



PTO Meeting Minutes October 16, 2025

Date, Time, Location: Thursday, October 16, 2025, 7pm in the Wass Media Center

Meeting Called to Order: at 7:00 pm

Attendance: Ashleigh Jennings, Anthony Porta, Kevin Tuczec, Krista Steiger, Kiran Esser, Erin Whaley, Dayna Koskinen, Emily D'Amico, Holly Haberkamp, Amy Mills, George Yousif, Kristyn Cubitt, Karlye Kish

There were thirteen members in attendance; a quorum was reached. Dr. Richard Machesky was in attendance as a guest.

District Updates, given by Richard Machesky

- **Bond Update**

- Smith Middle School – progress is steady, on budget and on schedule to welcome students next fall with access to the building in July.
 - “New” Smith will open in fall of 2026 at which point Boulon Park students will move into old smith for 2026-2027 while Boulon undergoes renovations for 16 months. Then they will return to renovated Boulon.
 - In Fall of 2027, Larson students will move into Smith while Larson is renovated for the 2027-28 school year.
- New furniture is in place at all elementaries at this point.
- All elementary playgrounds are in place.
 - each cost about \$1 million – broken down into approx. \$700,000 infrastructure and approx. \$300,000 structure.
 - District plans to allow students to use playgrounds for this school year as they are. They will then get feedback from students regarding how playgrounds should be added on to in a smaller phase 2.
- Athens and Troy High athletic fields are being worked on. Troy High is nearing completion. Athens is underway.
- Breaking ground on “new” Athens High School building in spring of 2026 – The new academic wing is expected to be completed in about 2 years from start date.
 - The Academic wing will be built where the current student lot stands. Once complete, the old part of the building will be demolished and that area becomes the students’ lot.
 - Done in 3 phases – 3 story academic wing, then renovation of current areas at Athens (cafeteria, terrace café area), then old building comes down.
 - \$150 million project all together
 - Total project timeline expected to be about 5 years – completion around 2031.

- Middle Schools – Boulon and Larson- will be gutted. Classrooms will be moved to the outer walls to accommodate windows/natural light.
- Elementary bathrooms will be updated.
- **Budget Update**
 - There was no budget to start the year, which made for an unusual year.
 - The district is projecting about \$150 less per pupil per year, with the prediction this year being \$12,050. This is slightly lower than actual. There is a current trend in decreased birth rates in Oakland County/Michigan leading to decreased enrollment.
 - Revenue per pupil is on target, but the inflation rate is inconsistent with the increase in per pupil funding.
 - Troy Schools plan to continue to reduce staffing through attrition this year to bring revenue in line with expenditure.
 - A discussed option for raising funding dollars is doing so through enhancement millages placed onto ballots at the county level. The bond can only cover building needs. There is nothing slated to be on the ballot in this county at this time.
 - Troy schools are looking at recruiting a school finance engagement group to improve school-funding education in the community. Look for information sometime in January.
- **Website Homepages**
 - Websites have been updated and are live at this point.
 - Data dashboard being added – attendance, achievement, test scores available on that – launching in November.
- Wass was chosen as a national blue-ribbon school.

Teacher’s Report, given by Kristyn Cubitt and Karyle Kish

- **Learning Night** – November 13 at 6:00-7:30 pm
 - Writing Night Theme – revised units of study curriculum was newly approved - like what we have had in the past.
 - Staff plan to go through a writing lesson with students and instruct parents on the different types of writing.
 - Each student will be given a journal and a “rocket pen” to use for their writing for the night.
 - Teachers will discuss how to use topics for different types of writing and how writing can be carried through at home.

Committee Reports

- Past event reports, given by Ashleigh Jennings
 - **Restaurant Night at Jet’s Pizza** - \$323 earned and congratulations to Miss Zarbaugh’s 4th graders who won the pizza party for being top earners. Attendees express positive thoughts on having restaurant night coincide with conference night.
 - **Skate World** – Net \$556, feedback was mostly positive, some concern with long rental and entrance lines.
 - **Auction**– added 5 new items, 1 additional slot, Raised \$3,403
 - The E-Board will be meeting on feedback and looking at updating or addressing concerns.
 - A new auction chair is needed for 2026-2027 and onward.
 - **Teacher Appreciation**, given by Ashleigh Jennings

- Teachers were provided with lunch from Breakaway Deli during conferences.
- Sign up geniuses coming soon for more teacher appreciation help opportunities.
- **Trunk-or-Treat**, given by Holly Haberkamp
 - Permit has been secured to close road with the needed flyers distributed.
 - Plans to spread out students by doing other activities in front of the school.
 - Candy competition is in place to motivate donations to accommodate the candy demand of the event. We are short of our candy goal at this point.
 - Trunk sign up – we have near 20 signed up, close to 40 last year.
- **Holiday Drive**, given by Krista Steiger and Amy Mills
 - Expected to launch November 20
 - Just a heads up – Pajama drive is coming.

Officer Reports

- **Co-Presidents**, given by Tony Porta and Ashleigh Jennings
 - President's Council
 - Reports that things discussed during president's council included the phase 2 playground plans, fundraising for PTOs across the district.
 - Discussed use of electronic payments, membership confirmed interest.
 - Committee Chair Forms
 - Being distributed to committee chairs in hopes to improve transfer of committees in the future.
- **Treasurer**, given by Kevin Tuczak
 - Collected 21% of auction, and some other areas of income.
 - Expenses paid out include hospitality, teacher allotments.
- **Secretary**

Announcements

- October 26 – Trunk-or-Treat
- October 31 - Halloween Class Party
- November 13 – Learning Night
- November 20 – Next PTO Meeting
- November 20 to December 8 – Holiday Drive

Next Meeting is November 20 at 7pm

Meeting Adjourned: 8:48pm

Minutes compiled by: Krista Steiger, PTO Secretary