Winterquist Partners in Education (PIE)
Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 1, 2026 • 5:30 P.M.- 6:50 P.M

1. Call to Order

Chairperson Amanda Johnson called the meeting to order. The meeting was held in the school board room at Esko Schools.

2. Members Present

Officials. Amanda Johnson, Chairperson; Kim Huberty, Co-Chairperson; Ty Gangelhoff, Treasurer Celeste Brandt, Secretary/Fundraising Chair

Members: Kate Elwell, Jessica Thiel, Ryan Theil, Tony Nguyen, Mrs. Nguyen, Brian Harker, Christine Ringat.

3. Review of September 2026 Meeting Minutes

The September 2026 meeting minutes were reviewed. No changes or alternations were made. Questions were raised regarding the "Fill the E" as the title of the fall fundraiser, as it is ambiguous. Esko Fall PIE Fundraiser would be more appropriate. There being no further corrections, the minutes stand approved as distributed.

4. Board Updates

Social Media. Fundraiser communications included teaser posts on September 28th, daily donation updates, prize promotions, and on-site posters. Participants noted that Facebook updates were popular. Additional prize emails were planned as the fundraiser approached its conclusion. A final reminder was planned for Monday for teachers to share with families.

5. Fundraising

Fall Fundraiser and Donation Processing. Ty Gangelhoff explained that the donation system had been changed to a general donation link in the spring. AffiniPay processing fees included a $0.30 transaction fee and percentage fees that varied by card. Final net proceeds would be determined after fees were reconciled. Credit card processing fees and AffiniPay charges are pulled back from bank account between the 3rd and 5th of every month. Overall funds raised will be less the transaction fee amounts.

Charge explanations/examples:

- AffiniPay gets a $.30 per transaction fee.
- Debit card donation: 2.99% AffiniPay processing fee.
- American Express: 3.9% processing fee.

Ty described difficulties reconciling records when student or teacher information was incomplete. He worked with Amanda Johnson to identify teachers when needed. Possible future use of artificial intelligence to organize and reconcile the data was discussed.

Prize Distribution. Plans include all grade donuts (Monday Oct. 12th), class ice cream party (Oct. 13th), top two student gift cards and squishies valued at $10 (Oct. 14th), and a pie-in-the-face activity involving Brian Harker (top earner- Oct. 14th). Coordination with teachers is needed for the class and grade celebrations. A cafeteria presentation was planned with the winning student's class present and the second-highest-earning student's class attending afterward. Filming and posting to Facebook were planned. Amanda will coordinate with teachers. Celeste Brandt will coordinate donut pick up.

Donuts were to be obtained from Super One, which needed approximately three days of preparation time. A Friday order for a set quantity was discussed (130 total). Napkins are needed. Brian Harker would scoop ice cream, and students would add their own toppings. Bowls, spoons, and napkins are needed for the ice cream party. Cool Whip and a graham cracker crust are needed for the pie-in-the-face activity. Celeste Brandt offered to provide individual thank-you cards for donations over $100.

McTeacher Night. The next McTeacher Night is planned for Thursday, December 3, 2026. Celeste Brandt will confirm arrangements with Cody Brown.

CreativEdge Clothing Fundraiser. Clothing was expected in October. Kim Huberty had submitted new clothing ideas and requests to CreativEdge and added winter apparel items. Celeste Brandt offered to try creating a quarter-page fall apparel advertisement and distribute 700 printed copies.

6. Treasurer's Report / Current Budget and Recent Expenditures

National Bank of Commerce Account. The reported balance as of September 26, 2026, was $9,460.34. The listed activity included $0.04 in interest, a $21.45 reimbursement to Amanda Johnson for fundraiser prizes, and AffiniPay deposits of $51.50 and $10.00.

School District-held Funds. The agenda listed a remaining balance of $3,872.48 after placeholder commitments for Scholastic subscriptions plus shipping ($664.24), Nashke Native Games ($1,000), roller skating tuition assistance ($1,370), Xtra Math subscriptions ($200), and Writing Word Journals ($152.91). These entries were labeled placeholders rather than confirmed payments.

2026–2027 Budget. The agenda listed a starting total of $8,995.00 and a remaining total of $5,413.64 after expenditures, appropriations, and encumbrances. The third-grade staff request category was shown that is $164.24 over its $500 budget is acceptable due to its being approved at the May 4, 2026 meeting, before $500 budget goals were designated for each grade in late May, 2026.

7. PIE / Teacher Requests

Community / School Board Candidate Forum. The candidate forum remained scheduled for Thursday, October 22, 2026, in the High School auditorium, with school board candidates from 6:30–7:30 p.m. and Town Board candidates from 7:45–8:45 p.m. Mel Rice, Community Education Director, was leading event organization and would find a moderator. Ty Gangelhoff was serving as PIE's event liaison and reported attending the Community Education Advisory Council meeting.

8. Other Business

Proctor PIE. Proctor PIE requested advice concerning nonprofit status and internal administration. Jess Cook was identified in the notes as the contact, and advice was provided.

Science Night. Kris Glesener and committee will take the lead on Science Night coordination.

Teacher Appreciation. Kim Huberty was identified as being in charge of teacher appreciation night.

Bike Racks. Ty Gangelhoff expressed interest in obtaining additional bike racks to match the school's existing racks. No purchase motion was made.

9. Upcoming Meetings

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, November 5, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. in the school boardroom. The remaining meeting dates listed on the agenda are January 7, February 4, March 4, April 1, and May 6. The December 3 meeting is cancelled.

10. Adjournment

MOTION: Christine Ringat moved to adjourn the meeting. Brian Harker seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 6:50 P.M.