



The Rice School / La Escuela Rice PTO

Meeting Minutes

PTO General Body Meeting Minutes

Prepared for printing and board sharing / Submitted August 28, 2026

Document purpose: Official record of the August 26, 2026 PTO General Meeting.

Meeting Information

1	School	The Rice School / La Escuela Rice
2	Date	August 26, 2026
3	Time	6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. (scheduled)
4	Location	School Cafeteria
5	Meeting Type	In-Person
6	Presiding Officer	Kristen “Kris” Williams

Attendance & Quorum

1	Present Attendees	Board Members: Kris Williams; Nikki Allen; Ayana Nwaokolo; Leora Guadalupe; Tiffiney; Wendy Gonzalez; Dawn Simpson; Lizett Alvear Attendees: Maria Aguilar, Jessica Marrero, Roxanna Rejon, Karla Culton, Coral Brinson, Hobed & Elydia Villanueva, Jackie Gil, Treyeka Gray, Latoya Ingram, Jade Mays-Sinnette, Tiffany Haynes, Tyche Spencer
2	Attendees Present Virtually	Latoya Ingram
3	Admin & Staff Present	Principal Montelongo, Mr. Zamor (6 th Grade)
4	Quorum	None recorded.

Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Kris Williams at 6:15 p.m.



Detailed Meeting Minutes

PTO Activity: Craft and Connect

Parents and Staff were provided with linen totes, stencils and paint to create a unique bag for personal use.

Introduction of PTO Board Members for the 2026–2027 School Year

- Kristen (Kris) Williams – President
- Tiffiney Carter – Vice President (Not Present)
- Ayana Nwaokolo – Secretary
- Dawn Simpson – Interim Treasurer
- Lizzet Alvear – Sponsorship Coordinator
- Nikki Washington – Uniform Store Director
- Wendy Gonzalez – Volunteer Coordinator
- Toi Babineaux – Fundraising Coordinator (Not Present)
- Leora Guadalupe – Communications Officer

Ice Breaker: 10 Questions

Scheduled Events

August

- **Beautification Day** – Mr. Montelongo invited middle school through high school-age students and their families to volunteer. 10 adult volunteers are needed to help build picnic tables. Outdoor seating will be available for middle schoolers to eat outside when weather permits.

September

- **Grandparents Day** – The event will be set up entirely in the gym so no one feels left out. PTO will provide tables and chairs.
- **Spirit Week** – Free dress days for 5th and 8th grade. (Latoya asked online about QR code accessibility.)
- **Rice Around the World: Hispanic Heritage Night**
- **Open House (Dr. Montelongo)** – Split across three days: Tuesday (K–2nd), Wednesday (3rd–5th), Thursday (6th–8th).
- **Carline Coffee** – Traveling Toms Coffee Truck fundraiser, with an optional coffee + donut option.

October

- **Theme: STEMtober**
 - STEM-themed movie night on the lawn (date TBD)
 - STEM Career Days (dates TBD): Presentations for 3rd–8th grade will be held in the auditorium, with 3–4 speakers needed per career category. K–2nd grade will hold their own career days in classroom clusters.
 - STEM Night – October 30. Escape rooms will replace the haunted house, since the parent who previously organized it is no longer with the school.



- October PTO Social: Speed Dating

Uniforms Update (Nikki Washington)

Uniforms will be available in person through Open House. New dates for online ordering will be announced after Open House.

POParrazi Fundraiser Update

Kris updated parents on last spring's fundraiser with POParrazi. Payment has still not been received despite multiple attempts to reach out and request payment. The Board has discussed pursuing legal action and wanted to keep parents and the school informed.

- Jade (in person) asked whether the PTO could post public reviews or notices to draw attention to the issue.
- Kris asked that anyone who has not received their popcorn order please reach out to the PTO.
- Latoya (online) shared that she found other recent reviews describing similar situations, and suggested compiling multiple instances to strengthen the PTO's position if legal action is pursued.

Additional Comments

- Hispanic Heritage flyers will be translated for Spanish-speaking parents.
- Some attachments sent through Parent Square have appeared blurry; Dr. Montelongo will work on sending individual attachments, and a link will also be included in the comment section for easier access.

Spirit Store Update

- The store will close August 31st and reopen in October.
- Most orders have shipped as of today.
- A Grandparents Day shirt will be designed for Spirit Store pre-order.
- Elydia asked whether there's a specific fundraising goal and what the funds go toward. Kris and other board members confirmed that each fundraiser flyer specifies its designated use:
 - Carline Coffee proceeds go toward Beautification.
 - Larger popcorn sale proceeds go toward school Beautification.
 - Mr. Montelongo noted potential uses including playground resurfacing (referencing Twain and West U Elementary), upgraded basketball goals, and a middle school pergola for outdoor seating.

Clubs Update

A survey will be sent out to gauge interest in clubs, including an art club for younger students.

Dual Language Program Question

A parent asked about a dual language program. Mr. Montelongo clarified that Rice offers a traditional bilingual program (90% Spanish / 10% English) rather than a true dual language program, and a Magnet STEM program.



Next Meeting

1	Date	September 23, 2026
2	Time	6:00pm - 7:00 pm
3	Location	Virtual

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:05p

Secretary Certification

Respectfully submitted,

Ayana Nwaokolo

Secretary

Date: August 19, 2026