

PTO Meeting Minutes

February 25, 2026

Meeting called to order at 6:04 pm by Catherine Glidden.

Rosa Lopez-Washington motioned and Courtney Billittier seconded, to approve the meeting minutes from the January meeting.

Attendance

Catherine Glidden: President	Courtney Billittier: Parent Liaison
Yoon Chung: Vice President - Lincoln	Melissa Duitsman: Spiritwear
Rosa Lopez-Washington: Vice President - MS	Caitlin Kramer: Sweetheart Dance
Elisabeth Reigle: Vice President - IS	Jennifer Novello - MS Teacher
Danielle Coughlin: Treasurer	Guests: Sarah Nelson-Flores
Abby Staroszczyk: ES Teacher Representative	Julie Verburgen
Trisha Kocanda: Superintendent	Aileen Veldhuizen
Stefan Ladenburger: IS Principal	Ha Pham
Latoya Connors Gray: School Board	
Stacie Brown: Special Events	

Reports:

President's Report: Catherine Glidden reported. She is helping with 8th grade retakes. The Sweetheart Dance and Zumba were both successful and fun! Held the school store pop-up shop and will be starting the school store at IS at lunch on March 4th. Finalizing ideas for the Bingo and Multicultural night and we will have a table at the Kindergarten night. Katie Taylor-Couturiaux, the Elementary School Vice President, resigned. If anyone has suggestions for the VP open roles for next year, please let us know.

Vice Presidents' Reports:

Lincoln School: Yoon Chung reported. The Valentine's Day parties went well and Kindergarten registration has started.

Elementary School: No report.

Intermediate School: Elisabeth Reigle Reported. The Valentine's Day parties went well.

Middle School: No report.

Treasurer's Report: Danielle Coughlin reported. It was a very busy month!

Mundelein Comm. Checking Balance as of 1/30/26	41,938.85
Mundelein Comm. Savings Balance as of 1/30/26	48,126.67
Less: Committed Funds	71,590.94
Uncommitted Funds as of 2/24/26	18,474.58
Balance available for 2025/2026:	18,474.58

Principal's Report: Stefan Ladenburger reported.

Lincoln updates - Valentine's Day parties - thank you

- Scholastic dollars for replacing library books - thank you

Elementary School updates -School Store- thank you

- Valentine's Day parties- thank you
- Looking forward to the Book Fair

Intermediate School updates: We have our end of the trimester PAWS assembly on Friday.

- PAWS on a roll and PAWS Store have been going well
- Students are excited for the PTO School Store during lunch

Middle School updates - Book fair through P/T Conferences - thanks for volunteering.

District and School Board Report:

Trisha Kocanda reported. February board meeting recap - excited to share we had two teachers receive the Those Who Excel Award, Stacey Begg and Lucky Deutsch. Picking a new registration system, thank you to those that filled out the survey for us. Kindergarten registration is open and the open house night is March 4th. March 11 is the next book club and we are bringing back the Soup with the Superintendent. Updated the 2026/27 school calendar to adjust to the MHS Homecoming. Wirtz lawsuit was filed to help the schools have a fair process. Was it appropriate for the Village to make a decision that isn't helpful to the schools in the town. The Village has not responded to the District yet.

Latoya Connors-Gray reported. She loves the PTO and has missed us! Recognized Lincoln staff. Thorough multi-lingual update, access and support. Stem curriculum update, the Board approved a Smart Lab at the MS. Insurance committee looking at additional programs for the rest of the year. Approved the registration fees for 2026/2027, with a few increases for MS bowling and gym shirts. Mike Jandes attended the first AI committee meeting.

Teacher Reports:

IS: Lindsey Maslov reported via email. We want to sincerely thank you for all of your hard work on the Valentine's Day parties. Everything went so smoothly, and we truly appreciate the time and effort you put into making it such a fun experience for our students.

Third grade would also like to extend a big thank you for the Storm Chaser assembly. The kids absolutely loved it, as they always do, and they are already looking forward to having it again in future years!

MS: no report

ES: Abby Star reported. Thank you for all your support, all the activities help break up the slower, colder, months and the kids really love it! It helps make the students excited for their school days.

Committee Reports:

Art Awareness – Yoon Chung reported. Feb 1st we launched pre-designed projects. There hasn't been a lot of interest yet, but has gotten positive feedback.

Birthday Board – Christie Johnson reported via email. Everything is in good shape!

Book Fair - Jen Knop reported via email. Middle School Spring Book Fair kicks off Monday morning! Thank you to all the parents that have signed up to volunteer. The Book Fair will run through conferences on Thursday.

Communications - no report

Fundraising – Rosa Lopez-Washington reported. The Krispy Kreme donuts fundraiser is going well. Tomorrow is our Panera fundraiser, at a new location in Round Lake Beach. Tentative fundraiser for March 15-April 15 is a Dave and Buster gift card fundraiser, we get \$10 a card. Culvers is in May.

Hospitality – no report

Marketing/Facebook - Catherine is doing a great job with Instagram posts.

Membership Toolkit - no report.

Parent Liaison - Courtney Billitier reported. Book club - featuring "Permission to Feel" has been moved to March 11. While you don't have to read the book to attend, it will be more worthwhile if you have. Trying to plan and build on our events with the idea of a community-wide parent university - but it's slow going. There is an excited group of people ready to present. There is also a link shared as well for the audio book. Maybe one or two more topics depending on how busy things get.

Picture Day and Yearbook - Monica Trent reported via email. Room parents are working on their classroom pages and the yearbook team is gathering pictures and starting layouts for the other pages.

The yearbooks are scheduled to go to print by 4/30/26 and parents will need to complete the custom pages for their kids' yearbooks by 4/17/26. I will work on getting flyers printed for distribution just after spring break so parents have time to order yearbooks and to complete custom pages before the deadline.

I'm waiting for an update from TreeRing on whether we still need mailing addresses for any families due to the issue earlier this year but there were only 10 families missing addresses last month, so hopefully the number is minimal. If there are any without addresses, I will follow up with them once more.

Room Parents - No report

Special Events – Caitlin Kramer reported. The Sweetheart dance had 380 people attend. There were great volunteers and the balloon helpers were outstanding! They spent many hours prepping the balloons and backdrops. We had 18 people help bake lots of great treats. DJ was amazing! They were very interactive and kept the dads and kids engaged. The NJHS kids were great and helped wherever needed.

March Madness - Stacie Brown reported. The informational email went out today and the team shirts were distributed. The excitement for the game has started up between the players. Don't miss the excitement on March 7th at 2pm.

Spirit Wear - Melisa Duitsman reported. There were 126 orders for the Spring sale. There were extra items ordered to sell at the Kindergarten night. Elisabeth shared the new blankets for \$30 or 2 for \$55.

Old Business: none.

New Business: Funding requests:

1. \$1920 requested by Marsha Dugan to send 8th graders not participating in the DC trip to Time Mission (about 117 students). Their immersive “missions” are designed to promote critical thinking, problem solving and collaboration in a way that feels more like a challenge course than a classroom. Their afternoon will be filled with a mix of learning and adventure. *This is in lieu of the Holocaust Museum trip. The museum is currently under renovation. Thank you for your consideration. Motion made by Rosa Lopez-Washington to approve the \$1920 and seconded by Danielle Coughlin.
2. \$235 requested by Lucky Deutsch for small tokens of appreciation (snacks, classroom supplies, and self-care items) for the Wildcat Kudos Cart. This cart is a staff-to-staff recognition initiative meant to celebrate the everyday moments that often go unnoticed but make a big difference at Fremont. It gives staff a simple way to recognize coworkers for things like supporting a student through a tough moment, collaborating with a team, or creating meaningful experiences in their classroom. A special part of this program is student involvement- students help deliver the kudos, which reinforces kindness, gratitude, and positive social skills in an authentic way. The goal is to build staff morale, strengthen community and model appreciation and kindness for our students. Motion made by Rosa Lopez-Washington to approve the \$235 and seconded by Danielle Coughlin.

Adjournment: 6:53 p.m. Motion made to adjourn meeting by Catherine Glidden, seconded by Rosa Lopez-Washington.

PTO minutes submitted by: Stacie Brown