The Rice School / La Escuela Rice PTO

Meeting Minutes

PTO General BodyMeeting Minutes

Prepared for printing and public sharing | Submitted October 21, 2026

Document purpose: Official record of the October 21, 2026 PTO General Meeting.

Meeting Information

1	**School**	The Rice School / La Escuela Rice
2	**Date**	October 21, 2026
3	**Time**	6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. (scheduled)
4	**Location**	Virtual Meeting
5	**Meeting Type**	Teams
6	**Presiding Officer**	Kris Williams

Attendance & Quorum

1	**Present**	
2	**Additional Attendees**	Board Members Present: Kris Williams; Toi Babineaux; Ayana Nwaokolo; Leora Guadalupe; Dawn Simpson, Wendy Gonzalez Attendees: Ana, Arianne Davis, Ariel Robinson, Brittany Williams, D p, Dawn Simpson, Elaine G., Harris, Jade Mays, Labrittany Harper, LaToya Ingram, Leora Guadalupe, Lury, Maria Aguilar, Michaela, Tiffany Ogburn, Patrice Morrow, Rochelle Myles, Ronna, Ruta Kebede, Sagastizado, Sassy Pink, Toi Babineaux, Tyche' Spencer, Wendy Gonzalez, Michaela, Sam, Juliet Ndugbu, Ms. Gray

Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Kris Williams at 6:05 p.m.

Approval of Previous Minutes

Approved

Detailed Meeting Minutes

1. STEM Night

STEM Night: Thursday, October 29th

- New system being used that is fully digital.
- Parents can purchase tickets now through the day of the event (including during the event if extras are needed).

STEM Night Volunteers

- Need volunteers to monitor concessions and activities.
- Need extra volunteers to rotate in and out.
- Before the event, help is needed with setup (tablecloths, signs, etc.).
- Meet at the PTO Office with Nikki and Wendy to receive a briefing.
- Need help cleaning up tables, chairs, trash, etc.
- Event Promotion: This Friday at 3:00 p.m. (Sign-up available via GroupMe).
- Please register beforehand so your name is on the list to enter the school.
- Wednesday volunteers needed for Escape Room setup.
- Friday volunteers needed for additional STEM Night breakdown.

Other Volunteer Opportunities

High School Fair: Wednesday, October 28th, 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

- Volunteers needed. Arrive at 8:15 a.m.
    - Help with crowd flow and directing students.
- Parents are also allowed to attend the event.
- Comment (Sagastizado): Her high school-aged volunteer has not been able to be VIP-approved. How can they check the status of approval?
    - Kris will check and get an answer.

2. Clubs

- Club Fair rescheduled for Thursday, October 22.
- New clubs available this year. See flyer.
- Monday-Thursday clubs only (no Fridays).
- Registration period starts Friday (first come, first served for most clubs).
    - A lottery system will be used for clubs with high interest.
- Parents/students will be informed on Sunday via email of the club they were accepted into.
- Club meetings will begin the first week of November (emails will contain additional club information).
- Dance Club requires tryouts.
- Kris will be touching base with Yearbook and Dominoes Club before the Club Fair to confirm information.
- Comment (Ariel): The website is showing inaccurate club information.
    - Kris just confirmed all clubs for this year today and will have the website updated either tonight or tomorrow.
- Comment (Harris): Confirming auditions/tryouts are only for Dance.
    - Dance is the only club requiring tryouts and is available for both boys and girls.
- Comment (Ronna): Is Cheer Club going to be available this year?
    - Kris: Cheer is not a club and will be starting back up this year. Ms. Bell oversees Cheer and will be holding tryouts. Cheer is not affiliated with PTO.
- Comment (Wendy): Climate and Energy Club meets the second and last Thursday of each month.
    - At this time, clubs are meeting once a week, but Principal Lyons will allow twice-weekly meetings.
- All clubs will end at the end of March.

- In April 2027, a Club Showcase will be held to highlight what each club has been working on throughout the year.

Club Requirements

- Certain clubs will require an upfront cost based on supplies needed.
    - LEGO Club may require kits for each student.
- Students may have club privileges revoked if they miss too many meetings.
- ***Students must be passing classes and have good conduct.***

New Club Available (Non-PTO/Requires Payment)

- Learn To Bot: After-school hands-on robotics, coding, and AI classes.
- Virtual session will be held with Mr. Neil on October 27 (tentative).
- A banner will be posted at the school gate for additional visibility.
- Comment (Juliet): What grades is the Robotics Club for?
    - 2nd-8th grade; students must be able to read fluently (instruction-based).
    - Pricing will be shared during the informational session.
- Comment (Juliet): What if my child is at a higher level? Will the club be able to accommodate them?
    - Kris: Please attend the informational session, but the program will work with each child on an individual basis.
- Comment (Sassy Pink): Has Girl Scouts been considered?
    - Leora: PTO does not have a troop, but there are troops associated with Rice School (both Scouts and Girl Scouts) operating on campus.
    - Kris: Finly Carter's mother has a troop. We can share information on known troops with parents.

3. October / STEMtober

LEGO Lovers Challenge

- Students must enter to participate (must provide name, grade, and homeroom teacher).
- Must be completed within 3 days (kit provided by PTO).
- Each build will be displayed in the gym on STEM Night with a mini-interview, a photo of the student, and any additional LEGO builds they may have completed.
- KITS ARE PROPERTY OF PTO AND MUST BE RETURNED.
- Students should sign up by tomorrow so kits can be distributed Friday and completed by Monday.

Guess the Number Challenge

- Students will guess the number of items in each jar.
- The closest guess to the actual number will receive the jar of goodies.

Bridge Building Challenge

- Students may participate individually or as a team (up to two students per team).
- Bridges must be built by Tuesday and turned in for display at STEM Night.
- Kits will be distributed for the build.
- The strongest bridge competition will be held on Friday.

Other Activities Completed

- Rocket Launch
- Elephant Toothpaste
- STEM Careers Board updated weekly in the front lobby.
- All completed projects will be displayed in the gym on STEM Night.

4. Closing & Additional Comments/Questions

- Rochelle Mays: Did we get approval to begin planning for 8th Grade events?

- Leora: Tiffiney and I will be posting and sharing more information in the GroupMe they created. Yes, they will be moving forward with both 5th and 8th grade activities.

- Toi: Please complete the fundraiser survey so we have a better idea of what parents are willing and able to do.

- Dawn: Middle School students will be hosting their Pink Out this Friday.
  - Volunteers needed for concession sales.
  - 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. (2 sessions).

- Kris: Please order STEM Night tickets as soon as possible.
  - You can pre-print your QR code for students to use.

- Ms. Gray: Are students allowed to wear costumes for Halloween?
  - K-2nd grades are doing a Storybook Dress-Up Day.

- Any additional questions? Please direct them to our email at Riceptok8@yahoo.com

Next Meeting

1	**Date**	General Body Meeting – November 18, 2026
2	**Time**	6:00pm - 7:00 pm
3	**Location**	Virtual (Teams)

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

Secretary Certification

Respectfully submitted,

Ayana Nwaokolo
Secretary
Date: October 21, 2026