

**Waltrip High School PTO
General Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, Oct 21, 2025
Waltrip High School Library**

Call to Order: 7:06pm

Welcome & President's Report (Michelle Schoene):

- Motion to approve September General and October Board Meeting minutes.
Motion: Ms. Witherspoon; **Second:** Amy Roe-Soliz
Approved with no opposition or abstention.
- Homecoming reported as a success; stayed within budget and generated \$17K in revenue.

1st VP, School Enrichment (Rachel Riebling):

- Swag Pick-Up:
 - Available during the meeting, during store hours (Wed./Fri.), and after school until 5:30 p.m. on Thurs.
 - Some new items available online via QR code.

2nd VP, Fundraising (Carrie Jaeger):

- Deferred to committee reports

Treasurer/Treasurer-Elect (Nghia Dang/Maritza Ortega Harris):

- Opened floor to budget questions; none raised.
- President's Comments: Confirmed Homecoming stayed within budget and raised \$17K above expenses.

Committee Reports

A. Membership (Yanira Dudley):

- No report; Chair not present

B. Events (Amy Roe-Soliz):

- Homecoming: A success
- Upcoming:
 - *Jazz on 34th* – Nov. 6, Trees for Houston.
 - Social event with food, drinks, live music by WHS Jazz Band.
 - Ticket proceeds support PTO initiatives.
 - *DJ Bingo* – Jan. 31, Silent and online auction planned.

C. Staff Appreciation (Suzy D'Souza):

- Updates provided on behalf of chair
- Snack Cart: Ongoing need for volunteers
- Thanksgiving Luncheon:
 - Nov. 7 in the cafeteria.
 - Volunteers needed for setup, serving, and decor.
 - Sign-up available in the PTO newsletter.

D. School Store (Sonya Pursell):

- Updates provided on behalf of chair
- Closed Wednesdays and Fridays except for swag pickup.
- Volunteers needed; Each closure represents ~\$400 in lost revenue.

E. Student Culture (Kat Creech):

- Updates provided on behalf of chair
- Ram Festival Days:
 - Last event: Homecoming tailgate — well received.
 - Next event: Fall Festival with pumpkin patch. Volunteers and pumpkin donations needed.
 - Festivals Occurs on a food exception day, allowing clubs to sell food for fundraising.
 - Teacher Liaison (Ms. Witherspoon): Praised festivals as low-stress, high-impact fundraisers benefiting all students.
 - President/Principal: Noted improved student spirit and engagement; students requesting involvement in planning future events

F. Parent Engagement (Rachel Riebling):

- September social successful.
- Next social to focus on recruitment (date TBD).

G. Educational Support (Megan Rasmussen):

- Twenty-three (23) teacher grants awarded (\$6,500–\$6,600 total). Five outstanding.
- Remaining funds will support a spring grant cycle.
- Appreciation shared for Treasurer-Elect's support and noted teachers' positive feedback.

H. Scholarship (Susie Molina):

- Logo created; Banner (with QR code) in development.
- Using Google Form for applications; External judges to include Waltrip alumni and Rodeo Houston committee member.
- Anticipated awards: Ten \$1,000 or five \$500 scholarships. Number/Value will depend on applicants.
 - Includes trade school scholarship opportunities.
- Tentative Timeline:
 - Oct: Prepare scholarships
 - Nov: Continue scholarship preparation, selection of judges, finalize application;
 - Dec: Announce scholarship, open application, finalize judges
 - Jan: Continue promotion and adjust as needed
 - Feb: Final application push
 - Mar: Judging
 - Apr: Award notification and public announcement of winner
- New program launched this year. PTO President credited the concept to Rashaad Austin, former PTO board member.

I. Communications (Angie Gunden):

- No report.

J. Community Partners (Erin Field):

- Upcoming Spirit Night: Papa John's, Oct. 22 (details in newsletter).

K. Capital Improvement/Campus Beautification (Angelica Sullivan):

- Upcoming projects:
 - Campus signage for improved student flow.
 - Staff restroom updates.
 - Courtyard beautification/Zen garden.
 - **Campus Cleanup:** Oct. 25, 8 a.m.
 - Volunteers encouraged; bring friends/family, gloves and yard tools.
 - Tennis courts to be soft washed; PTO closet cleanup planned.
 - Ms. Witherspoon to give yard tools donated to her to the school and/or PTO.
- Working through list of additional activities

L. Legislative Liaison (Jennifer Perry):

- No report; Chair not present

M. Teacher Liaison (Spoony Witherspoon):

- Teachers appreciate PTO's continued support.
- Principal noted October as a challenging month for teachers
 - Discussed teacher absences and recent illness affecting staff.
 - Encouraged expressions of appreciation from parents.

N. Class of 2026 (Melanie Barr Fitzpatrick):

- Raised \$141 via tickets (\$3) for students to wear PJs on Oct. 21

O. Class of 2027 (Brooke Persyn):

- No updates

P. Class of 2028 (Tracy Rios):

- No updates

Q. Class of 2029 (Dana Gallegos):

- No updates

New/Unfinished Business:

- Treasurer-Elect (Maritza Ortega Harris): Organizing *Día de los Muertos* altar on Oct. 28.
 - Students assisting at lunch receive candy; after school, provided with food.
 - NHS students may earn volunteer hours.
 - Google form available for student submissions
- .WHS Alumni Association:
 - Selling cookbooks during the meeting
 - Funds ongoing scholarships.
- Lifesavers ER: Offered to host a "Botox Social" fundraiser.
- School Pictures:
 - Teacher liaison (Mr. St. Mary) is currently coordinating cap & gown and school pics
 - Once taken, can purchase picture packets as desired; Online code for senior purchases
- Lifesaversers ER offered to host a botox social

Meeting Adjourned: 7:34 p.m.

Minutes recorded by: Michelle Kelley, Secretary