

Date: Oct 13, 2025

Time: 6:00 - 7:00pm

Location: Murray Middle School Library - Google Meet

Attendees: Lynnae Erwin, Mandi Rupp, Nia Anderson, Kerrin Flanagan, Jamin McKenzie, Stefanie Folkema, Annie Hanson, Elizabeth H (joined online), Chet

Welcome, Introductions

Principal Update - Jamin

- Conferences are underway, end of quarter is coming up quickly. First night of conferences was full of families, and next week's conferences are due to be busy as well. Teachers loved dinner from Mim's and treats from Nia. There was a WEB bake sale and a flu vaccine clinic as well last Thursday. Wolf Ridge trip (Environmental Inquiry) just returned and was a huge success. 8th grade DC trip is coming up during MEA. Jakeeno's pizza fundraiser is ongoing to benefit athletics. Athletics has no budget from SPPS. We need to continue to advocate for middle school sports. There is a new director, Andrea Schmidt.
- Annie raised a question about the grading system and lots of confusion among students and families. Jamin explained: Standards based grading hasn't changed but the rubric is different. We are one of 4 pilot schools using the new rubric that SPPS will roll out to all schools next year. The number in the rubric will be assigned a numerical % grade and a letter grade for report card purposes. What does extending (4) look like? Teachers are working on this right now. PD on 11/7 will be about the new system with all 4 pilot schools. Students received a presentation about this last week, and we will share it as well on the PTO website.

Budget Update - Nia

- About \$3,000 in the bank. After last meeting, we got a \$400 donation. We used part of it for a hose reel and we got a donation of a hose. We bought 4 cases of tissues for the school and \$5 gift cards with the rest of the donation. Mr. Hodgson put in a request for headphones, which we funded. Coming up: Portillo's dine-in (10/20), Famous Dave's dine-in (11/17). Barnes and Noble concert/book fair is coming up as well (12/3), and we are working on communication with them.

	<p>Noodles and Company and Chipotle dine-ins are coming as well in the new year. Shake Shack and Panera have been contacted as well.</p>
<p>General Discussion</p>	<p>Newsletter suggestions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Suggestion of S'more platform vs. what we use now. It can be translated and it is editable and more easily searchable. Stefanie is open to looking at it to see if it makes sense to change over. ○ Directory—digital or printed? Different schools do different things. Cost, privacy concerns. What is a directory for? Families contacting other families, PTO finding volunteers. This directory would be led by PTO only. ○ Link to PTO website and Murray Highlights—maybe a PTO section in the newsletter? Mandi or Lynnae would write it and submit it. Stefanie agreed to that. ○ Links: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Parent/Guardian Directory link ■ Murray Highlights link ■ Murray PTO website link <p>Question about communication if a student/athlete is going home at a different time/method than usual. By 2:00 all decisions will be made, communication to families by staff/admin. If a student doesn't have a jersey, etc. they will still join the team and cheer them on. EDL will be similar to athletics. EDL enrollment is growing.</p> <p>Spirit Wear: Murray Spirit Wear The store is open and Lynnae is working on styles, etc. Apparently upside down logos are in style! We can order a pack of clear water bottle stickers and use them for prizes. \$1 from each item will go towards PTO and support classrooms.</p> <p>Athletics: Materials needed for games/practices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cones/pylons (mostly brought by families at this point) ○ First aid kits (each coach is supposed to have one, but that hasn't been consistent) ○ Parent/guardian contact list

	<p>Stefanie asked that we identify the missing items so that the school could find them. The city doesn't provide soccer nets any longer (Murray has purchased them now), and they chalk the flag football field lines once at the beginning of the season but haven't since. Middle school sports (and the opportunity they provide for kids) are not a priority with SPPS and the city at this point. Discussion of play time opportunities (some sports have 6th graders on practice squads with a focus on learning (ex: flag football), some have A/B teams (ex: basketball, volleyball), while others play all grades with the aim of winning (ex: soccer)—that coach was given the feedback that 7th and 8th graders should play, substituting in all students). Overall, athletics have been much more of a positive experience this year.</p> <p>Stefanie has to do a question of the month, and we will do that at the PTO meeting each month. It will be on the agenda and the minutes. October: How is communication from Murray working well for you?</p> <p>Stefanie will add a link to the PTO website on the Murray website to make it more accessible.</p>
Next Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thursday, November 13th 6:00 pm