

PTA Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, March 4, 2025

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: Four Mile Elementary Library

Attendees: Amanda Michael; Tammy Steenhoek; Kelly Chance; Ashley Green; Kirsten Lauters; Alyssa Meade; Caroline Metzker; Shani Backstrom; Ashley Grosz; Jordan Henry

Virtual Attendees: Kareena Price; Alejandra Alanis

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 8, 2025

Meeting Notes:

Principal's Report – Tammy Steenhoek

- **Community Engagement:** Positive feedback from families regarding open school access during spring fundraiser/pancake breakfast. Parents and grandparents appreciated the chance to explore the hallways and classrooms.
- **Events:** The recent auction was a success, not just financially but also in bringing the community together. Roller-skating fundraiser event was a hit with students, who were excited to share their experiences.
- **PTA snack cart:** The surprise snack cart has been well received by teachers, with the element of surprise adding to their enthusiasm.
- **Attendance:** Chronic absenteeism has significantly improved, dropping from 18% last year to 7% this year.
- **Student Surveys:**
 - K-5 relationships have improved over the past three years.
 - However, fewer students reported having a friend to play with at recess. Staff will investigate further to address this concern.
- **Staffing Updates:**

- Retirements: Julie McLaughlin (2nd grade associate) and Jackie Purcell (custodian).
- Position Elimination: Michele Reichart (Title 1 teacher) due to funding cuts. She will transfer to Delaware Elementary.
- No resignations; Madison Foster will move from 4th to 5th grade.
- **Important Dates:**
 - **Last day of school:** Thursday, May 29 (full day).
 - **Standardized Testing (3rd-5th):** April 21-25. A healthy snack sign-up will be available after spring break.
 - **Olympics:** Monday, May 19 (morning event). PTA will cover busing costs.
 - **Field Trips:** Thanks to PTA support, all grade levels will have at least one trip this year.

2. Academic Concerns & Discussion

- **Independent Practice at Home:** Some parents are interested in optional extra practice materials for their children. Teachers will consider offering optional resources without overwhelming families.
- **Class Size Concerns:**
 - First grade sections, increasing class sizes to 25 students per class.
 - Space constraints limit the ability to add additional classrooms. The district will monitor enrollment numbers closely. Discussions on emailing school board to address concerns.

3. Fundraising & Events

- **Auction Feedback:** Successful turnout, with positive feedback from families. Some technical issues with the microphone system were noted.
- **Hospitality & Teacher Support:**

- Mrs. Piatt received small gift
- Plans are in place to secure additional donations and giveaways for teacher appreciation week.
- **Roller Skating Event:** Great success raising \$875. Scheduling a fall event due to the strong turnout. PTA will follow up in May to confirm a date.
- **Chuck-E-Cheese: March 21st fundraiser set.** 20% of all sales returned to school, all day- not just Four Mile students.
- **Vendor fair update:** Due to ice storm in December we have moved this to April 12th 9am-3pm. Jessica securing vendors and food trucks. Gym and Cafeteria are reserved Friday before the event 5 PM to 10 PM and the day of the event 6:30 AM to 6 PM.
- **Duck Derby:** Discussion on needing someone to step up and take lead on this. Possibly will table this and move it to the fall.

4. Other Business

- **Conference week update:** Link sent out for book fair sign-up and to get people to volunteer to bring desserts and drinks. PTA will pay for meals Northern lights pizza & Jethros
- **Library Wall Mural:** Discussion about update from mural artist.

Meeting Adjourned