

PTO Meeting Minutes

March 19, 2025

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

Latoya Conners Gray motioned and Elisabeth Reigle seconded, to approve the meeting minutes from the February meeting.

Attendance

Stacie Brown: President	Amber Rychlik: IS Teacher Representative
Aimee Briggs: Vice President - ES	Gina Ney: MS Teacher Representative
Elisabeth Reigle: Vice President - IS	Trisha Kocanda; Superintendent
Latoya Conners Gray: Parent Liaison	Stefan Ladenburger; IS Principal
Jennifer Knop: Secretary & Interim Treasurer	Aga Macoch: School Board
Dana Gallup: ES Teacher Representative	Suha Dimon: Art Awareness Co-Chair
Edie Buehring: IS Teacher Representative	Monica Trent: Yearbook Chair (ES)
	Catherine Glidden: Membership Toolkit Chair

Reports:

President's Report:

Stacie Brown reported. March Madness was fantastic, everyone had a great time! March 14 will be the date for next year. Looking at ways to change up the teams and considering K5 vs Middle School. Also looking at ways to change up the fundraising including replacing the 50/50 raffle with raffle tickets to pie the principals and potentially adding a pre-sales component to up the amount sold. Considering different ideas for referees. Also considering adding other merchandise for sale - instead of just giving away "boom sticks" and other items (clappers, foam paws, etc).

Woot Woot Wagon is now done. If teachers were missed, please let the PTO know as we had some items leftover. If there are ideas for next year, please let us know.

The Village of Mundelein meeting had a large showing on behalf of the community. Many people stepped up to speak, including the PTO President. We will continue to spread the word.

Events for the 2025-26 school year will be led by the Back to School Bash on August 22 which will be the first Friday of the school year. Kindergarten Kick off and MAP Picnic are also in the works.

The self-nomination form is out. Last meeting in May is Tuesday, May 13.

Vice Presidents' Reports:

Lincoln School: No report.

Elementary School: No report.

Intermediate School: No report.

Middle School: No report.

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

Mundelein Comm. Checking Balance as of 2/28/25	15,134.24
Mundelein Comm. Savings Balance as of 2/28/25	41,071.19
Republic Bank Checking Balance as of 2/28/25	29,349.92
Republic Bank Money Market Balance as of 2/28/25	14,700.68
Less: Committed Funds	74,421.11
Uncommitted Funds as of 2/28/25	25,526.92
Balance available for 2024/2025:	25,526.92

Parent Liaison - Latoya Conners Gray reported. Board meeting this week went well. There were many good conversations with parents. Looking at holding the transition night for the fourth week of April. This will be an hour-long zoom, with separate breakout rooms led by a parent and PTO members.

Communications - No report.

Principal's Report: Stefan Ladenburger reported. Thank you for the Woot Woot Wagon. Thanks also for the March Madness game. It was fun, as usual!

Lincoln: There is a Parent-Involvement event on April 4 at Fremont Library. Families will meet there for an interactive story time. There will be preschool screenings on April 11. Loved all the spiritwear that was just delivered.

IS: Fifth graders will watch part of the Middle School Musical on April 10 or 11 with middle school students. On April 17, fifth graders will learn about the related studies options that are offered in middle school. In May, fifth graders will get a tour of the middle school and will take home their locks for the summer.

MS: On April 11, Little Miss Christie, the middle school musical will be performed in the evening. Thanks for the help with the Middle School Book Fair.

District and School Board Report:

Aga Macoch reported for the School Board. The next School Board meeting is April 21.

Trisha Kocanda reported for the District. The parent university virtual presentation on Artificial Intelligence was phenomenal. Summer school registration is open. Elementary School continued their service tradition with a "Spread the Love" drive for the Fremont Township Pantry. The last Board meeting on Monday night included recognition for Stacie Brown and Lisa Bordelon for ISBE awards. The Intermediate School PAWs committee were recognized as well. The meeting started with a concert by the 8th grade jazz band in honor of Music in Schools month.

There was a presentation on Fremont's STEM initiative and Career Technical Education. These are topics that have repeatedly come up from the community. They will be introducing an eighth grade elective strand that includes broadcasting, digital arts, and media design. They will also be investing in a cafeteria renovation and building a STEM lab.

Approved staffing plan for next year that meets class size and programming needs. Sedol is in financial distress, so we are bringing some of those students back into our classrooms. Our new hires have all been awesome. Kudos to the committees doing the hiring.

Fremont digest should be hitting mailboxes soon.

An update on Ivanhoe Village: Thank you for showing up at the last Village of Mundelein meeting. The work we're doing is building and raising awareness. Negotiations are still not going well. Trying to find a way to have the development not be in our boundaries, but so far no other districts are interested. We need the community to petition to say we don't want this development at all. We have the summer to gain traction and see what will happen. Keep showing up to the meetings. The next Village of Mundelein meeting will be April 14.

Teacher Reports:

MS: Gina Ney reported. The Woot Woot Wagon was awesome. Little things were great - and made sure everyone got their stuff..

IS: Amber Rychlik reported. Teachers teachers loved the Woot Woot Wagon. They were thrilled with the little treasures. Positive feedback from the rolling School Store for the certificates that students needed to spend. Spiritwear was well received. New hats were great for hat day. Fourth grade enjoyed the Star Lab field trip.

ES: Dana Gallup reported. Everything that they said.

Committee Reports:

Art Awareness – Suha Dimon reported. Everything is good. Lots of parents are volunteering and posting what they do.

Birthday Board – Christie Johnson reported via email. She will be out of the office April 9-14. All birthday board requests for this time frame need to be submitted by April 8th.

Book Fairs – Jen Knop reported on MS Book Fair. Spring sale came in at \$4600, almost \$1000 more than last year's Spring sale.

Fundraising – Rosa Lopez-Washington reported via email. Our last dine and share night with Luke's brought in \$225. The next Dine-in Night will be April 9 at City Barbeque in Vernon Hills.

Hospitality – Stacie Brown reported. Teacher appreciation week is coming up.

Membership Toolkit – No report.

Picture Day/Yearbook – Monica Trent reported. Getting into the final stretch. April 11 - custom pages are due. Flyers out soon for yearbook purchase with codes. Room pages are going ok. They are due Monday.

Room Parents - No report.

Special Days/8th Grade Dance – Stacie Brown reported. They were supposed to be meeting tonight, but they will be rescheduling.

Field Days – Latoya Conners Gray reported. An email will be going out after Spring Break for planning. Profits from March Madness will be used for the Elementary School inflatable. We will need coordinators for that day.

Spirit Wear - Stacie Brown reported. The last sale of the year had 280 orders. We made about \$609 in profit. We did buy extra for registration night and for the Back to School, if there are leftovers.

Multicultural Fair - Stacie Brown reported. She will be submitting a flyer for copies. We will also purchase the items requested and look for volunteers to help at the event.

Mom/Son Event - Latoya Conners Gray reported. This will be held at Kristof's in Round lake. There will be one hour of bowling, one hour of arcade play, and there will be pizza as well. The event will be held May 10.

Old Business: none.

New Business: Funding requests:

1. \$800 requested by Susan Stahoviak for JG's Reptile Show. For the past few years, we have invited JG's Reptile Show to Fremont. He brings a wide assortment of animals for the students to see and teaches about animal adaptation and life span. This will be split into 5 shows to accommodate all 1st grade and 1st/2nd grade MAP students. [that is in addition to is \$800 cultural arts available] Motion to approve made by Elisabeth Reigle. Seconded by Aimee Briggs. Motion passed.
2. \$1,710 requested by Elizabeth Russell for the Holocaust Museum. The 8th grade students have been studying World War II in social studies classes and the Holocaust more in depth in language arts classes. On May 1st, 2025 they will be visiting the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center as the culmination of our study. This will give students who are not able to attend the Washington, DC field trip a parallel opportunity to learn about this part of history. It will benefit about 120 8th grade students that are not attending the Washington, DC field trip. Motion to approve made by Elisabeth Reigle. Seconded by Latoya Conners Gray. Motion passed.

Adjournment: 6:51 p.m. Motion made to adjourn meeting by Elisabeth Reigle, seconded by Aimee Briggs.

PTO minutes submitted by: Jen Knop