



Defer Elementary PTO

Tuesday, October 14th, 2025

Defer Elementary School

7:00 PM

1. **Call to Order and Introductions** – JJ DeRosier called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.
2. **Review of the Previous Minutes** –Cara Rossi
 - a. Minutes are available on the Defer PTO website:
<https://mi01000971.schoolwires.net/domain/1223>
 - b. May and September minutes presented - Lakeytria motioned to approved, Kelly seconded. Motion passes.
3. **Treasurer's Report** - Emily Szymczak Smock (treasurer) and Allison Keelean (assistant responsible for reimbursements and support)
 - a. No major call outs or questions on the budget
 - b. Fun Run finals take about a month to process
 - c. Kelsey motions, Cara seconded. Motion passes.
4. **President's Report** – JJ DeRosier
 - a. Major thank yous to the Fun Run committee and all involved in the Fun Run as it was such a success. Kids had lots of fun and everything went really well.
 - b. Major thank you to the Progressive Dinner Committee which was very fun and successful.
5. **Vice President's Report** – Kelsey Howard
 - a. PTO council meeting updates
 - i. Dr. Roy Bishop shared a lot of information on the bond and how all schools benefi
 - ii. Trombley needs to be maintained up to code to enable the district to grow and are discussing ways that the school can be leveraged
 - iii. Parcels pool was also discussed as it is also a priority for many.
 - iv. Funds spent to make bond signs.
 - v. New this year, fees associated with room rental at multiple schools - the PTO council will investigate the costs for room rental and may be able to cover some of the scout fees.
6. **Communications Report** – Lindsey Koczenasz
 - a. Anticipate more communications on Haunted Garage, Donuts with your Dragon, Great Skate and Craft Fair.
 - i. 2 day time Great Skates upcoming on half days
7. **Committee Reports**
 - a. Fun Run- Andrea Gruenwald
 - i. Broken fundraising targets
 - ii. Major thank you for the committee members
 - iii. Super star events scheduled and communications have been sent to those families
 - iv. Will continue to do messaging when things happen that are funded by the PTO are leveraging the Fun Run funds
 - v. Will draft a purchasing plan for the PTO to avoid committee members making purchases up front and waiting for reimbursement
 - b. Progressive Dinner- Beth Lowry
 - i. 94 people attended
 - ii. Stayed within budget but there will be some funds left over
 - iii. Excalibur was successful, recommend renting the patio for 2 hours
 - iv. Host emails will be going out to collect feedback
 - c. Directory- [Martin Stieger](#)
 - i. Complete, been online for a few weeks

- ii. Goal to get it out earlier every year
 - iii. If there are issues using the directory, contact Martin
 - iv. If people need to get the directory, it can be purchased on the PTO square site
 - v. Need to sign up every year
- d. Hospitality- Kelsey Howard
 - i. Conferences last week and provided a grab and go dinner and a taco bar
 - ii. Next will be the teacher breakfast in December
- e. Haunted Garage- Nicole Luyk and Sarah Stan
 - i. This friday, Donuts with your Dragon and next friday Sarah will be in front distributing tickets
 - ii. Sold about 120 tickets so far
 - iii. Trying to deliver all tickets on Thursday 10/23
 - iv. Will need 4 - 6 volunteers for the night
- f. Donuts with Dragons- Amanda Adams (3rd grade Girl Scouts)
 - i. Donuts and cider provided on 10/22
 - ii. Purchasing donuts for 460 - ordered today
 - iii. Allergy friendly donuts are still being determined - share any recommendations with Amanda
- g. Beautification- Lindsay Studders
 - i. Lots of great work done in the gardens
 - ii. Likely a fall clean out 11/8 or 11/15 so watch out for that notification
- h. Inclusion committee – Kelsey Howard
 - i. October board is up - Global Diversity Awareness month
- i. Scholastic Bookfair- Ted Watts
 - i. Will be the week leading up to the Craft Fair 12/10 - 12/13
 - ii. There were a lot of non-book items in the last year,
- j. Craft Fair - Cara Rossi
 - i. Will send a request to Lindsay for a save the date and request for volunteers
 - ii. Date confirmed 12/13 9 - 12:30
- 8. **Teachers Report** – Laura Tanniheimer/Jane Nugent
 - a. Leadership loot cart
 - i. Other schools with therapy dogs have trading cards and we'd like to add these to our leadership loot cart
 - ii. Need 750 for around \$100 which will be from the school store budget line item
 - iii. May add some JJ's Custard
 - iv. To get additional items for the cart, can share an Amazon wishlist from Dineen
 - v. PTO FB post for sign-up genius and donations
 - b. Big thank you for the conference meals
 - c. Request for pop / diet coke on teacher treat days
 - d. Safety service will host a donut party on 10/29 and there is a line item for this in the budget
- 9. **Principal's Report** – Walt Fitzpatrick
 - a. Nothing to report
- 10. **Old Business**
 - a. Teachers Lounge - plans for kitchen submitted and awaiting feedback
 - b. Foreign language book project - no major updates but there are books available in the library
 - c. Gaga Ball cover - no traction with companies outreached
- 11. **New Business** - no new business
- 12. **Member Comment(s)** - no member comments
- 13. **Adjournment:** JJ DeRosier adjourned the meeting at 7:47