

PTO Meeting Minutes

January 13, 2026 | 7pm

Welcome

Meeting began with greetings and introductions. In attendance: Jennie Harrison, Allison Symmes, Todd Orner, Ted Wells, and Caleb McClure. Minutes from the November meeting were approved.

Treasurer Report

Treasurer's report was presented: Balance as of the last meeting was \$11,436.52. Withdrawals totaled \$1,164.14 for RIF Supplies, payment for the popsicles, breakfast items for Parent/Teacher Conferences, and teacher stipends. Deposits totaled \$439.50 for late Joe Corbi order, 50/50 raffle proceeds, and a check from Box Tops. Balance as of today's meeting is \$10,711.88.

Mr. Wells Report

Mr. Wells reported that report cards go live on the 26th on Skyward. The 2nd year of Spring Conferences are coming up. They are done a little differently from Fall, especially how sign-ups happen: teachers will contact parents directly (who need to be seen); it's because it's less than 3 hours, there are less students to come in.

Dogtown book should have gone home with students this week for the One School, One Book program, which is being brought back with much staff support. Mr. Wells reported a success on this, and is very pleased that every student got one. Additionally, there was some dress up/costumes today that was received well, as part of the book introduction. Mr. Wells reported that there is an active search for a "culminating activity," perhaps in March. One idea is to bring in the illustrator of the Dogtown book. Jen Daniels is taking point on this. Mr. Wells is hoping the PTO might contribute to getting the illustrator to come and speak at JGE. Mr. Wells presented a handout to the PTO.

The fees are: \$1,000 in-person presentation, travel fee, plus \$300 overnight lodging fee if over 50 miles from Baltimore.

The benefits are: 45-minute session that includes overview of what he does, why illustrations are important, and a live-drawing session. The end is a 10-min Q&A.

Discussion followed.

Mr. Wells reported that we welcome Colleen Rebert as the new gifted teacher.

New Business

Allison reported that Saturday, March 21st we have another parent's night out event at Gettysburg's Best Parkour. We had an event in November and they are dropping off a check tomorrow.

Caleb reported that his church is no longer using Zoom, and the PTO will need to figure out a different Zoom account. Todd Orner suggested using the GAEF Zoom account, and offered that to the PTO to use, in addition to offering to run the Zoom meetings for us.

Allison reported that the PTO received a personal "Thank You" from one of the staff who received a gift card last month as a gift through the teacher stipends. This staff was experiencing some personal matters and the gift was a huge blessing and very appreciated.

Committee Reports

Fall Fundraiser:

No update.

RIF:

November's RIF was a scarecrow craft, and was very successful. February 20th is the next RIF, theme not certain. We will need to place an order of books before the end of the year.

Restaurant Fundraiser:

No update.

Box Tops:

Total as of this afternoon - \$60.40

Spring Fundraiser:

Discussion about carnations – Decided against it due to minimal profit last year.

Discussed doing a sub or apparel sale again – Will check to see what the PBIS program has planned so there isn't any overlap.

Holiday Craft:

The event was held the second week of December. The students colored wooden ornament picture frames and placed their photo inside the frame. Supplies were also available for "gift giving." It was a very positive event.

Hospitality:

Skating party – updates to come.

Teacher appreciation week also to be decided later.

Math Madness:

Planning meeting towards the end of January. Todd Orner is willing to set up the Givebutter online collection again.

Announcements/Other

None

Next meeting date: February 10th, 2026.