Meyers

Good morning everyone,

I hope you all had a wonderful vacation. While my trip to the Carolinas was unfortunately canceled, it allowed me to stay home and relax a bit.

I would like to share a few important updates:

Staffing Update

Ms. Alfred has officially retired, and we sincerely thank her for her incredible 26 years of service to RL. Mr. Levine will be serving as our Enrichment and Project B substitute teacher for the remainder of the school year. He previously worked at Willits, and we are excited to have him join us. The students love him, and we are very happy to welcome him to our community.

Mr. Levine will work with grades 3–5 and provide enrichment support. If a child is in Project Beyond, teachers may coordinate with Mr. Levine for other enrichment opportunities.

Birthday Celebrations & Food Guidelines

We want to address concerns regarding food and snacks in our school, particularly during birthday celebrations and school-wide parties (Halloween, holidays, Valentine's Day, and end-of-year events).

While family-provided food items have been a success, they have placed a significant burden on Ms. Ocuto, our school nurse, and classroom staff due to food allergies and safety concerns. Because of this, we are making an adjustment:

- For the remainder of this school year, food **will still be allowed** at the final two holiday parties. This will not change this year, though it may be revisited next year.
- For birthday celebrations, we will be transitioning from food items to **non-food items** (such as small favors) due to extreme food allergies and the extensive work required to ensure student safety.

We absolutely still want to celebrate our students. For grades K–5, each child's birthday will be announced, and they will receive a pencil and sticker from the principal. We must remain

mindful of classrooms with strict food restrictions and prioritize the safety of all students.

Please remember: if you are ever unsure about a policy or situation, come to me directly. Everything we do aligns with district guidance, and teamwork is essential.

Grade-Level Considerations

Some grade levels cannot have food at all due to high-level allergies, while 5th grade does not currently have those restrictions. It is important to me that we continue traditions our 5th graders have enjoyed. I want them to graduate and celebrate the end of the year appropriately, including food items at their parties when possible.

At Polar Express, no cookies were served, but I want to assure the school community that we will continue to work through these concerns thoughtfully. Our PTA has done an excellent job supporting our students, and I do not want to alter long-standing 5th grade traditions unnecessarily.

We are responsible for the safety and well-being of over 500 children. I will continue working closely with Ms. Ocuto to ensure we follow the correct procedures and policies so we can finish the school year strong and safely.

Thank you for your continued support and collaboration.

COMMITTEES:

1st VP - Melissa Henricks

Good morning, happy new year and welcome back from hopefully a restful break. I am excited to announce that BINGO night is set for 5pm on Thursday, January 15th in the gym. We are having one session this year so we hope for a great turn out from all grades. We have some fun prizes for the kids for what will surely be a great time for the whole family. Tickets are \$5 per player for as many games as we can squeeze in and \$10 if you want to upgrade to a Pizza/Bingo/drink package. We are looking forward to a great evening and encourage everyone to grab you tickets in advance!

In SEPTA news, please look out for the flyer for the big resource fair coming up on 1/29. It's a free and an amazing event to learn about a lot of different supports from various vendors.

That's all from me for now, thank you!

2nd VP - Janine Odell

School Store

- Moved to January 12th
- Winter themed with mini games to purchase
- All items \$1-\$4
- Birthday Grams
 - Changes from bin to Gram
 - Arts and Crafts
 - Games
 - Fidget
 - Plush Party

Special Persons Dance

-Saddle up for a Hoedown
-Friday 2/6 from 6:30-8
-Have your student grab their cowboy/cowgirl boots and special person to join in on a night of dancing and games. - 1 special person per student
-\$10 per student includes: DJ, dancing, activities, refreshments, photo opportunities, a door raffle and more!
-Tickets will be available for purchase until 1/30.
-This is not a drop off event.

3RD VP - Len Pusposuharto

Good morning and Happy New Year. I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season spending time with their loved ones. I have a few important dates to share as 2026 has approached. I will be reaching out to my committee chairs so we can start planning for the following events:

- * PARP: March 2-6.
- * Multicultural Night: Friday, March 27
- * Kindergarten Orientation: Tuesday, June 2
- * Field Day: Thursday, June 18 with a rain date Wednesday, June 24

Publicity: Reminder to check out photos on SmugMug. SmugMug is the photo sharing website the RL PTA uses to share photos with Robbins Lane parents taken at PTA sponsored events. If you do not have access to SmugMug, please see me on how to gain access.

Thank you,
Len

4TH VP - Lori Bothos

We have our 5th Grade Dave & Buster's Spirit Night coming up on February 5th from 6:00–8:50 PM, with a group photo scheduled for 7:00 PM. We will have a designated section for Robbins Lane families, and 20% of all food and merchandise purchases will be donated back to the 5th Grade. This event is open to all Robbins Lane families, and we will also be selling additional game cards that evening. We hope to see many of you there!

I want to send a huge thank you to Debbie Zhou, Claire's Mom who offered private Piano Lessons over the break and sent all proceeds to support the 5th Grade.

Recently, our 5th Grade Committee raffled off front-row seats to the HBT Winter Concert, with the winner selected by Mr. Meyers. Thank you all so much for your continued support and for always embracing our creative—and sometimes ambitious—ideas. We also sold snacks and Candy Bouquets at the Winter Concert. A huge thank-you to Nina, Karrie, and Jasmeet for assembling nearly 200 candy bouquets—an incredible effort! We'll be doing this again for the Spring Concert, so if you missed out this time, there will be another chance to join the fun.

You may continue to support the 5th Grade by shopping through the Raise Right App or purchasing e-gift cards, which will appear directly in your “wallet” tab.

If we have any 5th Grade parents here tonight, please remember to submit your yearbook packets, as they are now officially overdue.

A few yearbook reminders:

- Boosters are available for \$5 each

- Scrapbook pages are on sale for \$35
These are designed, purchased, and paid for directly through the yearbook website. A link was sent to all 5th Grade families—please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions.

A heartfelt thank-you to Len and Jeanne for all their hard work and dedication to the yearbook.

Book Fair

Please save the date for our Spring Book Fair on March 19th. More details will be shared as we get closer.

Holiday Boutique

Our Holiday Boutique took place on Thursday, December 11th, and was a wonderful success. Students had the opportunity to shop for parents, grandparents, siblings, teachers, and even their pets! This event continues to be a student favorite—it's festive, fun, and a great way for children to practice budgeting and independent shopping. Thank you to Jeanne, Lindsey, and Maity for chairing this beloved event. A special thank-you to Su Hu for helping with setup, and to all of our volunteers who made the day run so smoothly.

Recreation Nights

Our 5th Grade Recreation Night will be held on January 9th from 6:00–7:30 PM. The signup link has already been shared in the weekly email. Thank you to Brian Grieco for chairing this event.

2nd Grade Recreation Night is scheduled for January 23rd from 6:00–7:30 PM, with the signup link coming in the next weekly email. Thank you to Lindsey Streitman for chairing.

Recreation Nights are a cherished tradition at Robbins Lane. They help build friendships and strengthen our school community—memories made at these events truly last a lifetime. During these evenings, we've also been selling special treats to support the 5th Grade, priced between \$2–\$3. Thank you to everyone who has supported these efforts.

Reflections Program

The winners from our school round have officially moved on to Nassau County judging, and we look forward to sharing the results once they are announced.

Communications Conference

The Syosset Council of PTAs Communications Conference Committee meets with district administrators throughout the year to discuss key issues. Each school's delegates submit questions on behalf of their community. The committee will meet again in the spring, so if you have any questions you'd like us to bring forward, please feel free to share them with me.

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

I would like to make a motion to increase the budget of PTA gift card expense for staff holiday and end of year gift cards by \$1200.

Do I have a second to the motion? All in favor of increasing the PTA gift card expense by \$1200,

raise your hand. Any Against? Abstain? The motion to increase the PTA gift card expenses by \$1200 has been approved.

In Sunday's email, we announced the opening of the nomination process for our Executive Board for the 2026-2027 school year. The email included a nomination form, and you are welcome to nominate yourself or someone you believe would be an excellent candidate.

Melissa, the chair of the nominating committee will now describe the available positions

Nominating Committee to introduce roles: (Melissa reads the following):

*The Co-President plays a key role in making important decisions for the PTA. They help oversee events, create committee chair lists, develop a manageable budget, and address potential challenges. The Co-President also leads all PTA meetings and attends Council Meetings. This esteemed position comes with many benefits, including building meaningful relationships with teachers, administrators, and parents across the Syosset School District. Additionally, it offers the incredible opportunity to play a significant role in bringing valuable programs to the school—an experience that is truly priceless.

* The Treasurer is responsible for managing all financial aspects, including handling checks, banking, audits, and budgeting.

* Vice Presidents serve as a vital support system for their committees, providing ideas, assisting at events, finding solutions, and acting as a liaison between the committee, administration, and PTA policies and regulations.

* Our Corresponding and Recording Secretaries handle much more than reading and writing. They are responsible for managing meeting agendas, minutes, emails, calendars, and the website. These are two separate roles.

The most unknown role is that of the Council Delegate.

* A Council Delegate is a committee member responsible for implementing programs across all schools in the district. While our PTA collaborates with the principal to approve ideas and programs, the Council works directly with the superintendent and district administration. As a Council Delegate, you are required to attend a monthly Council Delegate meeting as well as a meeting for your assigned committee. Examples of committees include the Annual District Election and Budget Vote, Communications Conference, Cultural Unity, Curriculum Enrichment, Parent Resource Group, and many more. If elected, you can request placement on a specific committee, though assignments are not always guaranteed.

These roles are the driving force behind the PTA, ensuring everything runs smoothly. They also serve as the face of the PTA, representing it at various events and always being present when financial transactions occur, such as at boutiques, carnivals, and book fairs. The PTA could not operate as efficiently without their dedication and hard work.

So PLEASE, we encourage you to consider submitting your name for an Officer or Delegate position. Nomination forms and deadlines are available online. If you wish to continue in your current role, please submit your intent to renew for a second term to be considered for re-nomination. Thank you for your willingness to serve in these esteemed positions!

IMPORTANT JANUARY DATES:

1/9 - 5th Grade Rec Night - please try to RSVP

1/12 - School Store (shop during lunch)

1/15 - Bingo (5:00 p.m.) - please purchase tickets, link in PTA newsletter

1/19 - No School, MLK Birthday

2/6 - Special Person's Dance (6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.) - please purchase tickets, link in PTA newsletter

Meeting Adjourned at 10:31 am