

PTO Meeting Minutes

March 17, 2026 | 7pm

Welcome

Meeting began with greetings and introductions. In attendance: Jennie Harrison, Allison Symmes, Taylor Keller, and Todd Orner. Minutes from the February meeting were approved.

Treasurer Report

Treasurer's report was presented: Balance as of the last meeting was \$10,711.88. Withdrawals totaled \$959.12 which included RIF supplies, Garden reimbursement, Teacher Stipends, and 5th grade year books and graduation caps. Deposits totaled \$90.00 from the Parent's Night Out event. Balance as of today's meeting is \$9,842.76.

A discussion was held regarding the significant increase in the 5th grade yearbook cost, which rose from \$100 to approximately \$600 due to quality issues with the previous vendor and switching to Strawbridge. Going forward, the PTO will need to discuss how to handle this expense.

Mr. Wells Report

Unable to attend this evening

New Business

Parent's Night Out event is scheduled for March 21st from 5-9 pm at Gettysburg Best Parkour.

Mrs. Peterman and Mrs. Daniels have put together a sign-up sheet to send out to families to coordinate volunteers over the summer to come help tend to the garden. The high school's environmental club is also interested in helping out.

Committee Reports

Fall Fundraiser:

No update.

RIF:

The February event had an "Olympics" theme where the students got to decorate a 'crown' to support the USA athletes. The next event is scheduled for Friday, April 10th, which the theme has not yet been decided. A discussion was held for possible themes/presenters. Jennie plans on placing a book order with Scholastic in the next few weeks. The

PTO received a donation of books from a James Gettys parent/teacher at Littlestown School District, which were books that the district was going to throw away. The Gettysburg Optimist Club will be presenting a check to the PTO at their meeting on April 1st. Allison will be attending that meeting to represent James Gettys and receive the donation. In year's past, this donation has ranged from several hundred to a thousand dollars.

Restaurant Fundraiser:

Allison looked into a fundraiser with Panera Bread, but an organization needs to have their 503c status in order to partner with them. The information was forwarded to Todd/Gettysburg Area Education Foundation to possibly arrange.

Box Tops:

Total as of this afternoon - \$67.30

The PTO will need a new representative to take charge of the Box Tops program, as Mrs. Sease is no longer able to do so.

Spring Fundraiser:

It was proposed that an apparel sale be moved to the fall due to the time left in the school year and other fundraisers going on, so that we don't overwhelm families.

Hersheypark ticket order forms will be going out to families in the next few weeks. A sub sale will also be organized with R&K Subs.

Holiday Craft:

No update

Hospitality:

Teacher Appreciation Week is May 4-8. Jennie has booked a coffee truck, On My Grind, for Thursday of that week. Staff will pre-order their drinks ahead of time, and the coffee truck will arrive around 11:00 to set up and make the drinks. Jennie is considering a "Friends" theme and shared some food options and local donations from businesses such as Dairy Queen.

Math Madness:

The total raised so far is \$3,524.20.

Announcements/Other

Todd is coordinating a meeting with Loni Buck to explore educational events at the World War II Experience Museum. An event is scheduled for 3/25 at the High School that will feature an FBI presenter on digital safety. The Gettysburg Area Education Foundation is donating 100 copies of the book, "The Anxious Generation" to the first 100 attendees. The district will hold STEM camps again this summer. They were previously funded through federal funds, but became parent-funded last year, leading to low enrollment. GAEF and a generous donor are offering 10 scholarships for students who cannot afford the camps. Every year at the Apple Harvest Festival, the GAEF provides volunteers at the pit beef stand. Todd would like to extend the opportunity to the Gettysburg PTOs and offer a compensation of a \$10 donation per 4-hour shift, or \$30 donation for a full day. Volunteers also receive free admission to the festival. Lastly, there will be a fundraiser for the GAEF at the Totem Pole Playhouse during the July 1st showing of the musical, "Come From Away."

Next meeting date: April 14th, 2026.