

PTO Meeting Minutes

December 18, 2024

Meeting called to order at 6:03 pm by Stacie Brown.

Rosa Lopez Washington motioned and Latoya Conners Gray seconded, to approve the meeting minutes from the November meeting.

Attendance

Stacie Brown: President	Gina Ney: MS Teacher Representative
Aimee Briggs: Vice President - ES	Trisha Kocanda; Superintendent
Rosa Lopez-Washington: Vice President – MS	Beth Carmody; ES Principal
Yoon Chung: Vice President - Preschool	Aga Macoch: School Board
Jennifer Knop: Secretary & Interim Treasurer	Suha Dimon: Art Awareness Co-Chair
Latoya Conners Gray: Parent Liaison	Monica Trent: Yearbook Chair (ES)
Edie Buehring: IS Teacher Representative	Guests:
Dana Gallup: ES Teacher Representative	Greg Wideman

Reports:

President's Report:

Stacie Brown reported. The Holiday Luncheon was fantastic. Emils was the first restaurant to be early, have no issues and provide plenty of food! Working on creating and scheduling a mid-year check in for board and chair positions. Looking forward to Winter parties on Friday.

Vice Presidents' Reports:

Lincoln School: Yoon Chung reported. We're excited for the Winter Party, and have 2-3 hosts for most classes.

Elementary School: Aimee Briggs reported. Excited for the parties and happy there are hosts for every classroom.

Intermediate School: Elisabeth Reigle reported via email. Winter parties all have hosts assigned and should be all set.

Middle School: No report.

Treasurer's Report: Jen Knop reported. Overall, the PTO is in good shape. Working on moving funds back to Mundelein Community Bank - this should be completed by the end of March.

Mundelein Comm. Checking Balance as of 11/29/24	47,644.02
Mundelein Comm. Savings Balance as of 11/29/24	1,067.44
Republic Bank Checking Balance as of 11/30/24	49,693.92
Republic Bank Money Market Balance as of 11/30/24	14,659.22
Less: Committed Funds	82,355.58
Uncommitted Funds as of 11/30/24	30,709.02
Balance available for 2024/2025:	30,709.02

Parent Liaison - Latoya Conners Gray reported. Book Club will be February 11. Working with Nick Brilowski to generate attention every week to build momentum. Working on setting up Transition meetings for parents with students moving schools: ES to IS, IS to MS, and MS to HS. MHS will present at the end of the February PTO meeting for families with students heading there. The goal of these meetings is to help parents be more aware and comfortable with the transitions. Also considering setting up a round table event in the late spring to talk through experiences.

Communications - Stacie Brown reported. There is an Ice Skating event on Dec 27 that Katie Taylor-Couturiaux has put together.

Principal's Report: Beth Carmody reported. Thank you for the awesome lunch. Food was delicious and there was plenty to go around. Thank you for the decorations as well - it is very much appreciated and spread cheer through the last week before winter break. Lincoln wants to remind parents that there is a Parent Involvement event on January 23 from 6-7 pm. Details will be available after winter break. The Elementary School would like to thank Aimee Briggs for getting the PTO updates to them in a timely matter. Overall, MAP scores will be mailed home the week of January 13. And they are looking forward to the winter parties.

District and School Board Report:

Aga Macoch reported for the School Board. The last board meeting was on December 16. Board voted on and approved the Educational Long Range Facility Plan at the last meeting. Also at the last board meeting, we recognized Jill Merriman, paraprofessional at Lincoln as well as Gabrielle Whipple for her 10 years of board service. There was a presentation for next year's staffing plans, which include a potential decrease in admin (2) and increase in teaching personnel. Board is recommending that SEDOL be replaced with a Fremont program. All known vacancies will be posted over winter break. The 2025-2026 school calendar was approved. Of note, the start date has been pushed back a week and the year has been extended into June. Also of note, a student has been expelled for two years until 2026, this student will receive instruction during this time. The next School Board meeting is January 27.

Trisha Kocanda reported for the District. Thank you for those that attended conferences. Congratulations to the Multi-age program for supporting the Fremont food pantry by collecting donations and shopping at Target. Thank you to the PTO for the winter luncheon. On January 6, staff will be participating in an Institute day - it will be a full day of professional learning including presentations from Reading Link, crisis intervention training for

paraprofessionals, restorative practices workshops, (healthy, wealthy, and wise theme) planning for retirement, crafts and activities.

In regards to the 2025-26 staffing plan - enrollment should be about the same next year. We are adding an additional section at the IS. At Lincoln there will be an additional social worker and paraprofessional added. Be sure to check the Fremont Focus email for a link to the approved Long Range Plan. This comprehensive document also includes overviews and summaries at the end.

In other news, it looks like the Village of Mundelein is going to move forward with a TIF on the land the Wirtz family development will be using. A short definition of what a TIF means for the district, and a discussion followed on how the community will be able to make their voices heard to oppose this proposal. The district is working to create an informational campaign on ways community members can help fight for Impact fees to be put in place and for the TIF to not be utilized.

Teacher Reports:

MS: Gina Ney reported. Thank you for the decorations and food. And thank you for the Lauren Hall assembly. She was incredible and engaging. The students were captivated; thoroughly entertained and inspired. Many students reached out to both Lauren Hall directly and to Mrs. Begg afterward with positive comments.

ES: Dana Gallup reported. Thank you for lunch and the decorations!

IS: Edie Buehring reported. Ditto to the others.

Committee Reports:

Art Awareness – Suha Dimon reported. Going to place an order for supplies shortly as they are starting to run low. They will also be sending out a reminder email to parents to keep the momentum going for the rest of the school year.

Birthday Board – Christie Johnson reported via email. Everything is good.

Book Fairs – Stacie Brown reported. K5 Book Fair - Spring Fair will be open for BINGO night but not on the weekends in April. The timing of this Fair will not match the MS Book Fair.

Jen Knop reported on MS Book Fair. Overall the MS Book Fair was well-attended and made slightly more than last year's Fall Book Fair. Spring sale will be in early March to coincide with conferences.

Fundraising – Rosa Lopez-Washington reported. Culver's Dine-in night raised about \$370. It was a great success. We are the second highest fundraiser that they have had. We will hold another fundraiser there, potentially on April 12th. Flyers went out for this past event and that was likely the most impactful advertising. In April, we will need to have 2-3 volunteers per hour to help out due to volume and to increase our earnings percentage. The next Dine-in Night will be January 30th at Portillos in Vernon Hills.

Hospitality – Stacie Brown reported. The Winter Luncheon was fantastic. They will likely be surveying the teachers about timing of the luncheon, and whether they prefer hot or cold foods. The next luncheon will be for Teacher Appreciation week - which will start on Cinco de Mayo.

Membership Toolkit – Latoya Conner Gray reported. Catherine Glidden has started helping out now to ease the transition. They may need to find another person to help as well for next year.

Picture Day/Yearbook – Monica Trent reported. MS 8th grade pics are January 9th. Yearbooks will be started after break once composites are available.

Room Parents - No report.

Special Days/8th Grade Dance – No report. Information will go out after break. The first meeting will be immediately following the January PTO meeting. The dance will be held on Wednesday, May 21. Hosting on an early release day allows more time for the volunteers to set up.

Field Days – Latoya Conners Gray reported. Nothing is set up yet. Will be contacting the PE teachers to determine which days they will be held on.

Spirit Wear - Stacie Brown reported. The next sale will be Feb 7-21. There have been requests for ball caps and it will potentially also include winter hats.

Old Business: none.

New Business: none.

Adjournment: 6:58 p.m. Motion made to adjourn meeting by Rosa Lopez Washington, seconded by Aimee Briggs.

PTO minutes submitted by: Jen Knop