



Defer Elementary PTO

Tuesday, March 17th, 2026

Defer Elementary School

7:00 PM

1. Call to Order and Introductions – JJ DeRosier

- a. Called to order at 7:02pm

2. Review of the Previous Minutes –Cara Rossi

- a. Motion to approve - Kelsey Howard; Second - Cara Rossi, all in favor motion passes.

3. Treasurer's Report - Emily Szymczak Smock and [Allison Keelean](#)

- a. Review of budget ending 2/28/26
- b. Income for last month was a donation from JJ's Custard
- c. Expenses related to reimbursements, etc.
- d. Major expenditure will be Teacher's Lounge
- e. Did closed the money market account because the interest rate dropped to 0. Can look at opening accounts when we get the fun run check to potentially get a dollar award for that and make interest.
- f. Motion to approve - Lindsey Kocenasz, Seconded by Kelsey Howard, all in favor motion passes

4. President's Report – JJ DeRosier

- a. Board elections are coming in April
- b. Tricia Enberg will run as as Co-Treasurer
- c. Allison Keelan will run as the Treasurer
- d. Kelsey Howard will run as president
- e. Kelly Eppenger will run as vice president
- f. Lindsey Koczenasz will stay on to run the web store and support graphic design
- g. Cara rossi will run as Secretary
- h. Still need a Communications lead to run the weekly newsletter and social media updates - share any interested parties
- i. There is a visual of the PTO officer roles, committees and coordinators added to the website, will be added to the newsletter, will get printed to have in the office and at the transition event
https://www.facebook.com/stories/1395210731901029/?source=profile_highlight

5. Vice President's Report – Kelsey Howard

- a. International Festival - discussion on how to do this for more schools
- b. Volunteer recruiting efforts - shared that sign-up genius is a beneficial tool to get volunteers, shared contact information for officers
- c. Dr. Bishop shared his vision for the district

6. Communications Report – Lindsey Koczenasz

- a. PTO description pages created and shared
- b. Sign-ups being created for volunteers for Spring social, etc.
- c. Working on sign-ups for the Leadership Loot raffle cart (will be at the last Town Hall - in May)
 - i. 30 prizes received
 - ii. 7 are class parties - PTO can cover these with a total of \$250
 - iii. Still items available to sign-up
 - iv. Will share the listing of all prizes and will ensure that all prizes are covered
- d. Make sure to share any posts on socials to boost the posts in the algorithm

7. Committee Reports

- a. Beautification
 - i. Last spring dug out all of the lily of the valley, waiting to see how much more needs to be removed
 - ii. Designs in process for an updated area by the benches and a garden bed by the office entrance, shared plans to use native plants, looking for donations for large boulders for sitting
 - iii. Will be done in May at the earliest, can be funded with the current available funds in budget
 - iv. 3/21 -volunteer day to clean up leaves, with post going out on Wednesday, can recruit NHS volunteers
 - v. 3/28 - Little league clean-up day
 - vi. Can create a seed library in April as a part of Earth Day
 - vii. Can use the PTO contact for a Keep Michigan Beautiful Grant to get \$500 for future projects
- b. Inclusion committee
 - i. Board is International Women's Month
- c. Hospitality
 - i. Conferences are this week, pamphlet shared with teachers
 - ii. Wednesday grab & go dinner from LBD
 - iii. Thursday Buschemi's pizza and breadstick for lunch, Park Grill for dinner, Delight Bakery dessert tray
- d. International Festival
 - i. Was very successful, all food was sponsored by restaurants
- e. Scholastic Bookfair
 - i. Book Fair is set up
 - ii. Will be open during conferences
 - iii. Looking for volunteers for manning conferences and breakdown
- f. Staff Appreciation
 - i. Committee is formed and a meeting is scheduled for Friday
- g. Spring Social 5/14
 - i. Making a few tweaks from last year - will keep water at a PTO table, will have a check-in with wristbands to use bounce houses - 4 obstacle courses and 2 bounce houses, will designate 2 obstacle courses to everyone, 2 obstacle courses and bounce houses for Defer students and younger, reserve 1 bounce house for kids up to 2nd grade
 - ii. Working on social post for sharing
 - iii. Food trucks - hot dog truck and Buschemis are confirmed (can we not have them wrapped in tin foil?), searching for 2 food trucks, open to suggestions
 - iv. Tables / Activities confirmed - Friendship Factory, Book Fair, Face Painters, DJ, photobooth, Kona Ice, Wally's
 - v. Sign-up Genius for volunteers will be shared tomorrow
 - vi. Confirmed insurance is not needed, Bounce House has insurance
 - vii. Police verified parking is available on both sides of the street

8. Teachers Report – Jane Nugent

- a. Thank you for planning the Leadership Loot raffle and the food for conferences
- b. Request from Mrs. Kliman for Field day (5/30) funding for \$1,525 for a DJ for the whole day, that has a confetti canon and ensure that it is cleaned up before Little League. No budget concerns, can add a line item for Field Day to next year's budget
 - i. Lindsey motions to approve the full amount, Kelsey seconds, all in favor - approved \$1,525
- c. Request from Fourth Grade to walk to Maire to see the Spirit of Harriet Tubman which aligns with a social studies unit, Maire PTO approved to split the cost for us if Defer PTO can cover \$350, will become a standard event for future years. May be beneficial to have back-up drivers

- i. Can be funded by the Inclusion Committee funds if we increase by \$50 to \$850, JJ motions for approval, Kelly seconds, all in favor motion passes

9. Principal's Report –Lisa Rheaume

- a. Thank you to all the volunteers!
- b. Spring concert was amazing!
- c. Thank you for the Tuesday Treats and conference food.
- d. Drop off and Pick up - make sure to not park in drop off areas
- e. STEAM assembly on Monday - grant funded, kids loved it. Will look at seeing how we can continue this in future years
- f. Y5 and Kindergarteners Transition event is 5/11, will place a new t-shirt order.
- g. Request for \$16,000 to replace the Kindergarten iPads, previously funded by PTO, with 35 Chrome Books to fill a cart (~\$400 per device, price increase expected 4/1). Chrome Books will be used for testing and other activities to prepare them for Chrome Book use in future grades.
 - i. Could \$11,250 budget to cover 25 devices this year and fund the remaining next year. Lindsey motions, Cara seconds, all in favor, motion passes.

10. Old Business

- a. Teachers Lounge update
 - i. Electrical and plumbing questions answered
 - ii. Cabinet deposit will be paid next week
 - iii. Updated contractor quote
 - iv. Will need to get some volunteer SUVs to pick up material from Ikea in August
- b. Foreign language book project - no update
- c. Gaga Ball cover will be done in 2026-2027 school year, Spring
- d. Board Elections- Open position Communications Secretary
- e. Leadership Loot raffle funding -
 - i. Estimating about \$250 - 350 to cover parties and packaging, will have a final dollar amount at April meeting
 - ii. Raffle containers will be provided by staff
 - iii. Could use the popsicle fund for this

11. New Business

- a. None

12. Member Comment(s)

- a. If we need NHS volunteers, we need to create a sign-ups ourselves and share the link so that kids can sign-up and we can get the information directly

13. Adjournment

8:41 pm

Upcoming Meetings:

- **April 14, 2026**
- **Stay tuned for announcements on upcoming events via Smore news and our Defer PTO social channels**