

Costello PTO Meeting Minutes

Monday, April 13th, 2026

In attendance: Tammy Diponio, Jennifer Ford, Kali Schmitz, Jamie Kaniarz, Maria del Carmen Estineou Coto, Amanda Haverty-Harris, Erica Filipucci, Brittany Dwyer, Lindsey Miller, Philippe Cicchini, Lillian Stier, Krystle Dennison, Kristen Northey, Angie Cheek, Michelle Tessoﬀ, Carolin Connelly

Call to Order- Jen Ford (President) 7:02pm

Approval of Minutes- Jen Ford- Motion to approve- Jamie Kaniarz-, 2nd -Philippe Cicchini

Treasurer Report- Krystle Dennison (Treasurer) Auction exceeded budget by \$1.5k. We made \$13.5k. Reviewed the other details of the treasurer's report for Fundraising. We've made about \$5k more than expected at this point. Reviewed enrichment categories.

Right now we are tracking to end the year with about \$26k. We would like to end the year at \$10k. Dr. DiPonio has information about several projects needing to be done at Costello that the money can be used for. Motion to accept- Jamie Kaniarz, 2nd- Kristen Northey.

Reviewed 26-27 Draft Budget Report.

President Report- Jen Ford- All Board positions have members interested. Any additional nominees must be nominated by the end of this meeting.

Principal Report- Dr. Tammy DiPonio- Options for needed projects- 3rd/ 4th grade storage solutions- May shrink the perimeter of the Media Center and add cubbies. Would need 27 per classroom. Also considering possible Turf Slide. Also received a quote for classroom signage. Please see the Cardinal Connection for the latest information.

Teacher Representative- Michelle Tessoﬀ- Thank you for Pita Way lunch (and dinner). Assembly was awesome. Door Contest beginning. 3rd grade students are enjoying their new books.

Celebrations- Thank you letter from a child that was a penny wars recipient, Pita Way, reading month theme, skate world, parent teacher conference, upcoming Costello Fair, Staff Appreciation Week.

Committee Reports for

Fair- Kristen Northey / Morgan Bowerman- The Fair is coming!!! Please sign up for a volunteer time slot.

Benito's Restaurant nights- May 13th and 14th.

Staff Appreciation- Angie Cheek- May 4th-8th. We are on track for planning. May need help delivering some items during the week.

May 28th is secretary appreciation day.

Old Business- None

New Business- Dan Trudel provided the spring update from the district. Highlighted some exciting things from around the district. Gov Whitmer visited. Troy High Marching Band was in the promo video for the Tigers' new Uniforms. Athens Charity week raised over \$100k, Athens defeated TH in Varsity Volleyball for the first time since 2002. Scholarship named after student who passed away this school year.

Community Engagement- visit the TSD YouTube page to view the presentations.

Middle school math survey was conducted.

Playground and Technology Surveys coming in May.

Safety and Security- EPIC integrates microphones and the building's PA system.

Building Access Controls are coming. Badge readers for staff.

PikMyKid Visitor and Absence Management. Incorporated with VisitU app.

Smith Middle School is on track to be completed in June 2026, Furniture in July.

Boulan Park Middle School beginning June 2026- finish by August 2027

Larson will follow Boulan completion in 2027.

Administration Building project completed.

Elementary Entry Soffits in Wass, Bemis, and Hamilton. Restroom updates for many elementary schools (including Costello).

Playgrounds are finished, Hopefully, fences will come down middle of May. Furniture for Troy High. Athens Construction to begin in March 2027- New academic wing will be a little larger than a middle school. Athens fields are just wrapping up finishing touches.

3rd grade ELA and math MSTEP scores were top in the county.

Wass named a blue-ribbon school.

Elementary literacy Leadership Team is analyzing materials for a 26/27 reading curriculum pilot.

\$250 per pupil increase per Gov budget proposal. Estimated decline in enrollment of about 200 students.

Covered struggles with the budget due to inflation. Lack of state funding has created hardships. Will create admin reductions, force attrition through a separation agreement (offering buyout), trying to stay away from the classrooms.

Enhancement Millage- can be used for operational costs (such as salaries and benefits), unlike the bonds. It would raise \$8.8 million over 6 years. Approx \$300 annually for a \$400k home. 44% of Michigan schools already receive this. See oaklandenhancementmillage.com to read more.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:40

Next PTO Meeting: Monday, May 11th.