

Magnolia Middle School PTO

Meeting Minutes

Date: September 15, 2026

Time: 6:00–6:59 PM

Location: Viking Event Center / Virtual

Meeting: First PTO Meeting of the 2026–2027 School Year

1. Welcome & Call to Order

The September PTO meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by VP Pam Zimmerman.

Members were welcomed to the first meeting of the 2026–2027 school year. The agenda was provided to attendees for review. As this was the first meeting of the new school year, there were no previous meeting minutes to approve.

Board members introduced themselves:

- **Heather Wink** – President
- **Pamela Zimmerman** – Vice President
- **Gary** – Treasurer
- **Courtney** – Secretary
- **Erin Winkler** – Member at Large

The board welcomed members and encouraged everyone to ask questions, share ideas, and provide input throughout the meeting.

2. Principal & School Administration Updates

Principal **Jason Redmond** provided updates on school improvements, programs, upcoming events, and opportunities for students and families.

School Improvements

- The school elevator was replaced over the summer.

- The tennis court complex is being rebuilt and will include tennis courts, pickleball courts, and a basketball court. The project is expected to reopen within the next couple of weeks.
- New banners recognizing Everyday Hero recipients and HCPS award recipients have been added to the Vikings Event Center.
- A new Community School banner will be installed outside the school.
- New purple metal benches will be added to the front of the school to replace the benches that were removed.
- Six new picnic tables will be added outside the cafeteria. Students can earn outdoor lunch.
- New backlit Magnolia Middle School signage on the building is planned.

Student Programs & Mentoring

- Willpower mentoring for boys is continuing and expanding from sixth grade to seventh grade this year.
- Girls on the Run is currently operating for the fall season.
- NatureWorks is returning on Thursdays and provides outdoor mentoring and activities.
- Fresh Start Therapeutic Services is partnering with the school to provide therapeutic mentoring for students assigned to in-school suspension.

Upcoming School Events

- **Donuts with Grown Ups:** September 30 for sixth grade and October 1 for seventh and eighth grade, beginning at 7:00 AM.
- **Picture Day:** October 2.
- Every student will receive a **Magnolia Middle School purple T-shirt** at no cost to families. The shirts will be used for Spirit Days and field trips.
- Families were encouraged to sign up for Principal Redmond's update emails if they are not currently receiving them.
- Magnolia Middle School has returned to social media through Instagram at **MAMSVikings**. Student photos will be shared once all required permissions have been finalized.

Family Resources

- HCPS Family and Community Partnerships offers virtual Lunch & Learn opportunities for families.
- The school is planning additional parent events, including Parent Cafés and "Support Your Scholar" sessions.
- Upcoming family sessions will provide information and resources related to middle school, including Canvas, technology, and supporting students at home.
- Two math-focused family nights are also being planned to help families understand the new math curriculum.

Student Activities

- The school is exploring opportunities for middle school basketball competition between Magnolia, Edgewood, and Aberdeen.
 - Soccer may also be considered.
 - A school musical is planned for the spring at Joppatowne High School.
 - Information regarding clubs, magnet programs, and upcoming activities will be shared with families as schedules are finalized.
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3. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Gary presented the proposed **2026–2027 PTO operating budget**.

Proposed Budget

- Projected income: approximately **\$15,400**
- Projected expenses: approximately **\$14,000**
- Required reserve: **\$1,400**
- Previous-year surplus carried forward: **\$9,618**

Major budget areas include:

- Eighth-grade trip support and related activities
- Teacher and staff appreciation
- Fundraising and event expenses
- Business sponsorships
- Restaurant/spirit nights
- Operating expenses, including insurance and website costs
- Trivia Night
- QuickBooks

The board noted that Teacher and Staff Appreciation is now included as its own budget line for the first time.

The proposed operating budget was **approved by a show of hands**.

QuickBooks

The PTO will make a **one-time \$230 purchase of QuickBooks Desktop** to improve financial recordkeeping, track income and expenses, and make financial reports easier to maintain and review.

4. Annual Audit/Financial Review

The PTO reviewed the requirement in the bylaws for an annual review of the organization's financial records.

Three volunteers are needed to complete the review. Volunteers must:

- Not currently serve on the PTO board.
- Not be related to a current board member.

The review will include checking financial records, verifying signatures, matching checks with requests, and reviewing transactions for accuracy.

The review should be completed by the **end of February**.

Members interested in volunteering were asked to speak with the Treasurer after the meeting.

Future major fundraising events will also receive a financial reconciliation. Volunteers for these reviews do not have to remain the same each time.

5. PTO Bylaws

Two proposed changes to the PTO bylaws were presented.

Term Limits

The current bylaws limit an officer to two consecutive terms in the same position.

The proposed change increases the limit to **three consecutive terms in the same position**.

An individual who reaches the three-term limit in one position may continue serving in another PTO position, but may not continue in the same position.

Vacancies

The proposed change would allow the PTO board to fill officer vacancies occurring during an unexpired term rather than requiring a vote of the general membership.

Members were given an opportunity to ask questions and provide input. A question was raised regarding efforts to increase parent participation and communication.

The board explained that recruitment has included:

- Principal's newsletters
- PTO email and text reminders

- Meeting announcements
- Word-of-mouth recruitment
- Encouraging current families to invite other parents to meetings

The board and school administration also discussed the general challenge of recruiting volunteers and officers at the middle-school level.

Both proposed bylaw changes were **approved by a show of hands**.

6. Fundraising & Spirit Nights

Upcoming fundraising opportunities were reviewed.

Spirit Nights

- **Texas Roadhouse:** September 16
- **Towne Grill & Pub:** October 2
- Additional restaurant spirit nights are planned throughout the school year.

The Principal's newsletter will include PTO dates and fundraising information to help families stay informed.

Grade-Level Fundraising

A new grade-level fundraising program was announced using **Double Good Popcorn**.

Funds raised will remain associated with the individual grade:

- Sixth-grade funds will follow the students toward their eighth-grade trip.
- Seventh-grade funds will follow the students toward their eighth-grade trip.
- Eighth-grade funds will directly support the current eighth-grade trip.

The goal is to help reduce the amount families and the PTO will need to contribute toward future eighth-grade trips.

7. Upcoming Events

Trivia Night

The PTO will host a **free Trivia Night** following an upcoming PTO meeting.

- The event will be free to attend.
- Registration will be required so the PTO can plan seating and supplies.

- Food/concessions will be available for purchase.
- Prizes will be awarded.
- The event will be hosted by **Adam Schellenberger**.
- Volunteers will be needed to assist with food service, concessions, prizes, and other light event duties.

The PTO also plans to explore membership perks associated with Trivia Night.

Bingo

The annual Bingo fundraiser is planned for **Friday, February 26, 2027**, following the scheduled three-hour early dismissal.

Planning will include:

- Separate online and in-person raffles
- Opening doors approximately 1–1½ hours before bingo
- Food and concessions
- Early-arrival activities and social time
- Volunteer opportunities

Additional Bingo information and registration will be provided as planning continues.

Members were also encouraged to approach local businesses regarding prize donations. Businesses making donations may be provided with a receipt for tax purposes.

8. Communication & Membership

The PTO currently has **78 members**, including **42 staff members** and family/student memberships.

The PTO would like to increase membership throughout the school year and is exploring additional membership benefits.

One proposed benefit is an **additional raffle ticket at Bingo and Trivia Night** for PTO members.

Members were encouraged to share ideas for additional membership benefits.

Communication

The PTO will continue working with the school to ensure:

- PTO information is included in the Principal's newsletter.
- Meeting reminders are sent by email and text.

- Important dates and event information are regularly shared.
- PTO meetings are promoted through school communication channels.

The PTO website will continue to provide meeting registration, virtual meeting access, recordings, and meeting minutes.

Members were encouraged to invite other families to attend PTO meetings, particularly families transitioning from elementary school.

9. Open Floor / Family Questions & Suggestions

Members shared ideas regarding increasing parent participation and providing additional resources for families new to middle school.

A new family suggested that the PTO could serve as a resource for parents navigating middle school and provide opportunities for experienced parents to share information and experiences.

School administration and the Community School Specialist shared information about Parent Cafés, Support Your Scholar events, family resource sessions, and upcoming opportunities to help parents understand school systems and support their students.

Members were encouraged to attend PTO meetings as they provide an opportunity to hear detailed information directly from school administration and staff.

The group also discussed the importance of inviting other families to attend meetings and building stronger parent-to-parent connections.

10. Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteer opportunities were reviewed.

PTO Opportunities

Volunteers will be needed for upcoming events, particularly Trivia Night and Bingo.

School Opportunities

The school shared that volunteers may be particularly helpful in supporting the Community School Specialist with organizing donations, sorting items, preparing materials, and assisting with seasonal family support efforts.

School-based volunteer opportunities may require additional screening and approval when volunteers are working directly with students.

11. Upcoming Dates

Members were reminded of upcoming school and PTO events, including:

- **September 16:** Texas Roadhouse Spirit Night
- **September 30:** Donuts with Grown Ups – 6th Grade
- **October 1:** Donuts with Grown Ups – 7th & 8th Grade
- **October 2:** Picture Day
- **October 2:** Towne Grill & Pub Spirit Night
- **Upcoming:** PTO Trivia Night
- **February 26, 2027:** Annual Bingo Fundraiser

The PTO will continue sharing updated dates and event information through the website, email, text reminders, and school communications.

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at **6:59 PM**.

The next PTO meeting will be held in October and will be followed by Trivia Night. The October meeting is expected to be a shorter business meeting to allow time for the event.

Members were encouraged to bring a **non-perishable food item** to Trivia Night to support the food bank operated by Adam Schellenberger, who will be hosting the event.

The board thanked everyone for attending and supporting the Magnolia Middle School PTO.