

Newcastle Elementary PTSA

Parent Teacher Student Association



Newcastle PTSA Board Meeting
Monday, August 10, 2026
Tapatio In Newcastle, WA

In attendance: Julia Dorn (principal)

President	<u>Fiorella Tapiarene</u>
Volunteers	Melissa Federhar Christine Clarkson
Outreach	Jill Binks Alicia Singh
Programs	Bindi Patel
Secretary	Jackie Mitti Laura Kaya

Call to order: 18:07 PST (6:07 PM PST)

Approval of July 2026 Minutes

Principal Report - Julia Dorn

- Mission: One Crew, One Mission
- EVP: pending, ends Friday, August 14

President:

- **Mission and Standard Rules**
 - Check signer requirement (4 people)
 - Debit Card discontinued
 - Enrichment Program (3 Family Events minimum)
 - Voting (emailed votes ratified at subsequent meeting; when needed ASAP WhatsApp used)
- **Call for PTSA Priorities**
 - **Legacy Events and Traditions** (Consistency of programs; adding Spelling Bee, recap of which programs are legacy/traditional events. Student Initiated Clubs policy overview.)
 - **Broader parent engagement and inclusivity** (structures for single volunteer opportunities, taking needs of families with limited time or resources, levity and excitement in Curriculum Night messaging on PTSA membership and volunteer opportunities)

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- **Board Bio's** (https://newcastlepts.org/Page/Pta/BoardMembers_Contacts)
 - ☐ Send BIOs (Picture, kids grade to Whatsapp) to post on social media.
 - ☐ Board Members arrive 15 minutes early on Curriculum Night to take a group picture for the website
- **Meeting dates proposed:**
 - GM - General Meeting (always in-person)**
 - BM Board Meeting**
 - **GM: Thursday, September 17 (School)**
 - BM: Thursday. October 08 (Hybrid: online or in person)
 - BM: Thursday, November 05 (Hybrid: online or in person)
 - **GM: Thursday, December 3 (School)**
 - BM: Thursday, January 14 (Online)
 - BM: Thursday, February 04 (Hybrid: online)
 - **GM: After March 5 Auction (School)**
 - BM: Thursday April 01 (Hybrid: online or in person)
 - BM: Thursday May 6 (Hybrid: online or in person)
 - **GM: Thursday, June 3rd (TBD)**
- **KinderConnect : Low PTSA signups, low Lion Buddy additions**
 - **Low PTSA sign-ups:** Will have to focus on sign-ups during Meet the Teacher. Offer paw decal and Wing Stop coupons.
- **Membership Drive ideas needed**
 - Threshold Rewards like music at recess, extra recess for top sign-up class
- **Popsicles on the playground Aug 26 at 11:30.**
 - Will need 2 tables with at least 4 board members. One for membership, and another one to hand out popsicles.
 - Needed: 2 big coolers, or 1 giant cooler for 400 popsicles. Bindi will purchase the popsicles.
- **All Board members and chairs MUST be PTSA members.**
 - ☐ Secretaries to confirm membership status fulfillment.
- **Curriculum Night - PTSA Presentation + Hilary (Lion Art Chair) + Katie (Auction Chair). Five (5-10) minute presentation at the end.**
- **Auction is March 5. Place no events in February.**

Volunteer Update

- **Staff luncheon 8/26:** Evergreens catering to allow for various dietary preferences. Nothing Bundt cakes donating dessert. Costco fruit and chips.
 - Melissa/Christine to meet regarding dates based off master calendar/need to ask Bindi about programs/events
- **Vision/ Hearing Screening:** Will post to sign up genius after kindergarten starts.

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- **Tissues with Tears** for the first day of Kinder (Melissa)
 - Fifteen (15) minutes of coffee and donuts starting at 09:30 AM at the picnic tables by Music Room and Courtyard

Ways and Means (Fundraising) Update

- In conversation with **Rock & Roll Rink Skating** for Newcastle Community event/fundraiser in September. **Lion Pride** (unity as a group) logo, Principle Julia Dorn has design samples for this and Spirit Wear.

Programs Update

- **Fall Fest** - Coordinate with the Chair. Date: Friday, October 23
 - Costco Pizza has been a disastrous experience the last couple years; new ideas for food/caterers
 - Schedule depends on availability of Liberty HS student volunteers
 - Mural to be set up in the auditorium using art contributed by each Lion Art class.
- **Before/After School Enrichment Programs** - currently two (2) classrooms available (P2, P7).
 - **Returning:** Cook, Art, Public Speaking, Lego Robotics, and Spanish
 - Waiting to hear from Chess, but they will likely return as a before school program
 - **FIRST LEGO League** | Global STEM Program (FLL) - returning for Fall and actively recruiting 4th and 5th grades; need teacher representation.
 - **After-School Sports** idea was proposed, conflicts with space reserved for the Lion Club.
 - **Parent volunteers.** Can they host a table at “meet the teacher” and curriculum Night?
- **Reflections Art Contest** - “What my Culture Means to Me”
- **New: Scripps Spelling Bee** - Enrollment opens on August 18, 2026 (\$199 fee); all resources provided by the national program; flexibility to design competition; traditionally done over two (2) nights: Qualifying Test night and Event Night. Promotion avenues to be solidified (PTSA newsletter, etc.).
- **New: Membership Appreciation Event for PTSA members** (in February? - need to brainstorm ideas (Bingo night, Glow Dance Party, Game Night, etc.), and need to assign a chair/volunteer.
- **Ideas for Future:** Science Fair, Student Business Fair, Health & Wellness Night

Outreach Update

- **KinderConnect August 29** at the school playground 10am
- **Food Drive** - Scheduling to start mid-September
- **Parent Education** Ideas for guest? Include data from a parent survey on engagement (timing, accessibility, assign a monitor for online participants.



Treasurer Update

- End of the year financial audit for school year 2025-2026 completed on July 31, 2026. Melissa was present for the audit and can answer any questions. The following observations were made during the audit:
 - We need an inventory of equipment owned by the PTSA.
 - Review if PTSA has a contract with the school for storing equipment on campus (i.e. check if there is a contract for the container used by PTSA).
 - Review or standardize how logins and passwords are transitioned to new board members.
 - Confirm all contracts have two signatures from board members (President & another authorized signer).
- Tax return (990-EZ) was filed with IRS on 08/06/2026 and was accepted by IRS on 08/07/2026. (The deadline to file for our PTSA is 11/15, because we file for the school year instead of calendar year.)
- We are starting the school year with \$109,727.17 as of July 01, 2026 across all our bank accounts.
- The budget will be brought for approval in September general meeting, but anticipating no big objections, we are expecting to raise \$78,450.00 and expecting to spend around \$74,260.00
- Review of how to share grant funds, allocations to change.
- Will be in a teacher meeting this week

Secretary Updates

- a. Training – PTA Leaders - reminder to complete by end of September
WA State PTA
<https://www.wastatepta.org>
Username: PTALeader
password: Advocate
- b. Make sure you have completed volunteer application through the district.

Upcoming dates to remember:

<https://newcastle.isd411.org/our-school/upcoming-events> (district events)

PTSA & School Related Events

August 7 - 14 : EVP

August 12: Back to School Resource Fair

August 25: Teacher Assignment (Log into Skyward at 6pm)

August 26: Meet the teacher 11am

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August 27: 1st Day of School (1-5th grade)

August 29: 3rd Kinder Connect 10am - Noon (Newcastle Elementary Playground)

September 1st: 1st day of Kindergarten and TK

Tissues & Tears

September 8: Curriculum Night at 6pm

TK has a staggered start (9/3 or 9/8)

Parent Teacher Conferences, 11/4 and 11/5

Adjourned – 20:37 PST (8:37 PM PST)