

PTO Meeting Minutes

February 19, 2025

Meeting called to order at 6:04 pm by Stacie Brown.

Latoya Conners Grayt motioned and Rosa Lopez-Washington seconded, to approve the meeting minutes from the January meeting.

Attendance

Stacie Brown: President	Edie Buehring: IS Teacher Representative
Aimee Briggs: Vice President - ES	Trisha Konkanda; Superintendent
Elisabeth Reigle: Vice President - IS	Katie O'Brien; Preschool Principal
Rosa Lopez-Washington: Vice President - MS	Dave Whitson: School Board
Yoon Chung: Vice President - Preschool	Suha Dimon: Art Awareness Co-Chair
Latoya Conners Gray: Parent Liaison	Heather McNelis: IS Yearbook
Katie Taylor-Couturiaux: Communications	Catherine Glidden: Membership Toolkit
Jennifer Knop: Secretary & Interim Treasurer	Guests:
Dana Gallup: ES Teacher Representative	Greg Wideman

Reports:

President's Report:

Stacie Brown reported. This year the Elementary School will have the Jean Ready author visit fully covered by the PTO on March 18,19,20. There is a fourth night opportunity coming up for teachers in the multicultural fair on April 10. March Madness will be held on March 15 at Mundelein High School. They will be shopping for concessions soon. This year's referees are lined up and shirts have been ordered. The May PTO meeting will be moved to Tuesday, May 13 at 6:00, location is TBD as this is typically an off-site meeting. Finalizing school store pop up shops - Intermediate School pop-ups will be on Feb 26. We received some feedback on class parties after the Valentine's Day events. For next year, we will look at updating the party host guidelines with a more structured schedule; especially for the Elementary School, as well as brainstorming ideas and ways to tighten up the policies. This year's Teacher Appreciation Week's theme will be "Friends".

Vice Presidents' Reports:

Lincoln School: Yoon Chung reported. Nothing to update. However, it did seem like the Valentine's Day parties had more volunteers.

Elementary School: No report.

Intermediate School: Elisabeth Reigle reported. Valentine's Day parties went well. Currently in the planning /approval process for supply kits for next year.

Middle School: No report.

Treasurer's Report: Jen Knop reported. Overall, the PTO is in good shape.

Mundelein Comm. Checking Balance as of 1/31/25	12,755.00
Mundelein Comm. Savings Balance as of 1/31/25	41,076.43
Republic Bank Checking Balance as of 1/31/25	29,341.92
Republic Bank Money Market Balance as of 1/31/25	14,740.41
Less: Committed Funds	61,881.34
Uncommitted Funds as of 1/31/25	36,032.42
Balance available for 2024/2025:	36,032.42

Parent Liaison - Latoya Conners Gray reported. Biggest update is that Book Club was last week and there was a fantastic turnout. Thank you to the administration and staff for their efforts. There were lots of opportunities for sharing. On March 12 there will be a Transition Night event - parents will have a chance to ask questions and learn what it means to move between all the different schools (Elementary to Intermediate, Intermediate to Middle, and Middle to High). This will be a virtual event, with each transition in a separate breakout room, led by a PTO representative in each room. The goal of the event is to make sure families feel supported throughout their child's education.

Communications - Katie Taylor Couturiaux reported. Communications will be kicking into high gear, open positions will be popping up on social media soon.

Principal's Report: Katie O'Brien reported. All buildings just received safes that will be shared with the PTO to safeguard any funds left at school.

Lincoln: The Valentine's Day parties were fun. Conferences will be held on February 26 and March 6.

ES/IS: Valentine's Day parties were a blast. Thanks to all the volunteers. Thank you for supporting the upcoming author visit. Students enjoyed the Sweetheart dance.

IS: Information was included in their last school email looking for parent volunteers for PAWs stores. The dates have changed for the stores and will now be held from 2:45-3:30 on February 24, 25, 27, and March 3, 4, and 10.

MS: Thank you for supporting the upcoming Book Fair being held February 28 - March 6.

District and School Board Report:

Dave Whitson and Gabriella Whipple reported for the School Board. The next School Board meeting is February 24.

Dr. Kocanda reported for the District. Thank you for all you did as families to support your kids with the recent winter weather. The Parent University had a great turnout. We are excited to announce that Stacie Brown and Lisa Bordelon were recognized as special award winners by IBSE. They will be invited to an event in Springfield in May.

At the Board Meeting on Monday, they will give a presentation on the Ivanhoe Village status. More on that below. The Wednesday Right at School, no-cost childcare for early release has become very popular, so we surveyed families and staff. We are keeping it no-cost for next year, but we are putting a limit of 100 students. This year's Away For The Day initiative was reviewed; results from a survey of students, parents, and staff were very positive overall. The Lincoln School calendar was approved as well.

Ivanhoe Village update: we are drafting a letter with Mundelein high school that will be going out to both districts that outlines how we are trying to work with the village of Mundelein and the Wirtz family to minimize resident tax bills. We are at a point that the Wirtz's are refusing to negotiate. The Wirtz project is proposing impact fees of less than \$5 million, compared to the \$150 million that Fremont is planning in capital projects. We are now asking for a call to action - our Elementary and Intermediate schools will be at capacity in 4-7 years, the Middle School will be at capacity in 9 years. Our long range plan calls for a new school in 7 years. We need to make our voices heard so that the Wirtz family will come back to the table.

Gabriela Whipple reported. The School Board has reached out to multiple neighboring villages about this - now we need to communicate more of the details and raise the issues with Mundelein. Excited for the new community, but we want to maintain our tax payer base and keep Fremont's excellent standing.

Dave Whitson reported. Relationships are going to be strained between Fremont and the village of Mundelein. We need to let Wirtz know that they can't just steamroll over us. They are trying to say there won't be that many kids, when we've done our own projections. We don't want to lower our education standards. We are developing talking points for interested parties to share at the village board meetings. The Mundelein High School school board has four seats open.

Village of Mundelein has two trustees running for mayor. The remaining four trustee seats are unopposed. The letter being distributed is two pages, and includes a background on the development, brief overview of the negotiating issue, and call to action. They would like to see families at Mundelein High School on March 3 at 7 pm for the mayoral candidate forum. And also at the village of Mundelein meetings on Mondays, twice a month. Push the village to push the timing back so there is more time for thoughtful negotiations.

Teacher Reports:

MS: no report.

ES: Dana Gallup reported. Valentine's Day parties were great. Parents were wonderful. Thank you for funding the Storm Chasers assembly. Next year, he may bring a tornado chamber!

IS: no report.

Committee Reports:

Art Awareness – No report.

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

Book Fairs – Jen Knop reported on MS Book Fair. Spring sale will run Friday, February 28 through conferences on Thursday, March 6. There are still openings for volunteers. The link has been published in multiple emails.

Fundraising – Rosa Lopez-Washington reported. Portillos was a success! Still waiting for results from Jimano's. The next Dine-in Night will be March 11 at Luke's in Mundelein.

Hospitality – Stacie Brown reported. Woot woot wagon dates will be coming - MS will be first this year, and it will be on a Wednesday.

Membership Toolkit – Latoya Conners Gray reported. Catherine Gliddan will be working on this moving forward. And we have three parents that have been trained on the process as well.

Picture Day/Yearbook – Monica Trent reported via email. Yearbooks are being worked on. Room Parents have been assigned their pages and we have reached out to almost everyone we need pictures from at this point.

Room Parents - No report. Still looking for a room parent for Liston's class.

Special Days/8th Grade Dance – Caitlin Kramer reported on Sweetheart dance. 450 people attended. Everything seemed to go smoothly. There were 10-12 NJHS students that lead games and activities in the gym and cafeteria. Games were a big hit. There was enough food, but the juice boxes went quickly. DJ was great. People did miss the professional photographer - but overall it was ok. Expenses should be under \$1500. Haven't heard back from the restaurants yet on the dine and share proceeds. Lindy's only had two tables (\$36). Waiting to hear from Bill's and Park Street.

Latoya Conners Gray reported on the Mother/Son event. Date is set for Saturday, May 10. Debating Laser tag in Barrington or bowling, food, and arcades at Kristoff's Entertainment Center in Round Lake. Working through is it mother/son or parent/child. We should know more soon. Targeting 3:30-5:30 or 4-6 pm as the event timing.

Field Days – Stacie Brown reported. The Intermediate School Student Council will be donating an inflatable for field days. Dates will be May 29 for Elementary School and May 30 for Intermediate School.

Spirit Wear - Stacie Brown reported. There were 76 orders as of Monday. Orders close on Friday. Due to many requests, baseball caps were offered this time.

Old Business: none.

New Business: Funding Request:

1. \$350.00 requested by Amber Rychlik for the in-house field trip, The Star Lab. Students will learn about mythology and the constellations. This fits with the mythology unit for 4th grade and 3rd/4th Map classes. Star Lab will be in the basement in March. Instructors from Camp Duncan will run the presentation. [Treasurer note: there is \$800 available in Cultural Arts funds.] Motion made to approve by Latoya Conners Gray, seconded by Elisabeth Reigle. Request approved.

2. \$341.00 requested by Stephanie Leitner for High Touch High Tech in-house field trip. High Touch High Tech: What's the Matter Workshop: students will explore different types of matter through experiments. This ties in perfectly with our science standards for a hands-on experience. It will benefit all second grade students. They did this workshop last year and found it to be very engaging and meaningful for our students. [Treasurer note: there is \$800 available in Cultural Arts funds]. Motion made to approve by Aimee Briggs, seconded by Elisabeth Reigle. Request approved.

Adjournment: 7:01 p.m. Motion made to adjourn meeting by Elisabeth Reigle, seconded by Yoon Chung.

PTO minutes submitted by: Jen Knop