

Fort Zeller Elementary School PTO
April Meeting Minutes
Wednesday April 8th, 2026.
Meeting started at 6:30PM

In attendance: Kirsten Wenger, Anna Shanaman, Haley Wanner, Jessica Bankus, Mrs. Zurich, Mrs. Yocum, Mrs. Gardner, Mrs. Houck, Kelly Ulrich, Bobby Jo Arrigo, Jazmin Yiengst, Erin Horning, Becky Rizzo, Lydia Eberly, Callie Ebling, Nicole Longenecker.

Principal's Report PTO – 4/8/26

1. Battle of the Books – Battle of the Books – Ben Clanton – April 2
2. Thank you for another year of the Mobile Ag. Lab!
3. Raider Readers – April 9
4. Family Groups – April 17
5. School Board Meeting – April 20 @ 6:00 pm
 - a. Playground; moving forward with a board vote and should have for next school year!
6. Family Literacy Night (MS) – April 23 @ 5:30 pm
7. PBIS Assembly – April 24
8. Kindergarten Oregon Dairy Field Trip – April 29
9. EOY Assessments – Linkit! 4/27-5/15, MCLASS 5/12-5/13, Spring Math 5/18-5/22

PBIS Report:

1. Bee Cards:
 - o Total: 4,312
 - o March: 667
2. Think Sheets:
 - o Total: 84 (158 last year)
 - o March: 17
3. Character Trait: Perseverance
 - o R.E.A.C.H. Lessons:
 - i. K: A Little Spot of Confidence – talked about strengths and shared things they are good at.
 - ii. 1: Power of Yet – Read The Magical Yet
 - iii. 2: Careers – completed an interest inventory to make connections between things they like and jobs that might fit those interests.

Title I Report

Celebrating literacy, during the month of March, has been a great experience for our young readers! Read Across America was such a “sweet” time! Students heard several of our fabulous second grade students read aloud a children’s book that won the Theodor Seuss Geisel Award. We also had special dress days to make the week even more fun. Also, all Fort Zeller students got to participate in our very first “Fort Zeller Book Swap”. It was a special moment to see all students leave with two books to keep. We appreciate the book donations!

To make March even more special for our students, our annual Battle of the Books occurred. We featured local author and illustrator Jonathan Stutzman and Heather Fox. They will be presenting at Family Literacy Night, which is scheduled for April 23rd. The students have loved voting for their favorite book, and they can’t wait to see which book is the “winner”. This announcement will occur during our school-wide reading assembly, which is scheduled for April 2nd.

Finally, to encourage at home reading, students had the entire month of March to complete a reading log. THANK YOU to the families who have helped their child complete the challenge!

Children will receive their special prize on April 2nd, and the class that read the most books will earn a cupcake party. THANK YOU to LE’S Cupcakes for donating the cupcakes for this prize!

- Next celebration, National Poetry Month, which occurs throughout the month of April. We can’t wait to recognize this beloved genre with our young readers! More details to come. The challenge ends April 30th

Family Literacy Night:

- Flyers for this event went home with every student.
- RSVP by Friday, April 11th. There is a QR code and a link on the flyer.

Teacher’s Report:

- Book fair was great and a quick turnaround with books that were ordered.
- Jim Basketball Jones assembly was well worth it and the kids loved it.
- Thank you PTO for all you so for students and teachers

Secretary’s Report: Jessica Bankus

- Motion to adopt March’s meeting minutes
1st Anna Shanaman
2nd Haley Wanner

Treasurer's Report: Haley Wanner

- Motion to adopt March's treasurer's report
1st Jessica Bankus
2nd Erin Horning
- Current treasure's report reviewed with attendees

Assemblies: Committee Chair, Trisha Rabold

1. Ag Lab happening now! April 8,9,10
 - Parent Volunteer Shifts
8th AM-Kirsten Wenger PM- Nicole Longenecker
9th AM- Kayla Wrench PM- Trisha Rabold
10th AM- Lydia Eberly PM- Kirsten Wenger
 - After Friday, all assemblies for the year will be complete.

Rewards Program: Committee Chair, Kirsten Wenger

- \$6.10 was earned from boxtops for February

Fundraising: Committee Chair, Anna Shanaman

1. Perfect Candy
 - 57 orders that sold 634 bags for a profit of ~\$2,320
 - Last year we did 46 orders and sold 442 bags. Total profit was \$1,610
 - Spring was excellent timing as profit was higher than fall orders last year
2. Ice cream punch cards – May timeframe
 - Ice Shack is willing to try ice cream punch cards in May.
 - They are ok to handle designing and printing cards, expiry would be Nov 30th.
 - Keep the same pricing – 4 punches for \$10. Cost to PTO = \$6, we make \$4/card
 - Each punch would be good for a small ice cream cone
 - Will be moving forward and possibly running from 5/1/26 to 5/13/26.
Printed 5/25/26 to come home 5/29/2026.
3. Next year – will keep the same fundraisers for the 2026-2027 school year.

Book Fair: Committee Chair: Unfilled

- Will be selecting scholastic dollars to purchase teacher magazines
- Fall dates are TBD at this time

Race for Education: Tri-Chairs, Bethany Snyder, Unfilled, Unfilled

- Friday, October 9th (rain date 10/16)
- Richland library will come to read to students after race
- Subman (from Subway) will return
- Summer planning meeting: TBD (early June, meeting at the playground)
- Amanda & Kelly will no longer be on the committee in the fall if anyone would like to join!

Hospitality: Committee Chair, Lydia Eberly

1. Donuts with Grownups - Kindergarten is April 10, First Grade is April 17, and Second Grade is April 24.
 - a. Parents must stay with their child until 8:30 when the school session begins. May take them to the playground after eating. Will be sending out emails and posting on Facebook.
2. Second Grade gifts-Will have pictures by mid April from the teachers and will get started on the posters.
3. Paraprofessionals received donuts last week
4. Donations from Dutch Valley for teacher appreciation week

Gingerbread Shop: Co-Chairs, Kirsten Wenger & Becky Rizzo

- No Updates

Memory Book: Committee Chair Jazmine Yiengst

- As of Monday, 122 yearbooks were sold.
- The final copy will be submitted 4/6/26
- Delivery will be early May

Fun in the Sun: Committee Chair Erin Horning

- Flavors for Shaved Ice: 2 Cotton Candy, 3 Blue Raspberry
- Where to place the library
 - Will be at the 3rd grade basketball court. If an issue with yellowjackets arises, we will move into the Gym.
- Sign up Genius / Schedule / Volunteers
 - Lori and Mrs Houck will be making schedules
 - Kirsten will get Volunteer sign up out via email

Old Business:

- None to discuss

New Business:

- Nurse is in need for boys & girls size 1 and 2 sneakers if any has gently used to donate
- Vacant seats open for the 2026-2027 school year
 - Two Race for Education
 - Secretary
 - Book Fair
 - Fun in the Sun: Joining Erin for (for 2027-2028)

Next Meeting: May 6th, 2026 at 6:30 in the Fort Zeller Library which will be the last of this school year.

The meeting adjourned at 7:06pm.