

Meeting Minutes

September 9, 2026 | The Garage | Duration: 70 minutes

Partners for Student Journeys, 501(c)(3)

Board and Leadership

President	Jessi Mauskemo	Vice President	Tricia Fuller
Secretary	Andrea Gosch	Treasurer	Eric Manley
Members at Large	Lindsay Gust and Jeremy Hart		

1. Volunteer and Fundraising Structure

The group discussed opportunities for parents and students to participate in fundraising and volunteering. To provide clarity and fairness among participating students, fundraising opportunities were divided into three categories, or "buckets":

Bucket 1 - Volunteer Hours / Individual Student Benefit

Volunteer opportunities in this category provide credit or contributions based on the amount of time invested by an individual student and/or family. Funds or benefits associated with this category go directly toward the individual student's trip costs.

Bucket 2 - Donations / Community Giving

This category includes community donations, grants, business contributions, and other fundraising efforts that benefit all students who register for a trip. Funds raised through this category are intended to support the overall program rather than an individual student.

Bucket 3 - Individual Sales

Individual sales are fundraising activities that apply toward the specific costs of the student conducting the sale. Examples discussed included pizza sales and the Gerten flower/poinsettia sale.

The group discussed the importance of creating additional fundraising opportunities because the organization is no longer directly involved with the school. The organization also discussed developing fair incentives for parents and students who consistently volunteer their time and provide assistance.

2. Website and Registration

The group discussed the organization's new website:

partners4sj.com

Parents and students are encouraged to use the website to register and obtain information regarding upcoming opportunities, fundraisers, and activities.

3. Flag and Driveway Fundraising

The group discussed current fundraisers that began over the summer. Total funds from flag sales were not yet available. The driveway stamping project received \$4,000 in gross funding, which also needed to cover the cost of paint.

A total of 141 driveways were signed up for the project.

Driveway Organization

To make the driveway project more efficient, the group discussed dividing participants into five pods, with approximately:

- Two parents per pod
- Four to five students per pod

The group also discussed the use of S and C stencils and agreed that instructional information/materials would be uploaded to help participants complete the work properly.

The current paint being used on the driveways is expected to last approximately three to four months.

4. Other Ideas

The group encouraged attendees to bring forward new fundraising ideas and present them to the group before proceeding. This approach will allow members to work together, address liability concerns, and improve the likelihood of successful events.

5. Gertens Poinsettia Sale

The group discussed the Gertens poinsettia sale.

Important details included:

Red poinsettias are expected to sell out by approximately October 10.

Orders are completed through the organization's website.

Students may receive individual credit for sales when their name is associated with the order.

Students should remind customers purchasing online to enter the student's name when placing their order so the appropriate student receives credit.

The school will also distribute information regarding the sale through its communication channels and website.

Product delivery is typically scheduled for the first weekend in December, with December 4 being the target date discussed.

Parent and student volunteers will be needed approximately 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. to assist with product pickup, organization, and distribution.

Students will be primarily responsible for delivering the products they sell.

6. DC Grill Donations

The group discussed donations received from DC Grill and expressed appreciation for their support.

7. Spanish Community Fundraising Opportunity

The group discussed potential fundraising opportunities involving the Spanish community.

Magda will assist with making contact and exploring additional fundraising opportunities. A possible community meal/fundraising event had previously been discussed, and the group would like to explore whether that opportunity can move forward.

8. Haunted Trail Fundraiser

The upcoming Haunted Trail fundraiser was discussed. The event is considered one of the organization's larger fundraisers as well as a significant community event.

Jeremy Hart will serve as Director of Trail Services and is seeking volunteers to assist with the event.

Event Schedule

The Haunted Trail is scheduled for:

October 23 and October 24

5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

The first hour will be designated as a non-scare hour from 5:30-6:30.

Participants may pay an additional \$1 to go through the trail a second time.

The group discussed the need for volunteer coverage on Friday and Saturday, Sunday cleanup, and Thursday evening setup.

Volunteer groups of approximately five people are encouraged and can be signed up online.

Trail Preparation and Donations

The organization has contacted the city, and the city will assist with grooming the trail.

The organization also received a \$250 Thrivent gift card to assist with funding for the Haunted Trail.

Members were encouraged to contact local businesses to determine whether they would be interested in donating funds, supplies, or other resources.

The organization is seeking:

- Reusable props
- Sound equipment
- Lighting
- Fire pits
- Firewood
- Other materials that can be reused for future Haunted Trail events

The goal is to build an inventory of reusable materials that can reduce future event expenses.

9. Additional Fundraising and Donation Opportunities

The group discussed holding a 50/50 raffle at the September 11, 2026 football game and encouraged members to help with future 50/50 raffles.

10. Community and Business Outreach

Attendees were encouraged to contact businesses and community members regarding potential donations, sponsorships, and fundraising partnerships.

The organization can provide appropriate documentation, including tax receipts for qualifying charitable contributions, when applicable.

The group emphasized that community involvement and business partnerships will be important to the continued growth of Partners for Student Journeys.

11. Registration and Communication

The group opened the floor for additional suggestions and encouraged all members to promote the organization and registration opportunities.

Attendees were encouraged to tell families, students, and community members about Partners for Student Journeys and direct them to the organization's website.

The organization also currently accepts contributions through Venmo.

12. Open Discussion

The floor was opened for additional suggestions, questions, and ideas. Members were encouraged to continue bringing forward fundraising and volunteer opportunities for consideration by the group.

The organization emphasized collaboration, transparency, fairness, and communication when developing future fundraising activities.

13. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned: 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Gosch

Secretary

Partners for Student Journeys

Date: September 9, 2026