

Date: November 13, 2025

Time: 6:00 - 7:00pm

Location: Murray Middle School Library - Google Meet

**Attendees:** Jamin McKenzie, Stefanie Folkema, Lynnae Erwin, Kerrin Flanagan, Sandy Johnston, Jon Johnston, Kim Klinge, Elizabeth Hosch, Dolly Langer, Julia Peralez, Roman Morales

### Welcome, Introductions

#### Principal Update - Jamin

Quarter 1 ended last week and grades are due tonight.

Parent meeting about next year's DC trip coming up. It was in the newsletter but another communication will go out soon.

EDL has a record number of students – 200! Something to celebrate!

Barnes and Noble event coming up 12/3.

Kim raised a question about Schoology—wondering if the previous quarter's grades can be accessible for at least the first few days into the next quarter, if not more. Jamin will look into it, and thinks grades should be available for the rest of the year.

Lynnae asked a question about how many summative assessments are expected in each quarter. Jamin explained that it varies based on the number of standards taught in the quarter, but ideally there are multiple assessments in a quarter.

Students can retake/redo assessments as needed by contacting teachers in individual situations.

#### Question of the Week:

Describe a time when you felt welcomed by our school.

1. Every time there is a school event all of the staff are welcoming and seem happy to be there. They greet families by name and off to help as needed.
  - 2.
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#### Budget Update - Nia

- Give to the Max Day is Thurs, Nov. 20. Early giving opened Nov. 1, and all donations made during early giving and GTMD enter us into a prize drawing. GiveMN has over \$100k in prizes to give this year. Shareable links, etc. to come in a direct email. Please share and encourage people to leverage their

	<p>employer matching programs. This fundraiser is for Murray Middle School, not the PTO. Jamin mentioned that having a focus for what the \$ is for will help get donors involved. There were things listed on last year's flier, so let's use that as a reference.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lynnae will send an email with the teacher request flier to Stefanie so that she can send it to teachers/staff.</li> <li>• Murray Monday - Our Portillo's event raised \$198. The next event is Monday, Nov 17 at Famous Dave's on Snelling, and we will receive 20% of sales. (This is organized through GroupRaise.)</li> <li>• We raised over \$1400 for conference meals, snacks and beverages for staff. We were able to provide a meal from Mim's on the first day of conferences, and tons of snacks on the 2nd day. <b>Thank you to Anita Severt for all of her hard work!</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>General Discussion</b> Newsletter</p> <p>Staff Communication</p> <p>Spirit Wear</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• S'more--Stefanie hasn't had time to look at transitioning over yet. Benefits: can see how many views, has a table of contents, etc.</li> <li>• PTO Blurb--Lynnae asked for this in the newsletter.</li> <li>• QR for the Murray Highlights--could this be included as well?</li> <li>• Staff appreciation -- What would staff like? What is already being planned from the school? Teacher treats once a quarter (chili cook off just happened). During the week in May, admin plans something special for each day with a big communal event on the last day. 40 licensed educators + staff, plan for 80 total people. Paid for by the principal's unrestricted fund. May 4-8 this year.</li> <li>• November and February are the hardest months of the year for teachers. PTO would like to help with appreciation during February. Maybe during Valentine's Day or Super Bowl? Anyone can bring treats to Stefanie to share with staff.</li> <li>• Open and taking orders</li> <li>• Some feedback about the "mistake" of the upside down logo, but people are learning that it's cool!</li> <li>• We get \$1 for each item purchased.</li> <li>• Debate shirts to be designed by the debate students, will be added to the store soon.</li> </ul>

<p>New Business/Questions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Ramon asked if there are any student-drawn logos? Maybe we could add one.</li> <li>● Julia asked about getting more books for the library. Jamin suggested talking to Ms. DeCourt. Each ELA class has a robust library as well, leveled for leveled reading. Ms. DeCourt can make a wish list for the Barnes and Noble event.</li> </ul>
<p>Upcoming Events</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Famous Dave's Dinner - Nov 17</li> <li>● Accelerated Programs Night at Como Nov 20. In the past, transition events to Como have been at Murray, leading to redundancies. This year, all events are at Como. There will be an 8th to 9th transition meeting.</li> <li>● Quarterly core value assemblies (next one is on Citizenship, and recognizing students who demonstrated core value of Integrity in the first quarter). Students are recognized with shout-outs (used like cash in the school store). Donations accepted! See Ms. Williams. WEB students help with these as well as with 5th graders from feeder schools.</li> <li>● Barnes and Noble- Dec 3</li> <li>● School Choice Fair - Dec 13. Held at the River Center. Jamin, the APs, a counselor attend. PTO members welcome to help speak about Murray. More out-of-area families are expressing interest, taking tours, etc.</li> <li>● Showcase coming up, like an open house. All teams of teachers are together. Kids get a passport and explore the different areas of the building. Both for current Murray families and prospective Murray families.</li> <li>● Spirit Week coming up! Next Thursday - Wednesday, ending with a dance/activities day.</li> <li>● January activity day is coming up—info to come in the next newsletter!</li> </ul> <p>How to find the PTO? <a href="http://www.murraypto.org">www.murraypto.org</a>  Facebook page  Link in the newsletter (coming soon)  Link on the FB page (coming soon)  Can we have students come to PTO to share with us? Yes</p> <p>Jamin shared about the Unified Physical Education program. Murray is the first middle school to have this program. 20 General Education and 16 Level 3 Special Education students are enrolled in this elective. It's going really well. Dr. Stanley visited and toured the building with NJHS students, and she witnessed the relationships among the students in this class. Jamin plans to share this program through the district and</p>

	<p>beyond. Journalism students can write about it, maybe for the Bugle.</p> <p>Murray's thank you message was chosen by the district after the YES vote on Election Day.</p> <p>Ramon asked about PACT and Jamin explained the Parent/Family/Climate Advisory Team. Meets first Monday of the month, virtually.</p> <p>Julia suggested adding items like the chili cookoff to the newsletter so that families can see what a wonderful community is here at Murray.</p>
Next Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Monday, December 8th at 6pm</li></ul>