

Wattles Elementary School PTO Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 11, 2026 6:00 - 7:00 PM
Location: Wattles Elementary School, Media Center



1. Call to Order

Time: 6:01 PM. Called By Brandi Lavelly - President

2. Attendance/Roll Call

- a. Noted by Rachel van Dinkel, PTO Board President
- b. PTO Board Members Present:

President: Brandi Lavelly - Present
1st Vice President: Mandy Kostrewski - Present
2nd Vice President: Latisha Richard – Present
Principal: Amy Wallace – Present
Teacher Representative: - Megan Maiuri – Absent
Treasurer: Anne Rasmussen – Present
Secretary: Rachel van Dinkel - Present

- c. Additional Attendees Present (incl. Non-board speakers):
 - i. In-person; 12 (most did not stay for full meeting)
 - ii. Virtual;

3. Welcome and introduction of PTO Board Members

4. Student Presentations

- a. 1st Grade - writing about school, addition & subtraction, learning about shadows
- b. 2nd Grade - learning whether objects sink or float, measurements, writing opinions
- c. 3rd Grade - earning puffs for awards, learning area & perimeter of squares, going to Greenfield Village in May
- d. 4th Grade - learning geometry and angles, learning to read musical notes, learning economic vocabulary
- e. 5th Grade - learning to research topics which we will debate, homework taskforces to write and present our ideas, learning about colonies in social studies, and persuasive writing

5. Approve 11/12/2025 meeting minutes. (*See previous minutes for any changes to make*)

Motion to Approve: Mandy Kostrewski, seconded by Anne Rasmussen – Decision Passed

6. Reports

- a. Treasurer
 - i. 5th grade promotion → Jen DiPerna & Mandy Kostrewski managing
 - ii. Fun Run expenses came in under budget (Mandy & Anne to sidebar on this topic)



- iii. Anne working on updating spreadsheet
- b. Committees
 - i. Dining for Dollars (*Chair: Mandy Kostrewski*)
 - 1. Next three confirmed: QDoba, Green Lantern Pizza, Mr. Kabab
 - 2. Brandi volunteered to chair this next year
 - ii. Fun Run (*Chair: Mandy Kostrewski*)
 - 1. We should start gathering the committee now for next year's event. A spot was added to the SignUp Genius for people to express interest.
 - 2. Discussion:
 - a. Need to evaluate roles and needs for PTO, perhaps do an eblast?
 - iii. International Night/School Fair
 - 1. We need volunteers to plan the event. At what point should we decide to pivot if there are no additional volunteers?
 - 2. Discussion:
 - a. Rachel suggests looking into a simpler event for spring such as Wattles Movie Night (need to explore licensing/copyright parameters to determine ability to use as fundraiser vs family event with no charge)
 - b. Decision to do one final push for volunteers then reevaluate
 - iv. Online Promoter (*Chair: Rachel van Dinkel*)
 - 1. Gmail calendar current
 - 2. Created FB profile for Alex Wildcat, to debut soon as primary "voice" on PTO group
 - v. Talent Show
 - 1. Auditions were 2/4/26
 - 2. Talent Show is 3/10/26 at 6 pm
 - 3. Discussion: planning is going great!
 - vi. Teacher Appreciation Week
 - 1. Tisha is leading the committee for planning and there have been two additional people to express interest to help her.
- c. Staff Report -
 - i. March is Reading Month is coming up!
 - ii. There are periodic needs for supplies and clothing, can we develop a way to gather and promote these needs when they arise?
 - 1. Rachel to organize a supply drop off and pick up drive
 - 2. Rachel to explore ideas for clothing closet volunteers and needs evaluation
- d. Principal Report -
 - i. Conferences are now a district-wide push, and using a standardized platform for scheduling
 - ii. Character Education → status application has been submitted
 - 1. Next will be panel discussions with the evaluation team



- a. Parents, students
 - iii. Using beautification funds toward a mural in the media center - currently in design phase
 - iv. Have some additional plans and needs, implementation to be determined based on any available funds from PTO
 - v. NWEA testing provides a different level of evaluation than the other testing that is happening and provides very helpful data and subtopic reporting. This does not replace M-step as it measures very different data. Only 50 minutes of testing.
- 7. Unfinished Business
 - a. None
- 8. New Business
 - a. Lucky Lunches - can we adapt this for Wattles somehow?
 - i. Worth thinking through how it might look - perhaps a fundraising opportunity or use as awards of some sort (ie Fun Run top earners, etc)
 - b. Use of PTO meeting as working sessions
 - i. Can continue trying it with remaining meetings this year
 - c. Supply Collection
 - i. Set up end of year station for supplies no longer needed by exiting students/families
 - ii. Provide supply lists in advance
 - iii. Offer supply drop off during summer?
 - iv. Supplies distributed to teachers based on student count
 - v. Possible "shopping spree" during week before school?
 - 1. Students can "shop" for the individual items such as backpacks, water bottles, pencil cases, etc
 - vi. Rachel to work on organizing this effort
- 9. Adjournment:

Time: 7:00 PM Called by: Brandi Lavelly

Next Meeting: Wednesday, 11 March 2026