



Defer Elementary PTO

Tuesday, April 14th, 2026

Defer Elementary School

7:00 PM

1. **Call to Order and Introductions** – JJ DeRosier
 - a. Meeting called to order 7:08pm
2. **Review of the Previous Minutes** –Cara Rossi
 - a. Motion to approve March minute Kelsey Howard
 - b. Second Lindsey Koczenasz
 - c. Motion passes
3. **Treasurer's Report** - Emily Szymczak Smock and Allison Keelean
 - a. Teacher requests, Allison to send a updated list to Mrs. Tannheimer to facilitate requests
 - b. At the end of year we are projected to end around 40k which is higher than last year so please continue to submit requests.
 - c. Progressive dinner can we change the title of event from “break even” this event is now earning money, suggestion is that the excess money earned just stays in the line item and is upped for the following year.
 - d. Scholastic Bookfair review of difference between scholastic dollars and “real money”
 - e. Motion to approve Kelsey Howard, Second Lindsey Koczenasz Motion passes
4. **President's Report** – JJ DeRosier
 - a. Kelsey Howard will run as president
 - b. Kelly Eppenger will run as vice president
 - c. Tricia Engberg will run as as Assistant-Treasurer
 - d. Allison Keelean will run as the Treasurer
 - e. Cara Rossi will run as Secretary
 - f. Kirsta Sawicki will run as Communications Secretary
 - g. Lindsey Koczenasz will stay on to run the web store and support graphic design
 - h. 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. May 8th after dropoff there is a incoming 4th grade parent meeting at Pierce. Updates from Family Center there are some additional programs and presentations, trying to better figure out how to notify families early of the programming.
6. **Communications Report** – Lindsey Koczenasz
 - a. Great Skate coming up
 - b. End of year lottery for leadership loot still looking for additional prizes to complete the total.
 - c. Shirts need to be ordered for incoming kindergarten
 - d. Kindergarten signs reminder to return so we can recycle for next year
 - e. Volunteer sign up on Kindergarten transition day 5/11 with a QR code flyer
 - f. First PTO meeting of the year is the best attended meeting, good for people to come and learn about opportunities to volunteer and for committee chairs to recruit volunteers
7. **Committee Reports**
 - a. Beautification
 - i. Seed library was secured form grow town and it will go on the front lawn on Earth Week

- ii. Michigan Green Schools application was completed and we received Emerald status
 - iii. Waiting on garden projects until nurseries have plants in stock and ensure lily of the valley do not grow back
- b. Inclusion committee
 - i. Native American Heritage and Autism Awareness month
- c. Hospitality
 - i. Will be planning end of the year teacher lunch
- d. Staff Appreciation Week of May 4-8
 - i. Monday - grab bag planned
 - ii. Tuesday - District provides breakfast and will have a sign-up for additions
 - iii. Wednesday - massage chairs
 - iv. Thursday - Cart visiting classrooms
 - v. Friday - catered lunch
 - vi. Flexibility in the budget and want to add a non-food gift
- e. Spring Social 5/14
 - i. Finalizing social material to start being pushed on socials this week
 - ii. Food confirmed - Detroit Wing Company, Hernandez Taco Truck, Hot Dog, Buscemi's Pizza, Detroit Snowbiz, Wally's Custard
 - iii. Working with Mr. Dave to have all tables, chairs and trash cans are out
 - iv. Coordinating student volunteers shifts / schedule for the sign up - 5:30 - 8
 - v. Parent volunteers for set-up and breakdown
 - vi. Tailgating tents needed - 2 in PTO locker, can buy additional tents
 - 1. Motion for \$500 for additional tents, all in favor, motion passes
 - vii. Little League game at Pierce on the same night
 - viii. Check-in tables to issue wristbands to kids with grown-ups
- f. 4th grade promotion
 - i. Buscemi's is offering a gift certificate for a slice of pizza
 - ii. 3rd grade parent volunteers will be engaged to volunteer closer to the date. They will facilitate the event day of and then become the committee chairs for the following year
- g. School Supplies boxes
 - i. Will start to see EPI posters in May
 - ii. Not a make money event, just to cover the cost of supplies and ensure that supplies are in the classroom for kids
 - iii. Would the PTO consider funding some of the supplies (paper towels, tissues, ziploc bags, etc.)? Teachers are working on their supply lists and can bring prices at the May meeting
- h. Leadership loot raffles are progressing well

8. **Teachers Report** – Laura Tannheimer

- a. Backpacks for an emergency bag - will work with Dineen to get cost and submit

9. **Principal's Report** –Lisa Rheame

- a. Thank you to the volunteers!
- b. Drop off / Pick up reminders - remind kids to use the crosswalks
- c. Remind any Y5s and Kindergarten families to enroll
- d. Chromebooks were purchased
- e. End of the year safety field trip to Urban Air on June 4th - \$2025 total cost
- f. Reminder to check the Defer newsletter and to reach out to Dr. Rheame with any questions

10. **Old Business**

- a. 2026 - 2027 PTO Board confirmed, official transition date is 6/30
 - i. Kelsey Howard confirmed as as president
 - ii. Kelly Eppenger confirmed as vice president
 - iii. Tricia Engberg confirmed as Assistant Treasurer
 - iv. Allison Keelean confirmed as the Treasurer

- v. Cara Rossi confirmed as Secretary
 - vi. Kirsta Sawicki confirmed as Communications Secretary
- b. Teacher's Lounge
 - i. Contractor can come the second week of August
 - ii. Volunteers for Ikea pick-up and assembly in August
 - iii. Start communicating to teachers to get ready to clean out the kitchen in advance of last day of school

11. New Business

- a. None

12. Member Comment(s)

- a. PTO Amazon account - Emily and Allison to check in on the status of our account. Once verified, it will be managed by the Treasurer and we can move Amazon purchases to this account
- b. Teacher's Lounge
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 - ii. Volunteers for Ikea pick-up and assembly in August
 - iii. Start communicating to teachers to get ready to clean out the kitchen in advance of last day of school

13. Adjournment at 8:14pm

Upcoming Meetings:

- **Last meeting of the year May 12, 2026**
- **Stay tuned for announcements on upcoming events via Smore news and our Defer PTO social channels**