



Defer Elementary PTO

Tuesday, February 10th, 2026

Defer Elementary School

7:00 PM

1. **Call to Order and Introductions** – JJ DeRosier
7:01pm
2. **Review of the Previous Minutes** –Cara Rossi-
Motion to approve- Laura Tanniheimer; Second- Ted Watts, all in favor motion passes
3. **Treasurer's Report** - Emily Szymczak Smock and [Allison Keelean](#)
 - a. Review of Budget for ending in Jan 31, 2026
 - b. Interest earning account is now accruing 0% interest as it is a flexible rate, due to additional work to manage with not additional funds added we may close that account and open a new one with next years fun run money
 - c. Allison motioned, Kelly seconded motion passes.
4. **President's Report** – JJ DeRosier
 - a. Board elections are coming in April
5. **Vice President's Report** – Kelsey Howard

The VP-PTO council is looking into providing insurance blanketing over all PTOs.

 - Dr.Bishop and the team are currently going school to school to understand how the learning is happening to get a full picture of the needs.

Safety checks are also happening around the district.

 - Feb 24th- Special Needs resource fair 4-7pm at the war memorial.
 - March 1, 2026: Grant deadline (Seed grants will be submitted on the same schedule as all other grants)
6. **Communications Report** – Lindsey Koczenasz
 - a. End of year leadership loot raffle sign up genius to go out to help our students use up those end of year loot.
7. **Committee Reports**
 - a. Beautification- Lindsay Studders
 - b. Inclusion committee- Inclusion: This month's board is on Black History Month. It is the centennial celebration.
 - The Detroit Historical Museum came to do an assembly. The topic was the Great Fire. Madelyn Porter gave a fabulous presentation. She got the kids to interact and did a great job keeping their attention too.
 - c. Hospitality- meeting this week to finalize planning for conferences
 - d. International Festival- looking for people to host tables
 - e. Scholastic Bookfair- Ted Watts- talked to rep dates are confirmed for conferences March 18-20, please communicate with teachers that event attendance is available after school and during conferences. Teachers are being asked to create e-wallets so parents can donate directly to that and teachers can use those donations to purchase off of their wish list. Sign up genius will go out with time for volunteers.
 - f. Staff Appreciation- will meet after mid winter break

- g. Spring Social- Thursday May 14 6-8pm. Will use the parking lot again for food trucks and dining space. Bounce Houses and DJ are booked, little league parents night will not take place the same evening. Water was an issue with older kids starting water fights, water bottles will be placed behind the PTO table. Police presence was suggested but those are typically paid which would require additional funds. Do we move to a check in with your parent and a wrist band style system. Committee to meet with Dr Rheume to further discuss safety planning. How do we incentivize volunteers to show up for bounce houses and spring social, do we offer raffle items like front row kindergarten concert things like that.

8. Teachers Report – Laura Tanniheimer

- a. Lots of thank yous for the 2 new Keurig machines, thank you to the leadership loot sign up genius for the end of year raffle.
- b. Bookfair wish list books came in so major thanks to the committee
- c. Assembly from Detroit Historic society was fantastic
- d. Larry Trading cards for leadership loot cart are going live on Thursday

9. Principal's Report –Lisa Rheume

- a. Thank you to all the volunteers
- b. Lunchtime enrichment is going amazing
- c. Thank you for the Tuesday Treats
- d. Keep driveway clears for safe attendance to school
- e. Report cards go live Friday Feb 13th
- f. Y5 and Kindergarten registration is open
 - i. Transition event is May 11, 2026
- g. Spring concert everyone is very excited

10. Old Business

- a. Teachers Lounge update
 - i. Install quote is pending, they would like to do an onsite walkthrough and would like to coordinate with a district maintenance person to verify need
 - ii. Plumbing installation/update physical date needs to be identified as it will impact the install quote
 - iii. There is a rough timeline, but the timeline needs to be reviewed with Dr. Rheume to make sure we can clean everything out in time
- b. Foreign language book project
- c. Gaga Ball cover *2026-2027*
- d. Board Elections- Open positions President, Vice President, Co-treasurer, Communications Secretary
- e. Pizza Party raffle- do we allocate funds now? We need quote and to figure out where the fund will be coming from i.e. which line item

11. New Business

- a. **Defer Elementary FAQ of PTO officers and committees fact sheet goal is to have available to share by May transition event**

12. Member Comment(s)

- a. Thank you for the focus on kindness for the month of February

13. Adjournment

8:30 pm

Upcoming Meetings:

- **March 17, 2026**
- **Stay tuned for announcements on upcoming events via Smore news and our Defer PTO social channels**