

**Waltrip High School PTO
General Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 21, 2026 at 6pm
WHS Library**

Welcome/Call to Order:

- Meeting was called to order at 6:11 p.m. by board president

President's Report

1st VP of School Enrichment

- a. Approval of Minutes
 - No questions
 - **Motion:** Megan R; **Second:** Brooke; Approved with one abstention
- b. Upcoming Meeting (May 26)
 - Membership will vote on 2026–27 officers: President, Vice Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer-Elect, and Treasurer
 - Members interested in running were asked to notify the board
 - Community encouraged to attend and vote
- c. Nominating Committee
 - Majority of the slate has been identified and will be posted one week prior through PTO communication channels
- d. AP Practice Session
 - PTO-supported AP mock exam weekend was successful. Breakfast and lunch provided
 - District AP event scheduled for the upcoming weekend
- e. Proposed Bylaw Changes
 - Changes to be posted for membership review.
 - Updates include grammatical edits and Homecoming planning committee revisions
 - Additional consideration: Moving annual budget approval to May in advance of the July 1 fiscal year.
 - Board question: Would the change allow incoming board time to weigh in? Is the fiscal year changing?
 - President Response: Change to the approval timeline will allow the incoming board to begin planning earlier while retaining flexibility to amend the budget by board vote during the year.

2nd VP of Fundraising

- Deferred to committee reports.

Treasurer/Treasurer Elect (delivered by President)

- a. Budget Update
 - Current budget shared for review, including DJ Bingo profit/loss reconciliation and recent budget adjustments
 - PTO accounts transferred to Premier America Credit Union on April 1 following the closure of Resource One Credit Union and merged into QuickBooks
- b. Taxes
 - PTO decision to follow organizational fiscal year (July 1 to June 30)
 - o Half year tax payments; Managed by CPA

Committee Reports

- **Events**
 - a. DJ Bingo
 - 2nd VP expressed appreciation to all volunteers and supporters
 - Event finished \$65 under budget and netted more than \$38,000
 - Positive attendee feedback shared, including praise for auctioneer Erin
- **Student Culture / Parent Engagement**
 - a. Teacher Appreciation (5/4 – 5/8): Volunteer sign-ups forthcoming
- **Parent Engagement**
 - a. Final 2026 Ram Fest --- “One Love, One Community”
 - Volunteer signup available.
 - b. Incoming Freshman/Transfer Signing Night (4/30)
 - Food vouchers, food trucks, photo booth, and Abuela's Ice Cream planned
 - Attendance expected to exceed last year’s 100–120 families
 - c. Loteria Night
 - Scheduled for May 23 from 2–6 p.m. in the cafeteria
- **Educational Support**
 - a. Grants:
 - Teacher grant purchases continue
 - Color guard poles remain on backorder
 - Fetal pigs delivered to Biology.
 - b. School Store: Continued request for volunteers

- **Scholarship**

- a. Final scholarship judging completed

- Final judging completed
 - 44 applications reviewed by three judges, including WHS Class of '83 grad/community member, a CenterPoint Energy representative and a former PTO board member
 - Selected: 10 scholarship recipients and 1 honorable mention
 - Two winners plan to attend community college.
 - Additional scholarship suggested by judges, who would be open to funding it.
 - Motion to amend budget \$1K for an additional scholarship; Vote to come to move from the contingency/special projects account
 - Board discussed adding one additional \$1,000 scholarship; funding source under review
 - Student/family notifications and scholarship reception planned for May
 - Potential public recognition at Senior Decision Day (4/25) and/or Senior Awards Night (5/11), with advance notice to students.
 - Suggestion: Recognize winners on school marquee
 - Lessons learned include moving to a fully digital process, increasing year-round scholarship fundraising.
 - Can (anonymously) use student stories for marketing fundraising activities

- **Capital Improvement/Campus Beautification**

- a. Patio project:

- Currently underway
- WHS automotive students assembled furniture
- Vendors beginning installation work
- Vera will provide mural concepts for later board review and vote
- Project expected to be completed by year-end

- **Class of 2026**

- a. Vertical raise in process for prom managed by PTO

- PTO-managed Vertical Raise for prom currently at \$4,000 toward a \$12,000 goal.
- Principal reported a SchoolPay clerical issue delayed transfer of senior dues into the Class of 2026 account; school covering expenses until resolved
- Board question: Did any money roll over from the class of 2025? Discussion held.
 - Noted that students felt blamed and apology suggested.

- Teacher/Coach Mentioned that it has been addressed with students. Expressed gratitude for PTO support alongside the vertical raise
 - Potential idea raised to use PTO-managed fundraising moving forward to reduce district-related delays and student stress.
 - Board suggestion: Communicate annual fundraising progress more clearly to students.
- **Class of 2029**
 - a. Participated in their first Ram Fest in March and plans to continue involvement.

Unfinished & New Business

- **Yearbook Advisor Report (Mr. St Mary)**
 - 2025 yearbook theme: *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*.
 - Cost: \$75. Goal to sell 65 copies. Delivery expected May 28.
 - Timeline pushed later due to extended spring activities.
 - Sales launched this spring; parent ad support appreciated.
 - Fundraising is already beginning for 2026–27 yearbooks.
 - Board discussed donated yearbooks for seniors and possible digital version in future years.
- **Scholarship Budget Note:**
 - President noted the challenge of an unexpected dual role as President and acting Treasurer late in the year.
 - Board Member Question: Why not vote now?
 - President response: Need to take a moment to consider where to pull the funding. Board can vote, but would prefer to make right money moves as the board looks to be great financial stewards.
 - Reiterated commitment not to use Special Projects funds without full board transparency and review. Goal is to reserve and dedicate those funds to build and refurbish grounds over time
 - Lock-In funds may be available for scholarship reallocation since the event is not occurring.
 - Board clarified general funding/voting rules:
 - Contingency: no vote required
 - Line-item transfers: board vote required
 - Special Projects: full membership vote required

Close:

- **Adjournment:** 7:28 p.m.

- **Minutes recorded by:** Michelle Kelley, Secretary