The Hickman N.E.S.T.
MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD, HICKMAN PRINCIPAL AND ESA

Oct 6, 2026

A meeting of the Board of Directors (the "**Board**") of The Hickman N.E.S.T., a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation, was held on October 6, 2026, at Hickman Elementary, 10850 Montongo St, San Diego, CA 92126.

Executive Board Members Present:
Amy Dichoso, President
Isabel Taku, VP Communications
Pascale Susi, VP Volunteers
Patty Kotnik, Treasurer
Stefanie Kairs, Secretary

Committee Leads Present:
None.

Also Present:
Jena Beane, Principal
Matt Glandon, ESA

Executive Board Members Absent:
Dominique Fite, VP Fundraising
Scott Eisold, VP Volunteers

Call to Order
Amy Dichoso called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. and Stefanie Kairs recorded the minutes. A quorum of directors was present as well as the Principal and ESA, and the meeting, having been duly convened, was ready to proceed with the business.

Approval of Minutes
Stefanie Kairs presented to the Board the minutes of the September 21, 2026 meeting of the Board for approval, whereupon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously adopted, the minutes were approved as presented.

President Report
Amy Dichoso reviewed the agenda, welcomed everyone to the meeting, and noted that the session's primary focus is coordinating the heavy schedule of upcoming October events.

Principal Report
Principal Jena Beane reminded the Board that the monthly staff meeting takes place later this afternoon, with time allocated for a N.E.S.T. presentation. She reviewed upcoming school calendar dates, including Picture Day on October 7, a Non-instructional Day on October 12, the

first TK-2 Family Friday and Coffee with the Principal on October 16, and the Halloween Parade (8:15 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.) followed by a minimum day on October 30. Parents are welcome to attend the parade.

Ahead of the Hickman Hallows event on October 24, Principal Beane confirmed that outside vendor protocol rules remain unchanged from last year, highlighting a critical "no open flames" restriction for food vendors.

Finally, she requested that NEST's ClassDojo communications be distributed consistently on Mondays to establish a predictable schedule for families. She encouraged utilizing the platform's internal events and reminders feature to automatically populate the Dojo calendar for parent reference.

Secretary Report

Stefanie Kairs provided an update on the visitor management software. School Clerk Jaimie Kolbeck indicated that she needs to attend an additional training session to review the system's specific features and new visitor log management options. She extended an invitation for one or more Board members to attend the training with her once it is scheduled.

Completion and Recording of Partial Votes
A vote initiated via electronic communication was finalized and recorded for the record. On October 4, 2026, Treasurer Patty Kotnik moved to fund the SDYS science programming proposal for $17,620[1] for the current school year and to reserve equivalent funding for the following academic year. The approved proposal provides three sessions for each TK–3 class and two sessions for each 4th–5th grade class. It was seconded and the matter opened to vote.

The board members recorded their votes by these methods:

- Stefanie Kairs, Patty Kotnik, Amy Dichoso - electronically via email
- Dominique Fite - electronically via group text
- Isabel Taku, Pascale Susi - in person, at this meeting

The board voted unanimously to approve the motion.

Treasurer Report
Patty Kotnik led a discussion around the SDYS programming and who would facilitate coordinating those sessions. Principal Beane designated ESA Matt Glandon as the scheduling liaison.

Patty Kotnik then asked whether the 4th-5th grade teachers might be interested in additional sessions the following year and why they had limited their grades to two sessions instead of three. Principal Beane shared that the upper-grade teachers feel some overwhelm about

[1] Hickman Revised Proposal 10-4-2026 (All school - tiered 2-3 sessions).pdf

covering the curriculum content and breadth before school testing and that by requesting two sessions instead of three they felt they could ask for social studies curriculum enrichment they felt they needed as strongly as the science enrichment.

The upper-grade teachers requested social studies curriculum support through California Weekly Explorer (Californiaweekly.com) at a cost of $1,620 ($405 per class for 4 classes). Patty Kotnik moved to fund one session per 4th–5th grade classroom for the current school year ($1,620) and to reserve an equivalent $1,620 for the following academic year. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Additionally, Patty Kotnik confirmed that Matt Glandon received the finalized teacher grant checks for campus distribution and noted that the annual NEST tax return has been reviewed and is ready for filing by the CPA.

Finally, the Board reviewed an administrative request to fund Ms. Fidel's combo K/1 class so students could attend both the Kindergarten and 1st-grade field trips. Board discussion noted that due to the small class size, adding the students to the existing travel requests would not incur additional busing fees. A motion was made and seconded to approve the miscellaneous admission and travel costs required for the combo class to attend both grade-level trips. The motion passed unanimously.

VP Fundraising Update
The Board reviewed the fundraising report submitted by Dominique Fite:

• Tasty Tuesday: The next Tasty Tuesday dine-out event is scheduled for today at Panda Express. The previous September event at Chipotle raised $243.35.

• Super Pledge Campaign: The campaign has raised over $16,800 toward its goal, a total that excludes unprocessed physical checks and pending employer-matching funds. The campaign's thermometer tracking banners will be updated, and pledge reminders will be distributed as the October 30 campaign deadline approaches.

• Banner Campaign: The initiative has raised $500 to date, with two additional corporate banners currently in production.

VP Communications/Media Update
Isabel Taku provided a communications update, noting that promotional details for the upcoming Science Night on November 14 will be distributed shortly. She also announced that an evening event at a San Diego Gulls game is being planned for January.

VP Volunteers Update
Pascale Susi reported that a new shipment of turf has been ordered. Because delivery timelines did not align with the recent campus cleanup event hosted by the Garden Club, Scott Eisold will organize a dedicated turf-beautification day to recruit volunteers for the final installation.

Unfinished / New Business

The Board agreed to purchase a limited quantity of sample display items featuring the school's 50th Anniversary design. These samples will be showcased at the Hickman Hallows event on October 24, where families can place pre-orders for a larger production run.

Board members raised concerns regarding worsening pedestrian and traffic conflicts during morning drop-off, inquiring about the feasibility of escalating repeat traffic violations to the San Diego Police Department (SDPD) for citation. Principal Jena Beane noted that traffic safety challenges are an ongoing, district-wide issue. She confirmed that crossing guard Chelo is currently documenting repeat offenders for administrative escalation. Additionally, the school administration is producing new A-frame poster boards and physical barriers to deter dangerous, off-sidewalk student access to the campus.

The Board also discussed Title 1 funding and the critical necessity of collecting outstanding Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) data sheets. To understand the long-term stakes of the collection drive, the Board requested that ESA Matt Glandon provide a formal accounting of the specific financial losses, program reductions, and staffing impacts the school would face if it fails to maintain its Title 1 eligibility in future academic years.

Adjournment
There being no further business to come before the meeting, the meeting was adjourned at 9:24 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Stefanie Kairs, Recording Secretary