

Westmore Elementary PTA General Meeting

Meeting Date: January 13, 2026 **Time:** 6:30 p.m.–7:30 p.m.

Location: Westmore Gym

Minutes are considered a high-level overview of the meeting.

For more information on any specific topic, please ask PTA officers.

The Westmore Elementary School PTA met on January 13, 2026. The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. About 14 people were in attendance in person.

Consent Agenda

- I. Minutes from October 8, 2025 PTA Meeting ([Appendix A](#))
- II. Treasurer's Report ([Appendix B](#))
- III. Past Committee Activity Summaries ([Appendix C](#))
 - a. Feed the teacher went well. They got positive feedback on the food (including Micheal Anthony's, and coffee)
 - b. Book Blizzard went well. Plenty of volunteers with all classes covered. Positive feedback on updated craft (i.e. 4th grade). Potentially explore new books. Would like to discuss sign-ups for next year with the school. Some teachers didn't have books in the classrooms initially–potentially explore storing elsewhere so they are easily accessible. School is thankful for all of the grandparents being a part of this day. Also, potential clarity on guidance for grandparents that might need to be in 2 classrooms where timing overlaps.

Taryn motioned to approve, Caisey seconded. All approved.

Principals Report

December & January highlights: The # of kids that handed in their bingo cards was plentiful. Kids have read 5,000 more steps than last year moving into the new year. They loved Book Blizzard and are appreciative of the PTA's involvement. Report cards will be available on the 21st—you can check in online on their progress. If you have issues, feel free to call the office. The school will send home progress on paper if they see parents don't check the portal, but are trying to avoid that. The 28th is the Q2 celebration, and also 100 day of school. They are encouraging everyone to dress for the 100 days. If there is a snow day, they will send home the chromebooks, but they have to make the decision at noon. If they don't make the call and the weather gets called, they will have to use the snow day. Mrs Ermitage and Mrs Redding are planning the book kick off. They will have the open house on the 26th with the historic theme of Westmore being around since 2026 (100 years). They are looking forward to showing off all of the years of Westmore. No school on Monday 1/19 and Tues 1/20 will be a teacher's institute day. Right now, 5th grade is taking the CoGat (1 factor that helps determine if students will be in advanced classes; also teacher recommendation). Here we have AA just for ELA, but in middle school there will be more opportunities. Mr Dart is appreciative of all of the parents who took time to come to the PTA meeting.

Committee Planning (Upcoming)

- 1) **Restaurant Night** - Caisey Schneider: Tues, Jan 20th @ Portillos from 5-8 pm. Other restaurants have offered to partner with us like Giordanos, Prairie Food Co-op, etc. Giordanos offered to feed the teachers on Friday of staff appreciation—perhaps we can do a fundraiser for them. Will look at more dates for
- 2) **4th-5th Grade Movie Night** - Adriana Rodriguez: They broke out movie night into grades. The 1st one was 1-3, and then we will have a 'Friends and Fun Night' for 4th and 5th graders from 6-8 PM on January 30th. They will play music in the background, bracelet making, temporary tattoos, animal balloon making, build bridges with marshmallows/toothpicks and have catapults knock them down. You don't have to pre sign-up for this event and they will take money at the door. Suggestion to have different rooms so people can rotate: i.e. sports in the gym (basketball on one side, another sport on the other side), crafts in LRC, dancing in another area, coffee shop/ sparkling water station in another space. Advertising went out in the newsletter. Unsure if 2 hours is too long, but will reassess after the first event. Will need to get a sign-up genius out; send with 4th & 5th grade newsletters.
- 3) **STEM Night** - Sara Powers: There has been progress with STEM night. The experiments have been picked out (out of selection from Jackson). She has a list of organizations that we have worked with previously—has gotten feedback from COD StemCon. Some of the volunteers will be middle schoolers from Jackson, also Willowbrook honors society. They will need 40 total volunteers, but not all need to be parents.
- 4) **Nomination Committee** - Alison Hitzker & Taryn Mueller: The nomination committee will need to be confirmed by the February meeting. So far, we have 2 Exec members (Alison and Taryn to co-chair), and 2 potential general PTA members who volunteered to be on the committee. We are looking for 1 more Exec member volunteer. The committee will meet before the April meeting to confirm 1 President and 1 Vice president candidate who best fit the criteria for the positions. The elections for these 2 positions are expected to happen in April. So far, Caisey will not be re-running and Taylor Thinnes has volunteered to be nominated for that position. Kendra Risely volunteered to be the 3rd Exec committee member.

Other:

- 1) **Westmore PTA Directory Proposal** - Taylor Thinnes: She wants to bring back a school directory. She found an app that we could potentially use (other schools use this). This would be for the next school year. They did try to build a directory in the past, but the difficulty was getting the contacts. Someone outside of the school would need to organize this. We'd want to get this ready by the end of the year. Taylor will get all of the information so we can vote in March.
- 2) **Old business** - In the minutes we had some notes on the updated committee process. Need to create a new committee policy on how we structure committees moving forward. For next steps, we might want to create a sub-committee, similar to how we came up with the Code of Conduct. This will be a separate document, per the recommendation from the IL PTA. One option is to reference this in the Code of Conduct. Need to visit the goal of the PTA and how this will reflect. Guidance on how the chairs are selected, supported, responsibilities, things they should/should not do, how members are selected into committees, terms for committee chairs. There was a question on the current bylaws, so Ande read from the bylaws that [the Exec board can create committees to carry on the work of the association, the chair person should be selected to be part of the term for 1 year]. NET, we may need to consider amending the bylaws. Taryn volunteered to lead the committee, and Taylor, Jackie, and Nikki offered to help. Suggestion to align on which committees apply to the new bylaws.

Announcements

We are moving up the Pool Party to the 1st Friday (Aug 21st) of the school year because previously our Pool party conflicts with Willowbrook community night. PTA will put the deposit down for the Pool party. This gives an extra week for planning for the Back to School bash (Aug 28th). Looking for more ideas for back to school bash. The current school start date is August 19th.

One PTA member suggested we do a community night of cleaning up (example is Prairie Path, or something else). Will discuss more at future meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:36 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for February 11th on a Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.

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