



**TONAWANDA**

Elementary School

**TONAWANDA PTO  
MAY PTO MEETING**

(5/14/26) In Person at Tonawanda Library, Elm Grove, WI 6pm

**Call to Order/Welcome: Carina Tran/Danielle Linn at 6:05**

**In attendance:** Carina Tran, Danielle Linn (remote), Molly Salinas, Christina Shulta, Courtney Arntzen, Chelsey Meier, Garrett Soberalski, Sara Danforth, Leah Christianson, Sarah Van Lieshout

**Principal Report – Kristin Olson**

- Thank you for the new flowers in the planters (Emily)
- Thank you to Carina for the bus driver breakfast, gift cards, and the Brewers tickets! The bus drivers all loved it and felt so appreciated!
- Thank you to the organizers of the Bowling Bash and Art Faire! Both events were great!
- Morning muffins are upcoming tomorrow on 14 May 2026
- Teacher and staff appreciation week was a great success. Thank you to all involved. The Thursday lunch worked well because there were leftovers for Friday. The chair massages were also a big hit.
- There will be a facilities engagement session will be Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup> at 6PM. The results of the survey are posted on the school board website. About 2900 people responded and the majority were in favor of supporting the referendum. The board has to make a decision in June/July and then it will go up for vote in November in 2026.
- The music showcase next Tuesday evening with a book fair this year by Rainbow book in the gym.
- Field day and 5<sup>th</sup> grade promotion are upcoming as well to close out the year.

**Approve April Minutes:** Sarah motion to approve, Garrett seconded, all in favor approved.

**President Report – Carina Tran/Danielle Linn**

- EEF Scholarship recipient has been chosen. Is there a Board member who would like to attend to present the scholarship? Danielle can attend.
  - Wednesday May 28<sup>th</sup> (will confirm this date) \$2000 scholarship
  - Discussion and proposal to add a second scholarship. This would be added to the 2027 budget.
- **Thank you's:**
  - **Kayte Parkin & Jackie Pilon** Art Showcase
  - **Sumner Welsh & Chris Schulta** Bowling Bash
  - **Megan Reuter** High Interest Day Planning & Execution
  - **Carina Tran & Mark Neilsen** High Interest Day Meal
  - **Anne Zechlinski, Ana Navarro, Emily Abeyta** Teacher Appreciation
- Will be sending out info about elections Please email the Tonawanda PTO gmail to confirm if you are running again by Monday (May 18).

- Discussion of Bylaws and plan to make updates. Garrett will send out a proposed set of bylaws prior to the next PTO meeting in June for comment with the executive committee. Elections will be held once a new process is determined by the bylaws.
- We've been using MailChimp for the newsletter—sending directly from DirectorySpot was limiting (size of file that you could send, no tracking of open rate, no re-send option, SMS would only push notify to the app rather than send an actual message etc.). Do we want to continue with this expense? It will be \$21/month.
  - Motion to approve, Leah motions to approve, Ashley seconded; all were in favor, none were opposed.
- Fish filter: Aquatic Realmz has told us that the filter is old and not functional. We can purchase a new filter for \$400 for a new filter and facilities for aquarium.
  - Sarah motions to approve, Garrett seconded, none were opposed.
- June 30<sup>th</sup> is our close out the books as a reminder for everyone to submit expenses.
- A Tonawanda family is offering to repaint planters, etc as a donation.
- Request to add more budget and more manpower for the beautification committee. Slots will be added to the committee and signups will be added.
  - Motion to approve an increased budget the beautification committee to \$250.
    - Chelsey motions to approve, Sarah seconded; all were in favor, none opposed.

### **Treasurer Report – Leah Christianson**

- Balances as of 4/30/2026:
  - \$96,539
  - \$57,008

### **Committee Reports:**

#### **Academic Enrichment – Sarah Van Lieshout/Sarah Kass**

- Field Day Update (Courtney Arntzen)
  - Two inflatable games have been reserved in place of the climbing wall. Nothing students can walk or jump on. One is a throwing game the other is soccer target
  - Please encourage others to sign up to volunteer! We need coolers too!
  - Thus far there are some expenses to submit. Expect to be within budget.

#### **Social Programming – Kelly Blong/Lindsey Swain**

- Pool party—talking to the Village to see what availability there is remaining for evenings in July/August. Once confirmed, we should look for a chair. (submitted by DL)
  - We need dates for the pool party – do we want to have a backup plan if we can't get the pool. Sarah Kass planned it last year. Is the pool even available? Danielle will check on this and try to reserve a date.
- Fall 2026 Back to School Bash date—we chose the date last year around this time so we can coordinate with Scholastic. Proposing Friday 9/11 & encourage people to go to the beer garden after, or 9/10 if we don't want to do Friday. (submitted by DL)

**Mission Statement:** The mission of the Tonawanda Elementary School Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) is to foster a strong partnership between families, teachers, and staff. We are committed to supporting academic enrichment and building an inclusive school community through family involvement, volunteerism, communication, fundraising, and events.

- Mrs. Olson let us know that it's usually the second Friday, so everyone agree to Friday 9/11.
- Bowling Bash was a huge success with lots of great feedback. Thanks Chris and Sumner for their hard work. 160 parents and students that bowled and 100 non-bowlers were in. 5 or 6 families that signed up that went and didn't pay.
  - Notes for next year that were provided by the organizers:
    - Make events more black and white and clear to parents. Note that we have a boys event and girls event. If PTO or school doesn't want to sponsor it, maybe we can take it off of PTO since they are both a even wash as far as proceeds goes and have it as a outside community event, like Boy Scouts; Girl Scouts, Girls the run....

### **School & Family Relations – Garrett Soberalski**

- No updates.

### **Fundraising – Sarah Danforth**

- Carnival Fun Fair is full steam ahead! We have all approvals needed from the village and board of trustees. Community notice letters have been sent.
  - Every Tonawanda student receives 5 tickets good for any attraction; additional available tickets for purchase
  - Games, rides, face painting, dunk tank, petting zoo
  - Exclusive Tonawanda and Elm Grove Village merch tent
  - VIP packages available for pre purchase
  - Partnerships with Elm Grove Library Summer Reading Program and Elm Grove Resource Officer for Bike and Scooter Safety, EG Green Team and 53122 Foundation
  - Sponsors secured include Double Boldt Realty, Mathnasium and Wonderkind
  - Please consider volunteering
- Budget – hoping to break event
- Rainbow Book Sale – May 19<sup>th</sup> 5:30-7:30 supporting the Tonawanda Music Program; no toys or junk, just amazing books to inspire your young readers
- Question asked about 1<sup>st</sup> School Supply boxes—does this money go back to the PTO? Or the school in general? (submitted by DL) Answer: It goes to school.

### **Other Business and Online Submissions**

- Capital project suggestion—a 'classroom makeover' grant for every classroom teacher. We give everyone a budget of \$250 and they can build a wish list on Target, Amazon, Lakeshore Learning, etc that we will grant. (submitted by DL)
- Suggestion for a lego team. It would be an upfront expense to purchase supplies. However, everyone was supportive of this idea.
- Suggestion to add another EEF Scholarship. It could include more or less rigid criteria for the 2027 budget.

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- Capital project suggestion—anything we can do for special education and other learning resource staff? This is a group that I don't think we've done any significant granting for in recent memory. (submitted by DL) The group discussed some recent purchases.
- What about every other month making meetings morning before school 7:30-8:30? I know some other schools do this may get more participation? I know before school would be easier for me. (submitted by KB). Discussion that this may be difficult to do, but could be considered for the upcoming year.
- We need a tiger for the parade – suggestion to send a message to see if a middle/high school would do it.

**ONLINE SUBMISSION:**

n/a

Adjourned at 7:52.

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