ALEXANDER ELEMENTARY PTO: Business Meeting Agenda

December 08, 2025 6:30 pm

Zoom: https://iowacityschools-org.zoom.us/j/97053526532

(closed captions & transcripts)

Reports and Presentations	
Check in *(5 minutes)*	*Check in question/introduction -* In Attendance: Ariane Rhone, Ali McCue, Abbie Whittemore, Emma Schroder, Katie Thompson, Gina Ferrel, Yorik Ledger, Cindy Overmann, Carson Gibson, Anna Flamming
Introduction of PTO Leadership Team/Board	**2025-2026 PTO Board Members:** ● **Co-Presidents -** Ariane Rhone & Sara Karbeling ● **Vice President -** Melissa Morgan ● **Secretary -** Rachel Trinidad ● **Treasurer** - Ali McCue

Quick Updates:
(5 minutes)
	● www.iowacityschools.org/AlexanderES (PTO->Meeting Minutes)
	● Treasurer's Report -**Balance: $10,099.97**
	  ○ Thank you to teachers for volunteering.
	  ○ This is the highest balance we can remember in recent history.
	● DPO Report: Michelle Gladden
	  ● Treasurer Ali has sent $40 check to ICCSD DPO for yearly dues
	  ● DPO meeting should be happening soon. If anyone is interested, you can email the PTO email to get the link.

Principal's Report *(5 minutes)*	Fall Fest was a great success. The attendance was great, with at least 120 Alexander students attending. The goal is community building, and Katie shared she felt this was achieved. For the 3 weeks before Winter break, it can be challenging for staff, students, and family. They are focusing on positive activities. Working to earn 5000 tickets so there can be a school wide Winter Wonderland Celebration on Thursday before break. It will include a story with principal, snow ball fight, and snow art work. Staff is working hard to recognize students for being respectful, responsible, etc. This is going really well and students are earning their talon tickets! Cold weather is upon us, as is outdoor recess. The kids seem ready for winter this year and seem more prepared than normal. Most have snow pants, pants,

	gloves. There are a lot of visuals to help kids get all of the gear on for the cold. Reaching out to families to make sure kids are brining their cold weather gear. PTO hat/glove drive and packages continue to arrive. Kids will go outside if it feels like 5 degrees or higher. Mrs. Thompson is appreciative of the PTO support of glove and hat drive. Last week, Katie, teacher leaders attended a SAMI self assessment survey. This helps the team identify the strengths and needs for the school. Last year, Alexander focused on attendance as a growth area, and it was very successful. Katie and team reflected on data this past week and attendance improved by 4%, which is great growth in a short amount of time. Katie reiterated that the first step to students achieving is that they need to be at school. They're going to repeat this again in March PTO community meeting, whether it's virtual or in person. We believe that this will be in person on 3/9/2026. Speakers will be Katie Thompson and Mary Coughlin-Julien, Emily Voss.

Discussion Items		
Topic	***Things to consider/Questions***	***Next Steps***
Funding Requests	PreK Bus Trip #1 *Pizza Ranch on Tuesday, December 16th. Tour the kitchen, enjoy some food from the buffet, and have some time to play in the play zone. We are studying baking/cooking and would love to take the kids so they can experience cooking on a larger scale and also to learn about choosing food, and practice going out to eat in a public setting. The cost for this trip would be around $450 for both bussing and food.* PreK Bus Trip #2 *Children's Museum on Tuesday, March 10th. The cost for this trip would be around $180. Our entrance fee is free due to our free and reduced lunch percentage so it is only the cost of the bus for this one.* Notes: preschool does not receive funding from district for field trips. The preschool would like to go on 2 field trips. The first is to Pizza Ranch, where they can experience a real kitchen and watch them make food. Kids will also eat from the lunch buffet. The second trip is the Children's Museum, which aligns with building/construction unit. The only cost for this field trip is the bus.	Pizza Ranch Vote: 10 votes to fund the field trip. 0 no votes for field trip. Children's Museum Vote: 10 votes to fund the field trip, 0 no votes for Children's Museum. Ali, Ariane, and board will work with Cindy Overmann to make sure all documents, payments occur.
January FFCM 1/12/26 6:30pm Alexander	Request for Teacher/Staff volunteer presenters Possible Topics: ISASP April Testing, **Screening Jan/Feb**, Others?	Childcare - Sara Pizza - Ali Interpreters - Katie *Sara has plates/napkins

Library	Notes: Ms. Whittemore stated that screening for reading/math begins the week of the January Falcon Community Meeting and someone could discuss these screening. Beth M has presented on standardized assessments. Even the most familiar families would benefit from learning more about the standardized assessments. Katie will reach out to Beth regarding speaking at the 1/12/26 meeting.	Katie will email Beth M.
Fall Fest Debrief	● Thanks to everyone who volunteered! ● Free student tickets were a big hit- think of how to streamline the process next year (line was long). Digital? ● 75 pizzas was plenty (had several left over, even after discounted slices). $423 raised on pizza ● Online Silent Auction (our first time!) Worked well! Thank you Michelle G! We raised over $800 on silent auction items ● New facepaint was good ("Blue Squid" brand, ordered from Amazon) Notes: Free student tickets were a hit. We will look for more streamlined ways for kids to pick up their tickets next year to reduce wait/lines at the door. Online Silent Auction went really well. The platform was really intuitive for families. We will plan to thank businesses that donated through the yearbook.	Make list of businesses that donated to thank in the yearbook Check the givebutter for thanking SA donors
Falcon Family Movie Night Jan 23, 2026 6 pm Alexander Gym	Bracket of movies for students to vote from Jan 20-22, for Jan 23 movie night ● Draft Family Flyer ● Draft Slides for classroom voting ● *Edits/comments welcome* Notes: There is a tournament style to vote between movies. Kids in classrooms will vote. Make sure that flyers get out to families ahead of time and make sure it's clear that it's free for families.	Req donations of individually wrapped snacks (signup genius) Make handouts* for backpacks and slides for classrooms *make clearer that it's no cost to families Last year we had 185 total attendees (kids and adults)
PJ storytime Feb 12, 2026	Draft Family Flyer ● *still need to make translation copies*	PTO to get cookies. Anything else needed? Title team runs this event.
Arts Night Apr 23, 2026	Anyone wants to be part of the core team for planning, please email AlexanderElementaryPTO@gmail.com Will have bigger ask for volunteers closer to the event	

	Notes: Arts and STEM Night rotate every other year. This year is Arts Night. Many of the art activities are from people in the community. Sara is planning to start planning this in the new year. Those who are interested in participating can email the PTO to volunteer.	
Yearbook	Clarification of PTO's role in this: P*TO will buy extra yearbooks for 5th graders who otherwise didn't purchase* *Provide list of businesses that have supported us & provide page* *Anything else?:* -venmo/supporting those who wouldn't otherwise get it. Melissa K in front office Katie states:The PTO will send a flyer for donations for yearbooks. On the same flyer, families will be able to indicate that they'd like to receive a free yearbook. Melissa K has been the go to for the yearbook, though this may shift to Sarah Oxley in the future. After the initial order form, there's an additional push to get all 5th graders a yearbook if they don't order one.	
Bike Rodeo	Candidate dates? May 18-end of year (excl 25th)	Ariane will email Katie for dates;l BikeIC (ask Colbin) after Jan 1 Ariane will also check on Weatherby dates and cross reference with dates that Katie provides Voted to adjourn the meeting.

Upcoming Events	
2025-2026 PTO Calendar - future events ● 1/12 - **Community Meeting** [Leadership Team] ● 1/23 - **Community Movie Night** [Ariane & Sara] ● 2/9 - **PTO meeting - Zoom** (https://iowacityschools-org.zoom.us/j/97053526532) ● 2/12 - **PJ Storytime** [Ariane & Katie] ● 3/4 - Conferences - **PTO Meal** - *Sign-up genius* ● 3/9 - **Community Meeting** [Leadership Team: attendance KT, MC-J, Emily Voss?] ● **ISASP week** - [Sara] *Sign-up genius for classroom snacks* ● 4/13 - **PTO meeting - Zoom** (https://iowacityschools-org.zoom.us/j/97053526532) ● 4/23 - **Arts Night** [Sara] ● 5/4-5/8 - **Teacher appreciation week** - [Leadership Team] *& Sign-up genius*	

• 5/11 - **Community Meeting** [Leadership Team] • 5/25 - **End of Year Snack Sign-up** *Sign-up genius for classroom snacks* • 5/? - Bike Rodeo [Ariane] & *Sign-up genius*	
Adjourn Next Meeting: January 12	

Misc discussion points:
Venmo access
Givebutter