

ALEXANDER ELEMENTARY

PTO BUSINESS MEETING

April 14, 2025

6:30 pm

Alexander Library & Zoom

WELCOME! REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

<p>Check in</p>	<p><i>Introductions</i> In Attendance: Colbin Erdahl, Sara Karbeling, Emily Voss, Ariane Rhone, Principal Katie Thompson, Teachers/Staff: Gina Ferrel, Molly Hotka, Carson Gibson, Suellen Swain, Brianna Herman, Melissa Zieglowski (also parent), Sarah Galligan, Melanie Hester; Parents; Arnol, Carmelo, Rachel, Oscar, Megan, Josh, Rametaule, Solange, Ana, Cecilia, Michelle.</p>
<p>Principal's Report</p>	<p><i>Katie Thompson</i> We just got done with ISASP testing in grades 3-5. Those are our biggest state tests. These tests are meaningful for securing support for our school. We are very proud of our students - they worked hard. Last week was our STEM night and it was a really great event. Next year we will do an Arts night! We are in Week#3 of "Attendance Awareness Month" this is the first time we've done this - you've probably noticed a few more emails from me lately. Attendance is tracked daily and it has been pretty steady (though today was low). Typically we're at ~94% every day-today was 91%. We are going to have a kite day next week (Tuesday April 22) to help end Attendance Awareness Month. This was a tradition that Hills Elementary did every month. We haven't opened it up to parents due to logistics this year. It's a consideration for next year. It will be during the school day. We will provide each class with 5 kites for each class. Kids can bring their own kites as well. We have a great playground for flying a kite! Next year we'd like to plan an art project around it!</p>

PTO UPDATE & DISCUSSION

Topic	Things to consider/Questions
<p>Quick Updates:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● alexander.iowacityschools.org/pto (PTO->Meeting Minutes) ● Treasurer's Report - balance: \$8,066.91 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>There will be a few more field trips funded, possibly about \$1000.</i> ● Districtwide Parents Organization Report www.iowacityschools.org/dpo <i>Ariane Rhone</i> ● Dine out Thursday 4/17/25

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	<p>https://www.iccsdfoundation.org/what-we-do/dine-out-for-education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ DPO Scholarship & Honoree Reception: This Wed, Apr 16 at the Center for Innovation, Room 145 We are honoring Ms Guthart who is retiring!
STEM Night Debrief	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Was Thursday, April 10th from 6-8pm● We had about 75 people attend (kids and adults)● Robotics, Raptors and UI Physics Demo among <p>We asked for feedback: What times/days of the weeks work well for family events? This one started at 6-8.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Some parents said “Earlier is better” due to small kids at home● If there’s no food, 6 is easier (to work around dinner)● We have to be mindful of SOAR (ends at 6pm)● Sometimes on Weekends kids can stay up later● Ending at 8 can be hard for families.● Meat & Cheese trays or something small even to keep little kids happy.● Fridays vs. Thursdays [or other week days]- would more families come on a Friday?● Think about it for next time <p>The Raptor project, Robotics clubs were big hits.</p>
Yearbook Order	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Melissa Kunce, who is organizing the yearbooks this year asked the PTO to deposit the funds and cut the check to Jostens● The PTO agreed to ensure a yearbook for every 5th grader● The PTO ordered extra so that individuals who did not buy online can still purchase one with cash (information coming soon).
Teacher Appreciation Week May 5 - 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● We have a few surprises organized.● Parents, if you would like to help, please stick around after this meeting!

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Community Meeting Monday, May 12 6:30-7:30pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No Speaker/Topic as of yet<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Ideas: Common core math, Superkids, How to avoid the “Summer Slide”• Pizza as usual• Translation• Childcare• Ukulele will perform at this meeting!• We will nominate and vote for next year’s leadership positions (see below)	Sara K - childcare Emily - pizza Katie will talk to teachers and see if anyone is able to present on this topic
Bike Rodeo Wednesday, May 21 4:30-6:00pm at Wetherby Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Held in collaboration with Bicyclists of Iowa City. BIC has a few bikes to borrow, and helmets to give to students.• Students can bring their bike, learn safety and do a few stations and obstacle course.• Parent/Teacher Volunteers needed to run stations	Ariane will make Signup Genius for volunteers and snack donations We may have a raffle for bike accessories!
Summer Playdates Need to Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Last year we had one in Hills, one at Alexander and one at Wetherby Park• Sara will work out some possible dates• Usually one weekend, one evening, one in the daytime	Get a flyer in every yearbook! Get info to incoming Kindergarteners at Kindergarten Round Up

Miscellaneous business: Get PTO to organize/donate snacks for all classrooms during state testing. Could even be an “order from Amazon and send it to the school” type of thing

Possible volunteer opportunity for next year: Social media coordinator (could be parent or staff) for PTO page on FB and other sites

Fall Festival Lead - Melissa Z has been huge the last few years and is willing to help out again!

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Call for PTO Officers The PTO Needs New Leadership to help Organize for 2025-26	Officers are: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● President Current: Colbin Erdahl● Vice-President Current: Sara Karbelling● Secretary Current: Ariane Rhone● Treasurer Current: Emily Voss
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We will have official nominations and Voting for filling these positions at the May 12 Community Meeting! Please contact AlexanderElementaryPTO@gmail.com if you're interested but unable to attend the meeting on May 12!

OFFICERS OF THE ALEXANDER ELEMENTARY PTO

ACCORDING TO THE BYLAWS

Past President	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Assist and advise the officers as needed
President	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Preside over meetings of the organization● Primary contact for the Principal● Coordinate the work of all the officers
Vice President /President-Elect	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Assist and Carry out the President's duties in his or her absence● At the end of the one-year term, assume the position of President.
Secretary	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Keep all records of the organization● Record meeting minutes● Handle correspondence
Treasurer	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Have charge and custody of all monies of the PTO● Receive and give receipts for monies due and payable to the PTO● Keep an accurate record of receipts and expenditures
DPO Representative	(Districtwide Parent Organization) <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Attend DPO Meetings● Liaison between the DPO and Alexander Elementary PTO

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ADJOURN NEXT COMMUNITY MEETING: MAY 12
NEXT BUSINESS MEETING: JUNE (TBD)