



TJ PTSA General Membership Meeting Minutes

05/19/2026 at 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm

Attendees:

Executive Committee

President: Catherine Li; First VP of Programing and Events: Kokeb Kassa; Second VP of Membership and Fundraising: Maggy Li; Third VP of Communications: Thomas Stauber; Treasurer: Dinesh Kumar
Secretary: Raji Madhuvana

Committee Chairs:

ANGP: Deepika Sood; Academic Support: Lili Cui; Hospitality: Latha Pesaladinne; Health & Wellness: Ann Payne

Others

TJHSST Principal: Michael Mukai

SGA: Jocelyn Huie (President)

Parliamentarian to facilitate the Election of the Executive Committee: Jeff Neurauter

Total PTSA members in attendance: 58

Location: TJHSST Cafeteria

Agenda

- I. Call to Order and Welcome: Catherine Li (1 mins)
- II. Agenda Adoption: Catherine Li (2 mins)
- III. Approval of 2025-04-09 GMM Meeting Minutes (2 mins)
- IV. Principal's Remarks: Mr. Michael Mukai (12 mins)
- V. SGA & Class Council Report (12 mins)
- VI. Treasurer's Report: Dinesh Kumar (5 mins)

- VII. Committee Reports - Kokeb Kassa (20 mins)
 - A. Grad Celebration - Deepika Sood & Dunia Pardo
 - B. Academic Support - Lili Cui
 - C. College Planning - Mara Marshall
 - D. Health and Wellness - Ann Payne
 - E. Hospitality - Latha Pesaladinne
- VIII. President's Remarks: Catherine Li (5 mins)
- IX. Officer Election (45 mins)
 - A. Adopting rules
 - B. Nomination of candidates
 - C. Candidate statements
 - D. Voting
- X. Adjournment

Call meeting to Order

- A quorum was determined to be present and the president, Catherine Li called the meeting to order (@6:36pm).
- Attendees were reminded of Robert's Rules of Order
- Members were instructed to collect the voting cards from the check-in desk to use when casting votes during the meeting
- Meeting logistics and guidelines were discussed:
 - o Use virtual hand raise for voting
 - o Remain muted unless recognized
 - o Chat among participants was disabled to reduce distractions
 - o Attendees were asked to display their real names on Zoom

Agenda Adoption

- The proposed agenda was published on the website and notified via the weekly membership newsletter.
- The agenda was displayed onscreen for reference of the attendees present during the meeting.
- Maggy passed the motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Dinesh. The agenda was adopted with 100% of the votes in favor.

Approval of 04/09/2026 GM Meeting Minutes

- The 04/09/2026 GMM draft Minutes were available on the TJ PTSA website, and notifications of the minutes were sent via newsletter posts and dedicated email.
- The President solicited comments/corrections to the minutes. There were no comments nor corrections to the 04/09/2026 TJ PTSA GM Meeting minutes; and the minutes were approved as presented. Dinesh passed the motion to approve the minutes and seconded by Maggy. Minutes approved unanimously.

Principal's Update

- **Athletic Success:** Due to overlapping playoff games and inclement weather, student athletes from multiple sports have been actively shifting schedules. Spring sports experienced significant

postseason success, securing several district and regional titles, including Boys' Tennis (both individual and team doubles champions).

- **School Distinctiveness:** The school remains ranked as a top national institution and stands out uniquely as one of the few top-50 schools that operates as a comprehensive public school. Unlike typical governor's programs where students take classes and return to base schools, students here fully participate in an array of elective courses, sports, performing arts, and extracurricular clubs under one roof.
- **Extracurricular Highlights:** Highlights included an award-winning Latin program, exceptional band and orchestra performances, and elite student selections for the U.S. National Under-18 teams. Student-driven research initiatives include an ongoing rocketry project preparing a launch for NASA and a sub-orbital satellite project. Additionally, the Girls' Swim team clinched their 13th consecutive district championship.
- **Student workloads and stress:** Acknowledging parent concerns about students' workload, the Principal emphasized that the student body is highly self-driven and the school provides structural buffers like "J-Day" to mitigate stress. The Multi-Tiered System of Supports has been systematically expanded to integrate more direct academic and instructional support periods into the student schedule .
- **Academic Integrity and Consequences:**
 - The school has intensified monitoring and enforcement regarding academic integrity violations .
 - The Principal shared that severe infractions have recently resulted in outside testing organizations invalidating students' AP and SAT scores, rendering them unable to take these exams for the remainder of high school. Historically, academic dishonesty has also led to students being removed from their chosen universities.
 - Parents were urged to talk to their children about the severe, long-term ramifications of cheating. Teachers do not enjoy policing students, but catching infractions early allows students to learn accountability before facing life-altering consequences in college
- **Instructional Consistency:** To curb academic dishonesty and ensure equity, the school is enforcing a "visible objective system" where teachers of the same subject must align their curriculum, pace, and testing parameters. This prevents students from utilizing historical test banks to gain unfair advantages. Students have a formal right to appeal to administration if they notice severe grading or testing inconsistencies between classes of the same subject.
- **Administrative Restructuring:**
 - To streamline student services and reduce scheduling stress, the school is shifting from a grade-level model to an alphabetical assignment system.
 - Students and families will now be assigned to a dedicated support team consisting of an administrator, two school counselors, and an administrative assistant organized by student last name.
 - This team will stay with the student throughout their high school tenure, ensuring familiar points of contact for paperwork, signatures, and attendance needs.

Student Government Association (SGA) Report – Jocelyn Huie and Class Council Officers

Outgoing SGA president Jocelyn Huie thanked the PTSA for their close collaboration throughout the academic year, specifically highlighting their assistance with providing snacks during AP exams and executing school-wide events. The incoming SGA executive board was introduced. Audrey Li (Vice

President), Meheret Duressa (Treasurer), and Christina Bui (Secretary). President Landon Huie was absent due to track commitments but brings extensive experience from his prior role as SGA Treasurer

- Class 2029 (Freshmen) updates:
 - Financials: Started the year with \$0 and successfully raised approximately \$2,500 over the past year.
 - Completed Events: Hosted a Halloween bake sale yielding nearly \$400 in profit. Implemented an "Open Forum" initiative during eighth periods to gather student feedback regarding school issues and "Ivy Olympics" planning.
 - Merchandise & Upcoming Plans: Designed custom class shirts and hoodies, netting an additional \$400 in profit. Recently launched "J-Day Insurance" policies, generating \$250. Custom class and J-Day merchandise will be distributed during lunch this Thursday. The council is currently organizing a class bonding event and establishing homecoming committees to prepare for the upcoming school year
- Class of 2028 (Sophomores) :
 - Completed Events: Organized a highly successful "Mario Kart" tournament in the auditorium, drawing approximately 50 participants. Hosted community fundraisers at Blaze Pizza and SkateQuest in Reston, with each event bringing in roughly \$400.
 - Upcoming Plans: Distributed custom spirit shirts designed by students. The council is actively training class members to hand-make food items for upcoming school events. Launched a "Class Legacy" challenge, encouraging families to donate \$20 toward future graduation and prom expenses.
- Class of 2027 (Juniors) :
 - Completed Events: Executed multiple fundraising events, including bake sales, an ice-skating night, and a clothing drive. The signature "Taste of TJ" event was a major success, drawing heavy participation from PTSA members.
 - Upcoming Plans: Organizing a class shirt sale this Friday. The junior class committees are currently assisting seniors with prom setup ("PromComm") and graduation logistics ("GradComm").
 - Freshman Summer Social: The council's next major initiative is the Freshman Summer Social, designed to welcome the incoming Class of 2030. This event allows incoming freshmen to tour the building and interact with upperclassmen. A SignUpGenius will be distributed shortly, as a high volume of parent volunteers is required to run the event

Treasurer's Report and Budget Revision:

- The treasurer – Dinesh Kumar – presented the budget vs. actuals-to-date. Financial status as follows:
 - Financial Standing: The Treasurer reported that total revenues for the fiscal year are currently tracking approximately \$15,000 short of original budget estimates.
 - Budget Adjustments: To offset the revenue deficit, the PTSA reviewed projected year-end actuals and systematically reduced line-item expenses to preserve a healthy reserve balance. The targeted year-end ending balance is projected to sit around \$20,000.

- Approval: A formal motion to adopt the proposed budget revisions to match actuals was introduced. The motion was seconded and approved by a general membership card vote, with no opposing votes recorded.

PTSA Committee Updates

- Academic support (Lili Cui):
 - AP test support: Over the last two weeks of testing, 1800 to 2100 AP exams were administered.
 - More than 200 parent volunteers coordinated to purchase, organize, and distribute snacks.
- Health and Wellness (Ann Payne):
 - Completed Initiatives: Partnered with the student-led Mental Health Coalition during eighth period to sponsor the "Stress Less, Laugh More" campaign prior to AP testing. This included funding a "Manifestation Mountain" installation where students wrote positive affirmations and words of encouragement to support peers.
 - Jefferson Junction: Collaborated with Student Services to support "Jefferson Junction," an ongoing initiative providing Sunday donations, healthy snacks, and wellness items to students during high-stress periods.
 - Transition Plans: The committee is scheduled to meet with school administration to evaluate student wellness metrics and align programming for the upcoming school year
- Hospitality updates were provided by Laths.
 - Completed Initiatives: Partnered with the student-led Mental Health Coalition during eighth period to sponsor the "Stress Less, Laugh More" campaign prior to AP testing. This included funding a "Manifestation Mountain" installation where students wrote positive affirmations and words of encouragement to support peers.
 - Jefferson Junction: Collaborated with Student Services to support "Jefferson Junction," an ongoing initiative providing Sunday donations, healthy snacks, and wellness items to students during high-stress periods.
 - Transition Plans: The committee is scheduled to meet with school administration to evaluate student wellness metrics and align programming for the upcoming school year
- On behalf of Mara Marshall, Kokeb briefed on College Planning:
 - Yearly Programming: The committee hosted three major panel events this year focused on navigating the college admissions landscape. The first seminar focused on "Finding the Best Fit College" and featured external admissions panelists.
 - Senior Student Panel: A highly successful senior student panel took place hours before the GMM. The panel featured nine graduating seniors from the Class of 2026 spanning various academic disciplines, including students attending Harvard, specialized engineering programs, and music/fine arts institutes.
 - Future Planning: The committee is soliciting parent feedback for next year's topics, with a seminar focusing on the impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in higher education currently under consideration.
- All Night Grad Party (ANGP) : Deepika shared ANGP update:
 - Event Details: The ANGP is scheduled to take place overnight on June 6th.
 - The ANGP committee issued a critical appeal for parent volunteers. While planning has been underway since December, the committee currently faces a massive volunteer deficit. Over 200 parent volunteers are required to safely staff the event, which runs continuously from Friday evening at 4:00 PM through Sunday morning.

- **Cancellation Risks:** The chair warned that a neighboring high school was forced to cancel their ANGP last week due to a lack of parent volunteers. Given that the PTSA has already committed thousands of dollars in non-refundable vendor contracts, failing to secure volunteers would result in a massive financial loss and the cancellation of the graduation tradition.
- Parents from all grade levels—not just senior parents—were strongly urged to scan the distributed QR codes to sign up for setup, security, and food distribution shifts. Underclassmen parents were encouraged to volunteer so senior parents could enjoy their children's graduation weekend.

President's remarks:

President Catherine Li extended formal thanks to the 11-member executive board, committee chairs, and dedicated volunteers for their service. She made special mention of the recognitions received this year:

- **Membership Milestone:** At the recent Fairfax County Council PTA (FCCPTA) meeting, the PTSA was officially recognized for breaking historical records by surpassing 1,000 active members, making it one of the largest local PTAs in the state of Virginia. Catherine thanked the Membership Chair Maggy Li for her outstanding work.
- **Retiring Senior Parents:** Special tokens of appreciation were given to outgoing senior parents Maggy, ANGP Chair Deepika, and Health & Wellness Chair Anne Payne for their multi-year leadership and tireless volunteer hours.
- **Administrative Volunteers:** Kudos were given to Treasurer Dinesh for his financial stewardship, bookkeepers Bhuvana and Seema for balancing the accounts, Webmasters Sandy and Ben for managing communications and flyers, technical and Zoom support.

Officer Elections (Fiscal Year 2026 – 2027)

Appointment of Election Chair: President Catherine Li introduced a motion to appoint Mr. Jeff Nerauter, a professional parliamentarian, to serve as the independent Presiding Election Officer. The motion was seconded by Tom and approved unanimously.

Adoption of Election Rules: The official rules governing the executive board election were displayed on the screen. A motion to adopt the election rules was introduced, seconded, and passed by a clear majority vote.

Presentation of the Nominating Committee: The nominating committee formally presented the single slate of candidates for the 2026-27 PTSA Executive Board:

- President: Manisha Chhoda
- First Vice President (Programming & Events): Kokeb Kassa
- Second Vice President (Membership & Fundraising): Yuping Schellhaas
- Third Vice President for Communications: Thomas Stauber
- Treasurer: Chloe Qiang
- Secretary: Raji Madhuvana

Election Procedures and Floor Nominations: The Election Chair outlined the voting protocol: for offices with a single nominee, a collective voice vote would be taken; if any floor nominations were entered, a formal ballot vote would take place. The chair then opened the floor for additional nominations for each individual office:

- President: No floor nominations were entered. Nominations closed.
- First Vice President: No floor nominations were entered. Nominations closed.
- Second Vice President: No floor nominations were entered. Nominations closed.
- Third Vice President: No floor nominations were entered. Nominations closed.
- Treasurer: No floor nominations were entered. Nominations closed.
- Secretary: No floor nominations were entered. Nominations closed.

Candidate Statements: The unopposed candidates were invited to briefly address the general membership:

- Manisha (President): Expressed gratitude for the support of the community. Stated her core objective is to foster a deeply unified school community based on mutual respect, while strengthening partnerships between students, parents, teachers, and school committees.
- Kokeb (First VP): Noted she is excited to be serving for another term and has massive shoes to fill following the excellent work of prior VPs and officers. Emphasized that because the board consists of full-time working professionals, parent engagement is vital to maintaining robust programming.
- Yuping (Second VP): Stated her primary objective is to aggressively expand and grow the overall membership count. Higher membership levels directly translate to expanded funding models to support the school's 100+ student clubs and sports teams.
- Tom (Third VP): Expressed excitement to return to the board for another term. Noted that communication frameworks will be critical over the next few years as the student body population continues to expand.
- Chloe (Treasurer): Shared that her experience working overnight on student events inspired her to step up into formal service. She committed to maintaining the high financial compliance standards set by the outgoing treasurer.
- Raji (Secretary): Stated that as a parent of both a graduate and a current student, she looks forward to continuing as the secretary for another term. Her primary objective will be to ensure prompt, accurate, and highly transparent distribution of meeting minutes and corporate records to the community.

Vote and Election Results:

A motion was made and seconded to vote on the presented candidates as a single unified slate. The Election Chair called for a voice vote of all members in favor of electing the slate. The general membership responded unanimously; no opposing votes were recorded. The Chair officially declared the entire slate elected to the PTSA Executive Board for the 2026-2027 fiscal year.

Adjournment: Following the conclusion of the officer elections, the Chair returned control of the floor to the President, Catherine Li. Expressing gratitude to the members for an efficient and successful meeting, the meeting was adjourned at 7:51pm EST