

Winterquist Partners In Education (PIE) Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 4, 2026 5:30 P.M.

Mission Statement: Winterquist Elementary Partners in Education's mission is supporting, promoting, and enhancing our children's educational environment.

Board Members in Attendance:

- Chairperson Kacy Jacobs
- Co-Chairperson/Secretary Denise LaGraves
- Treasurer Ty Gangelhoff

Number of Members in Attendance: 13

Meeting called to order at: 1733

Approval of April 2026 Meeting Minutes:

- Review/approve minutes. Mr Harker made a motion to approve the minutes; Mr Krueger seconded the motion - minutes approved.

Officer Voting for 2026-2027/2027-2028 school years!

- Secretary
 - Celeste Brandt - unanimously approved
- Co-Chair
 - Kim Huberty - unanimously approved
- Chair
 - Amanda Johnson -unanimously approved

Budget 2025-2026:

- Playground Equipment \$20,000: Estimate for the two items and basic installation is \$20,837.55. This does not include removing mulch, extra drainage/rock aggregate if that's found to be needed, reinstalling mulch etc. Price will likely rise. Community Education funding 25%.

	Budgeted	Spent, Requested or Earmarked	Amount Remaining
Roller skating- PE	\$1270.00	\$1270.00	\$0
Staff Requests- Kindergarten	\$750.00	\$750.00	\$0
Staff Requests- First Grade	\$750.00	\$150.00	\$600.00
Staff Requests and Good & Services Day- Second Grade	\$750.00	\$827.12	-\$77.12
Staff Requests- Third Grade	\$750.00	\$768.25	-\$18.25
Staff Requests- Fourth Grade	\$750.00	\$0	\$750.00
Staff Requests- Fifth Grade	\$750.00	\$0	\$750.00
Staff Requests- Sixth Grade	\$750.00	\$450.00	\$300.00
Staff Appreciation (no conference meals)	\$500.00	\$500	\$0
Science Night	\$1,000.00	\$584.51	\$415.49

I Love to Read Month	\$2,500.00	\$1036.21	\$1463.79
Knowledge Bowl	\$500.00	\$0	\$500.00
PIE General Fund (expenses, etc.)	\$4,000.00	\$0	\$4000
Child care gift cards for during PIE meetings: \$5 x 2 x 8 meetings	\$80.00	\$160.00	-\$80.00
Playground Equipment Updates	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$0
MN Social Studies Standards	\$1000.00	\$1000.00	\$0
Total	\$36,100.00	\$26,196.09	\$8,563.91

Treasurer Report:

National Bank of Commerce Account:

Date	Category	Paid to/From	Check Number	Withdrawal	Deposit	Balance
3/2/2026	Deposit	Interest			.12	31,886.51
3/2/2026	Withdrawal	Teacher Jessica Zervas- I Love to Read Month rewards & prizes reimbursement	308	368.88		31,517.63
3/2/2026	Withdrawal	Librarian Bridget Peterson- I Love to Read Month rewards & prizes reimbursement	3009	7.47		31,510.16
3/2/2026	Withdrawal	Teacher Mary Durand- I Love to Read Month rewards & prizes reimbursement	3010	534.37		30,975.79
3/31/26	Deposit	Interest			.13	31,010.92
4/6/26	Withdrawal	Denise LaGraves- Science Night Items Reimbursement- flower dyeing and root beer float items	3011	456.51		30,551.41
4/6/26	Withdrawal	Food for bus driver appreciation month- Uecker	3012	28.40		30,523.01

Date	Category	Paid to/From	Check Number	Withdrawal	Deposit	Balance
		Reimbursement/2nd grade				

School District Held Funds:

Date	Category	Paid to/From	Cleared	Withdrawal	Deposit	Balance	Cost approved (meeting date)
1/6/2026	Withdrawal	Second Grade Writing Journals-Uecker/2nd grade	x	108.72		\$1791.28	1/5/2026
4/9/2026	Withdrawal	I Love to Read Month decorations- Moon Boat 144PCS 4th/Fourth of July Accessories Party Favors: Patriotic Silicone Rubber Bracelets Bulk USA Flag Wristbands- submitted by District Benefits Coordinator Emily Johnson 2/3/26		99.95		\$1,691.33	In 2025-26 budget-approved Fall 2025
4/9/2026	Withdrawal	I Love to Read Month decorations- inflatable torch submitted by Principal Brian Harker 2/11/26		12.77		\$1678.56	In 2025-26 budget-approved Fall 2025
4/9/2026	Withdrawal	I Love to Read Month decorations- inflatable torch submitted by District Benefits Coordinator Emily Johnson and Teacher Mary Durand 2/11/26		12.77		\$1665.79	In 2025-26 budget-approved Fall 2025

2026-2027 Proposed Meeting Dates:

- The group decided at the April 6, 2026 meeting to move next school year's meetings to Thursday evenings after numerous people in attendance said it would be an easier night to attend. The school boardroom should almost always be available. The library would be the back-up meeting room plan.
- Thursday, September 10, 2026, 5:30 p.m.
- Thursday, October 1, 2026, 5:30 p.m.
- Thursday, November 5, 2026, 5:30 p.m.
- Thursday, December 3, 2026, 5:30 p.m.??? (group hasn't historically met in December)
- Thursday, January 7, 2027, 5:30 p.m.

- Thursday, February 4, 2027, 5:30 p.m.
- Thursday, March 4, 2027, 5:30 p.m.
- Thursday, April 1, 2027, 5:30 p.m.
- Thursday, May 6, 2027, 5:30 p.m.
- **Contact Bridget Peterson to reserve the room :) Amanda will contact to reserve for next year.**

PIE Teacher/Staff Request Form

- Form updated, editable copy in google account. Thank you, Ty!

PIE/Teacher Requests:

- Do we need to cut off teacher requests for the rest of the school year after the May 4 meeting since we won't be meeting again? **Yes; any additional requests will be reviewed at September meeting.**
- Kindergarten request from Mary Durand 4/15/26- Great Lakes Aquarium June 1 field trip: Admission for 80 students x \$5 each = \$400. \$50 per class X 4 classes = \$200. Sum is \$600 plus kindergarten teachers are requesting any amount remaining in PIE Kindergarten budget line to go towards bus costs. **Tiffany makes motion to approve - Amanda seconded - motion passed. Invoices will be paid thru school business office, up to \$750.**
- Third grade request 4/22/26 from Steve Krueger: Scholastic magazine subscriptions for all four third grade classrooms for 2026/2027 school year. \$150.96 per class X 4 = \$664.24. **Mr Harker made a motion to approve; Tiffany seconded - motion passed - invoice to be paid thru school business office.**
- Second grade request from Jess Uecker 4/30/26: Funds to help with the increase in field trip prices, to specifically help cover the upcoming Zoo trip on May 11th. Requesting \$400 at this time. **Amanda makes motion to approve; Tiffany seconded motion - motion approved. To be paid thru School Business Office.**
- First grade request from Kristine Baird 4/30/26: Funds to help with the increase in field trip prices. Requesting \$150 at this time. **Tiffany motioned to approve; Kim seconded motion - motion passed - will be paid for thru School Business Office.**
- 2026-2027 School Year child care gift cards- Ty requesting \$100 approval to purchase 20 more \$5 Wal-Mart gift cards for each child care person at the 2026-2027 meetings. **Kim made motion to approve; Amanda seconded motion; approved. Ty will purchase**
- Kindergarten Welcome Bags- approximately \$125- see below for items - **Tiffany will take lead on these; Mr Krueger made motion to approve up to \$150; Amanda seconded motion - motion passed. Will communicate via GroupMe app to arrange.**

Follow Ups

- Playground- Tentatively planning to have the new equipment go in the week after school is out (June 8-12, 2026)
 - Mr. Harker will reach out to company to see if on schedule.
- Fill the EI- this event will take place in the fall and it will fund the same school year, 2026-2027. Celeste is leading this fundraiser

Upcoming Events:

- **Teacher Appreciation is this week- THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO!**
 - Monday (4th) Caribou Coffee Bar Don't Wake Daddy
 - Tuesday (5th) Fruit Trays Hi Ho Cherry-O
 - Wednesday (6th) Donuts with Mr. Harker/Sam Gone in Seconds

- Thursday (7th) Tequi Town Taco Day Taco Goat Cat Cheese Pizza
- Friday (8th) Candy Day Candy Land
- Games are in! Tequi Town is paid for! We have a fabulous team for this subcommittee- thank you for all of your hard work! Would like to donate board games to Kool Kids. Look to do possibly add in Community Education staff for a day of appreciation during next year's appreciation week; committee to further discuss.
- Reimbursement to be paid to Kacy:
 - Tequi Town: \$363.08
- Reimbursement to be paid to Kate Elwell:
 - Sam's Club: approx \$90
- Reimbursement to be paid to Rakel:
 - Walmart: approx. \$40
- Thrivent: (spent \$165.27 on the Thrivent grant card at Sam's Club and \$73.28 at Amazon for games- total \$238.55)
- **McSchool Night**
 - May 13th from 4:00-7:00 PM- Staff will have one hour shifts
 - Digital sales- we get 40%
 - Cookie sales- we get all of that money- MUST BE CASH- McDonald's donated the cookies to us!
 - Sam sent out sign up to teachers today.
- **Kindergarten Welcome Bags**
 - Last year we made Kindergarten Welcome bags that were handed out at Summer Kinder Camp- this would be a great way to get families aware of P.I.E. before the year starts to boost participation in the group. In last year's bags we included the bag, a bracelet and pen from P.I.E.'s stockpile of items in the workroom, and playdoh.
 - Estimated cost: \$8 for bags; \$50ish for playdoh depending how many or what type are ordered. A mini notebook and pencil could be ordered for more great fine motor practice before the start of the school year - \$64 (item examples are included from Amazon); recommended gallon size ziploc bag so everything stays together. Drop them off at Community Ed building/email Mr Harker to drop off this summer.
 - Approximately \$125 total
 - A P.I.E. extra item could also be included in each bag with a note saying what we have done and plan to do in the future and new clothing fundraiser!
 - This fun thing would need someone to lead it and get the bags to Summer Kinder Camp (August 10th is the start date)



- **Clothing Fundraiser**

- Celeste coordinating- switching from Advantage Emblem in Duluth to CreativeEdge Designs in Carlton, which allows for continuous sales. No clothing fundraiser was completed for this year.
- Possibly have some items at Open House for people to see; put in welcome bags for kindergarten.

Fundraising QR Code



Esko Winterquist Elementary Partners in Education Donation

AffiniPay QR code and web page links:

<https://secure.affinipay.com/pages/winterquistelementarypartnersineducation/esko-partners-in-education-donation>

****Would like to have weekly meet up at playgrounds so kids can play and parents can engage - not a drop off of kids but everyone get together. Will put some dates/locations on Facebook.***

****Need to get message out to teachers for next year that funds not available immediately for next year; will take requests once funds rolling in again; Mr Harker will send out message to teachers.***

Meeting Adjourned at 1833

Next Meeting: September 10, 2026, 5:30 p.m.in the boardroom

After-Meeting work planning for outgoing/incoming board members:

- Go through old files Ty removed from school office PIE drawer- what to keep/discard.
- Removing Denise from National Bank of Commerce account and add new board member (Amanda). Will add Amanda on Wednesday May 20th at 1515; Denise will stop by bank after the 20th to be removed.
- Basic overview of what's in PIE boxes in elementary school work room across the hall from Elementary School office.
- Turnover of file accounts. Google, facebook.
- Basic budget setting so school staff/Mr. Harker can plan accordingly.
- Fundraising updates.
- Plan for who's checking e-mail account.

- Plan for who's checking for meeting requests.
- Agenda setting planning.
- 2026-2027 meeting child care plans. *Send out childcare participation forms before June to allow time to get the forms back before the end of the school year.
- September 10, 2026 meeting PR plans.

Note from Kacy: Reflecting on my time as P.I.E. Chair, I am filled with immense gratitude for the opportunity to have served this vibrant school community over the past several years. It has been a profound privilege to witness firsthand the dedication that fuels our children's education, and I am deeply thankful for the trust you placed in me to lead. I want to extend my heartfelt appreciation to our incredible teachers and staff; your tireless energy, patience, and unwavering commitment to our students are the true heartbeat of this institution. Working alongside such a passionate group of educators has been an honor, and I walk away with a deep respect for the collaborative spirit that makes our school a second home for so many families. I apologize for missing the last meeting this year, but baseball calls and I can't miss the first game of the season! Reach out when needed and keep up the wonderful work of P.I.E.! 😊