

Henry PTO
General Meeting Minutes
1/12/26
7:00pm

I. Call to Order (7:00PM)

- II. Roll Call:** Samantha Stirling, Michelle Swatske, Angie Phillion, Lauren Evans, Alicia Goyal, Christine Eckstein. Jessica Banner, Jodi Oliver, Erin Naes, Katie Kiefer, Lisa Carson, Jacqueline Le, Kristina Kaliyaperumal, Katie O'Connor, Jodi Oliver, Luke Donohoo, Caroline Ayers, Danielle Terranova, Linda Howard, Katie Brewer, Vikas Thallapally.

III. Principal Update (7:00PM)

A. Kindergarten Registration

1. Kindergarten Registration has started. Please make sure to register your child early, and everything begins online. See the Henry webpage for more information.

B. Questions submitted to Dr. Oliver before the meeting:

1. **Has the school contacted the City of Ballwin about traffic safety on Henry Road, specifically regarding speeding in the school zone, the additional use of digital speed display signs? Also, whether the school zone boundaries (southbound and northbound near Spring Meadows Drive and beyond Dutchmill) should be reevaluated? If not, what can be expected?**

a) We regularly communicate traffic safety concerns with the city of Ballwin. We have a SRO that we share with 5 elementary schools who hear our concerns as well. If you have concerns, Dr. Oliver's suggestion is to reach out to the city, your alderman, or the Ballwin Police Department. Your voice as a concerned citizen is just as important.

2. **How is teacher engagement and family communication structured school-wide? What expectations are in place to ensure consistent classroom communication with families? What tools are suggested or required to complete this?**

a) Teachers send a weekly newsletter home to families and are expected to share classroom updates, learning and important reminders. Some common tools include weekly newsletters and emails. Teachers have the autonomy to choose the communication format that they want.

3. Looking ahead, what school projects do you intend to ask the PTO to financially support, and how are those priorities determined?

a) Priorities are determined through student needs, staff input, and alignment with school and district goals. At the November PTO meeting, Dr. Oliver presented the list of ongoing needs and wants. Our school leadership team will meet at the end of the year to determine priorities for the next year and share those with the new PTO leadership team.

4. Do you anticipate increasing outdoor recess when the weather improves? Both CDC and the American Academy of Pediatrics note that recess supports attention, on-task behavior, and social emotional development. Since Missouri's physical activity requirement is written as an average and allows flexibility, I'm curious whether the school has considered adding or extending outdoor recess when possible to help balance the limited outdoor time during winter months and also seems like something staff could plan for in advance.

a) Dr. Oliver shared the guidance we have from DESE for guidance of minutes of instructions. DESE says 50 minutes per week is recommended for PE, and 20 minutes a day for recess. We have 2 recess periods per day for a total of 35 minutes. We have PE every other day, 2-3 times a week, which is over the 50 minutes recommended by DESE. PE tries to go outside when possible. Teachers utilize movement breaks and have the autonomy to stay out a little longer, or utilize an extra recess when needed/earned. Teachers also have the autonomy to utilize the outdoor classroom when they would like.

IV. Officer Reports

A. President- Angie Phillion and Samantha Stirling (7:10 PM)

1. At the meeting in November the MSD/Botanical Gardens grant process was discussed. In order to move forward, it was decided a focus group would need to be made of interested parties who would like to work on this project. It was communicated at the meeting, and in Henry Happenings, to contact Dr. Oliver to join the focus group. No one reached out or joined the focus group, so PTO will not be moving forward with this project.
2. Parkway State of the District meeting will be on February 4th, 5:30-7 pm at Parkway Central High School. Dr. Schneider will be speaking and the Choir will be singing. All are welcome to attend.

3. One School, One Book will be starting soon. A staff committee has chosen a book and looks forward to starting. Look for more information and communication to come home.
4. Spirit Wear came in, we have some extra on hand for anyone who would like to purchase. We use this to sell at school events throughout the year. We are opening the spirit wear store again in April for new incoming Kindergarten students, and this information will be sent out to all.

B. Treasurer- Kari Roehr (7:25PM)

1. Current checking account balance is \$28,352.63.
2. We invested \$30,000 in CDs (5, 7 and 13 month investments). There is \$10,000 in each of these and they will mature on 4/17/26, 6/17/26, and 12/17/26 respectively.
3. Expenses 11/7/25-1/12/26:
 - a) \$103 on room parties
 - b) \$850 for the winter entertainer
 - c) \$1197 for books purchased for Reader in Me
 - d) \$291 for books rewards for Summer reading program
 - e) \$608 for Community School Wide Events
 - f) \$700 for gift cards for staff appreciation
 - g) \$422 for Stock the lounge
 - h) \$25,289 cafeteria tables
 - i) \$2,380 general school grants
4. Income 11/7/25 to 1/12/26:
 - a) \$1,844 from Corporate Matches (fun run)
 - b) \$615 Restaurant Nights
 - c) \$1,640 Trivia Night
 - d) \$392.50 Box Tops

C. Fundraising- Michelle Swatske and Christine Eckstein (7:30PM)

1. Charleston Wrap \$1,334.70 was made.
2. Ultimate Ninja Night was a success, 27 students attended and \$162 made.
3. Trivia Night- Silent auction goes live on January 29th, will close at trivia night. Signups are still happening for tables.
4. Culvers Night is coming up on February 23rd, we will be looking for volunteers for this.
5. Chuck E Cheese night on March 25.

6. Ballwin Snow Cone April (date TBD)
7. Papa John's in May.

D. Community Events- Jessica Banner (7:35PM)

1. STEAM Night- Fliers went home on Friday. Registration has started and we have families signed up. This is a free community event at MADE.
2. Game Night is scheduled for Feb 24th 6:30-7:30. Anyone can attend and bring games and snacks. There will be a sign up coming up to count RSVPs.
3. Roller Skating night in December was not successful, and we will not be doing this in the future.

E. Communication- Lauren Evans (7:40PM)

1. Buzz Book information was shared.

V. Additional questions and discussion (7:45PM)

A. Are there plans for Multicultural Night or to introduce new community-focused activities? What are the challenges?

1. *The school is now running Multicultural Night, PTO will be supporting it. The challenges were lack of parent volunteer support to run and coordinate the event, and we did not have anyone sign up to chair for this year. Mrs. Howard, one of our ELL teachers, spoke about Multicultural Night. Henry is trying a new format- it will be during the school day to be more inclusive so all students can participate. We will be running a party day schedule, and focus on games from around the world. It will be on April 10th, more information will be coming.*

B. What new ideas or partnerships is PTO leadership exploring to increase community engagement and participation?

1. *We are always supporting and looking for community partnerships.*

C. Has the PTO considered covering the cost of kiln cleaning to support the art program? (Dr Oliver mentioned this expense last meeting)

1. *No, Kiln maintenance part of the school budget and is set up by the Fine Arts coordinator. However, Dr. Oliver can always come to PTO to discuss school needs.*

D. Is the PTO considering a stronger communication effort to connect fundraising goals to specific initiatives so families can better understand how funds are used? (i.e. promoting fund raising events as meaningful for a specific need.)

1. *Yes, we are looking forward to fundraising and communication being more streamlined next year.*

E. Which “Dine Out” nights have generated the most funds in recent years? This year which have been most successful?

1. *Culvers is the most successful, we raise approximately \$500. Other dine out nights raise approximately \$30-150.*

F. Question about PTO board positions and what will be open.

1. *Board elections for the 2026-2027 school year will be this spring. The nomination meeting will be April 13th 2026 at 7 pm, and the election meeting will be April 27th 2026 at 7pm. Anyone could be part of the board, and more information will be coming in Henry Happenings in the near future. If there is interest in running for the board anyone can run. Oftentimes PTO presents a slate of candidates for a general vote since only 1 person typically is running per position. However, multiple people can run for a position, and if multiple nominations are made there will be a vote per position.*

VI. Next general PTO meeting- April 13, 2026 at 7:00pm

VII. Motion to adjourn (7:45 PM)