

# MINUTES

## Thornebrooke PTO General Meeting

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*Date | time* 08/26/2019 / 09:19am | *Meeting called to order by* Karissa Martin & Dena Reyes – Co-presidents

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### In Attendance

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AM: Eve Pafford, Allison McMullan, Laura Van Baalen, Ashley Fitzgerald, Beki Russo, Teeci Young, Marlee Jacquette, Brendlee Hidalgo, Shelly Upchurch, Staci Merrick, Kelly Aldrich, Toniann Lentine, Sharita Gosa, Lindsay Roth, Irhelma Pieterse, Lauren Whittington, Rebecca Schaer, Jennifer McHaffie, Kristin Allgive, Jennifer Julian, Kristin Harris, Danielle McCay, Jussara Post, Amber Dodd, Kristin Britt, Vicki Woodyard, Kristine Skelin, Adriana Alpizar, Elizabeth Rahter, Liz Rusnak, Christine Howlett, Kristin Brown, Lisa Hiracheta, Lindsey Vance, Krista Costanzo, Anne Hetzel, Janine Wheeler, Kristi McCollom, Laylah Bowen, Denise Johnson, Arlene Hard, Haily Dinh, Jessie Astudillo, Nichole Lane, Nikki Wilson, Allison Leffler, Jane Ribley, Tiffany Rodriguez, Nicole Barrett, Julie Soares, Karissa Martin, Dena Reyes, Christopher Daniels, Susie Honis, Officer Scott

PM: Lili Brown, Kaley Taccetta, Beatrice Guay, Anabella Lindsey, Lorie Masry, Deifi Adames, Jennifer Elzeer, Alyssa Anderson, Toniann Lentine, Amanda Rearden, Ro Norman, Dena Reyes, Karissa Martin

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### Welcome

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Karissa and Dena welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming to the first PTO meeting of the year. Thanks for help getting the school year started. A special thanks to Kristin Harris for the morning treats.

PTO Executive Committee members for the 2019-20 school year were introduced:

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|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| ○ Co-Presidents            | Karissa Martin & Dena Reyes          |
| ○ Executive Vice President | Amanda Rearden                       |
| ○ VP of TES Outreach       | Laura Van Baalen                     |
| ○ VP of Community Outreach | Lynne Schaber                        |
| ○ VP of Communications     | Allison McMullan                     |
| ○ Treasurer                | Jennifer Elzeer                      |
| ○ Secretary                | Julie Soares                         |
| ○ Additions Coordinator    | Toniann Lentine                      |
| ○ PIE Coordinators         | Allesandra Romano & Elisabeth Rusnak |

### President's Report

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- What is PTO? Thornebrooke PTO is a registered non-profit. It's two biggest fundraisers are the Fall Fun Run (October) and the Spring Carnival & Silent Auction (March). All of the money raised by the PTO goes back to the Thornebrooke community in the form of classroom and faculty support, technology upgrades and the Accelerated Reader program. The PTO also donated to Thornebrooke's ESE, art and dance programs. Part of that money also funded special events, the 5th grade celebration, the spring carnival and Guardian Angels.
- Membership update. Currently over 25% of TES families have signed up for the PTO bringing in over \$12,000. Becoming a PTO member **DOES NOT** obligate you to volunteer for a committee or attend any

meetings! It's a simple way to financially support Thornebrooke, starting at just \$10! Sign up at: <http://thornebrookepto.org/membership/>

- Approval of minutes from last PTO General meeting (05/15/19). Motion to approve by Ashley Fitzgerald. Seconded by Marlee Jacquette. Minutes approved as presented.

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## The Principal's Report

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- Mr. Daniels thanked everyone for coming. He expressed his appreciation for Thornebrooke PTO and parents for volunteering their time and money. He added that any way parents can help Thornebrooke does make a difference. Thank you volunteers!
- He introduced Thornebrooke's new on-site School Resource Officer, Officer Scott-Marsh. She comes to us from the Ocoee Police Department and volunteered for the job at Thornebrooke. We are happy to have her join the Thornebrooke community. Officer Scott-Marsh greeted everyone and expressed how happy she is to be here. Welcome!
- Mr. Daniels announced that we have about the same amount of students as last year, but 5 fewer staff members. He is still operating on a tight budget. That being said, we have excellent, experienced teachers at Thornebrooke, including a few new hires: Ms. Russo (3<sup>rd</sup>), Ms. Leader (1<sup>st</sup>), Ms. Santiago (K), and Ms. Miller as our new guidance counselor. She was an intern for Ms. Martin years ago. Ms. Green was hired to replace Ms. Billings, who got a job with the district this summer. Carla Jones is our new lead custodian, taking over for Mr. Ram who retired this summer.
- Mr. Daniels pointed out that has added security protocol from the district.
- He shared that surveys from last year from both parents and staff were high.
- He shared a Powerpoint which included the following:
  - Thornebrooke is once again an A school
  - 4<sup>th</sup> in Orange County in terms of test scores
  - Top 6% in State of Florida
  - TES exceeded district and state scores in ELA/Math/Science
  - 30% of our students receive free and reduced lunch
- Ms. Susie Honis pointed out that Thornebrooke's achievements are due to support received from Mr. Daniels. She then congratulated Mr. Daniels on being one of the top 5 finalists for principal of the year. He thanked Susie, staff, and PTO for their support of time and money. He mentioned that when PTO purchases something for the school, it frees up money in his budget for him to use elsewhere (Saturday school was mentioned).
- 30/30 dismissal. Mr. Daniels let everyone know that the school has received formal approval to release walkers from the back walk up area during a lightning dismissal. If the gate is locked, that will be a signal that it isn't safe to walk up. Lightning is dangerous in Florida. Kids are safe in the building if you can wait in your car. Please be aware and take your time.

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## Budget

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The 2019-2020 budget was presented to members. Motion to approve the budget by Allison McMullan. The motion was seconded by Kristin Brown and was approved as presented.

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## Additions

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Toniann gave a presentation about ADDitions, a program used by OCPS to manage volunteers in our schools. Thornebrooke had over 850 approved volunteers last year logging in over 750,000 hours. Key information about ADDitions:

There are many opportunities for families to share their time and talents at Thornebrooke. Any person who wishes to serve as a field trip chaperone, in class volunteer, room parent, or special area volunteer (Drama, PE, Art, Media) must register with Orange County Public Schools by completing an ADDitions School Volunteer Online Application. **This application must be renewed every school year!** When entering the school to volunteer, sign in on the computers in the lobby and sign out when you are finished. Bring a photo ID. **Name tags are required at all times.** This is important for two reasons: 1) maintaining the security of the building and safety of our students by having every non-OCPS employee accounted for and 2) volunteer hours earn special designations and recognition by OCPS (Five Star School Award, Golden School Award, etc.)

Online registration is quick and easy, but approval may take time. This is an opportunity-based system, so once volunteers are registered and approved with ADDitions, they must then apply for a specific volunteer opportunity at Thornebrooke (PTO, classroom teacher, Media Center, field trip, etc.). Hours can also be logged in from home. Student volunteers/siblings need to be ADDitions approved as well. This can be done by going to [www.volunteer.ocps.net](http://www.volunteer.ocps.net) and clicking **Volunteer Now** and then **Search Opportunities**. Any questions about ADDitions, please contact Toniann.

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## Partners in Education (PIE)

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Liz Rusnak spoke about Thornebrooke's Partners in Education program (PIE). The Partners in Education program links businesses and organizations with schools to share resources. The PIE program is vital in helping the community and the school system work and grow together. They help give student incentives, teacher incentives, help with sponsorships, spirit nights, and more! There are over 2,000 PIEs in OCPS. TES currently has 24 Partners in Education. First Watch and NYC Dance were our Partners of the Year last year.

If you know of any local businesses/non-profits who would like to partner with Thornebrooke, please let us know. In addition to links on our website, partners can do one flyer a year – a great way to get the word out!

Several area companies (Lockheed Martin, Universal, Disney) offer monetary donations, grants, or donation matches for validated volunteer hours. Thornebrooke Elementary School and Thornebrooke PTO are listed beneficiaries for these companies. PTO volunteers encouraged to apply for these grants/donation matches, if applicable.

**Spirit Night** - We had a very successful first Spirit Night of the year at BurgerFi/Jeremiah's Italian Ice. Many families came out raising over \$600 for Thornebrooke. Thank you to all who made it out!

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## Fall Fundraiser

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PTO's Fall Fundraiser – the **Barracuda Fun Run** will be held on October 11. We will be partnering with Boosterthon again this year because of the excitement their videos bring. The theme this year is Mind Spark Mystery Lab Sequel – Wild Wild West, which will engage students in the exciting world of Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math (STEAM). More information and videos can be found online at: [www.thornebrookepto.org](http://www.thornebrookepto.org)

Many volunteers are needed for this event – jobs are big and small! Please help by signing up!

Meeting adjourned at 10:08am. Homeroom Parent Meeting Immediately following meeting.

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### Upcoming Dates

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- Monday, Sept. 9      Chipotle Spirit Night 4-8pm (Conroy-Windermere location)
- Thursday, Sept. 12    TES Open House – 5:30-7:00 (Sessions @ 5:30-6, 6-6:30, 6:30-7)
- Friday, Sept. 20      PTO's Family Fun Night, Pinwheels for Peace & TES Book Fair kick-off 5-7pm
- Friday, Sept. 27      PTO Board Meeting – all members welcome