



Madison Heights PTO

Executive Board Meeting Notes

May 5th, 2026

Tristan Called the meeting to order at 8:03pm

Executive Board Members in attendance

Tristan Gandolfi-President

Myna Wintz-Vice President

Jesse Backerman- Co-Treasurer

Karen Serrano- Co-Treasurer

Tom Ansel- Secretary

Lindsey Meisen-Nominated Co-President

Meeting Summary

The PTO executive committee meeting focused on reviewing recent activities and planning upcoming events. The group celebrated Roxy's leadership in organizing community support for a Madison 1 student injured in an accident, discussed yearbook distribution plans, and reviewed teacher grant allocations including Fun Run funds. They addressed subscription reimbursement policies for teachers and approved requests from several staff members for various educational subscriptions.

The committee also discussed bylaws regarding co-president terms and decided to propose an amendment to allow waiving term limits. They reviewed the budget status showing approximately \$34,000 in operating funds and \$155,000 in savings, and discussed potential school beautification projects including a mobile sound system and teacher lounge improvements. The conversation ended with plans for end-of-year events including student showcase activities and gifts for departing staff members.

Student Leadership and Achievements Update

The meeting began with technical difficulties and introductions, including a discussion about Lindsey becoming co-president. The group celebrated recent achievements, particularly highlighting Roxy's leadership in organizing community support for a student injured in an accident, including coordinating with Wildlings for gift cards and toys. They also discussed positive feedback about the Mi Corazon event and early success with staff appreciation initiatives. The conversation ended with updates on yearbooks, noting that they had arrived and were being sorted, with a new system implemented to prevent overselling and manage waitlists.

Grant and Subscription Policy Updates

Tristan provided updates on yearbook distribution and Fun Run grants, noting that most teachers had leveraged their Fun Run funds. The team discussed a new subscription policy for CAHOOTS, which requires teachers to purchase subscriptions and request reimbursement annually, with principal approval needed. Jesse suggested adding language to the grant request form about requiring school administration approval for subscriptions, which the team agreed to implement. The meeting also touched on three types of grants available: Kickstarter for classroom setup in Q1, project-based learning grants for hands-on materials, and spot grants for specialized resources.

Kindergarten Funding and Community Meeting

Tristan discussed handling a kindergarten teacher's request for Kickstarter funding, which Myna and Tom approved as it would come from next year's budget. The team planned logistics for the upcoming community meeting in May, deciding to order pizza from Costco instead of using Night Owl, and to go along with chips and guacamole. They reviewed the meeting agenda, which includes welcoming attendees, presenting an impact report, and distributing volunteer certificates, with voting scheduled during the adult portion of the meeting.

Library Funding and Officer Elections

The group discussed using \$400 raised during April's Dress Down Day for books at Trost's library, with funds likely being spent in the next fiscal year due to district approval requirements. They addressed upcoming officer elections, with Tom set to lead voting next month.

The Board appointed Tom Ansel as the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee presents the following slate of officers:

Co-President: Tristan Gandolfi

Co-President: Lindsey Miesen

Vice-President: Myna Wintz

Secretary: Tom Ansel

Treasurer 1: Karen Serrano

Treasurer 2:

The group agreed to submit nominations and vote on the bylaw amendment at their next regular meeting. Treasurer 2 candidates will be discussed at the meeting as well.

Co-Presidency Bylaws Amendment Discussion

The Board was presented with a written proposed amendment to the Bylaws by member Lindsey Miesen (attached). The group discussed amending the bylaws to allow for co-presidency, with Lindsey explaining that this would provide better continuity and succession planning. The proposed amendment is attached to these minutes. The proposed amendment will be considered for approval at the next regular membership meeting on May 14, 2026. Jesse Backerman questioned the need for co-presidents rather than a committee structure, but Lindsey explained that the bylaws already provide for co-positions in various roles. The group acknowledged that while this

approach may not be necessary immediately, it could be beneficial for future leadership needs as the PTO grows.

Co-Presidents Term Limit Amendment Discussion

The group discussed amending term limits for co-presidents, with Lindsey explaining that the proposed change would allow for flexibility in extending terms while maintaining voting rights for members. Tristan expressed support for the amendment, noting concerns about creating rigid rules in the bylaws. The team agreed to review and vote on the amendment at the next meeting, along with a proposed slate of officers. Tom was nominated as the nominating committee chair, and the group briefly discussed potential Treasurer 2 candidates for a position, including Jeremy Sanchez and Mike Pippenger.

Leadership Role Candidate Selection

The group discussed finding candidates for a leadership role, with Karen offering to coordinate with potential candidates including Mike, who had expressed interest but had questions about time commitment. The team agreed to narrow down candidates by next Thursday to determine who would genuinely be interested in serving for a two-year term. Additionally, Tristan proposed using excess funding for a school beautification project, suggesting options including a mural in the front office, a new mobile sound system, or new stage curtains, with input requested from the group on specific ideas.

School Renovation and Improvement Plans

The group discussed school renovation plans, with Tristan explaining that while Rose Lane received a remodel, Heights school would need to wait until the next bond election, likely around 3 years. They agreed to explore improving the teacher's lounge environment, with Tom taking on a project to work with Sophia on a \$2,000 budget for furniture, paint, and other improvements. The team also discussed financial matters, with Jesse noting delays in processing teacher grants due to complex Amazon transaction reconciliation, and mentioned that Zephy and Zelle deposits were still being processed.

Financial and Event Planning Updates

The meeting covered financial updates, event planning, and administrative matters. Karen reported current bank balances, including \$34,000 in the operating account and \$155,000 in savings. The group discussed staff appreciation budgets, clarifying that teacher supplies and the supply closet are separate from staff appreciation events. They voted against holding a summer family event, citing low expected turnout during summer break. The team also discussed plans for the upcoming student showcase, including an art project and Wildlings' online sales setup. They addressed farewell gifts for departing staff members and discussed a new \$5,000 Sprouts grant to expand the school garden program. The conversation ended with a reminder that this was Jesse's last meeting with the group.

Meeting called to a close at 9:18pm

Attachment

In accordance with the PTO's Bylaws, please see below:

MADISON HEIGHTS PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION

Proposed Amendment to the Bylaws

Presented to the Executive Board

May 5, 2025

Submitted by: Lindsey Miesen, Member

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE IV, SECTION 4

Current Bylaw Language (from Article IV, Section 4):

“Officers may serve no more than two full consecutive terms in the same office.”

Proposed Replacement Language:

“Officers may serve no more than two full consecutive terms in the same office; provided, however, that the Executive Board may waive this limit for any office by a majority vote of the Executive Board.”

RATIONALE

The Madison Heights Parent Teacher Organization exists to serve our school community, and the strength of that service depends on our ability to place capable, committed leaders in officer roles. The current two-consecutive-term limit, while well-intentioned, has created practical challenges that this amendment seeks to address.

1. Volunteer Availability

Recruitment of willing and qualified candidates for officer positions has become increasingly difficult. The pool of members available and prepared to take on the responsibilities of elected office is limited, and the term limit further restricts our ability to fill those roles effectively. Empowering the Executive Board to waive this restriction on a case-by-case basis will give the organization greater flexibility to ensure that all officer positions are held by engaged, capable individuals rather than leaving roles vacant or filled by reluctant volunteers.

2. Continuity of Leadership and Institutional Knowledge

Effective organizational leadership requires continuity. Officers who have served previously bring valuable institutional knowledge, established relationships with school administration, and familiarity with the operational demands of their roles. Our current President has demonstrated exceptional dedication and leadership, and her continued service in a co-President capacity would directly benefit the organization and the families we serve. The existing term limit prevents the organization from retaining this leadership at a critical time, and this amendment would allow the Executive Board to act in the organization's best interest in such circumstances.

3. The Co-President Structure

The Executive Board is exploring a co-President model to strengthen leadership and ease the burden on any single officer. This structure requires the flexibility to appoint or elect the most qualified individuals regardless of prior service history. Retaining the current term limit without any mechanism for exception would arbitrarily exclude experienced members from participating in this arrangement, undermining its purpose.

CONCLUSION

This amendment preserves the spirit of the existing term limit while providing the Executive Board with the discretion to act in the best interest of the organization when circumstances warrant. For the reasons above, the undersigned respectfully requests that the Executive Board receive this proposal and that it be placed before the general membership for a vote at the next regular membership meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Lindsey Miesen

Member, Madison Heights Parent Teacher Organization

May 5th, 2026