



Defer Elementary PTO

Tuesday, September 15th, 2026

Defer Elementary School

7:00 PM

1. Call to Order and Introductions – Kelsey Howard

- a. Meeting called to order at 7:05pm

2. Treasurer's Report - Emily Szymczak Smock and Allison Keelean

- a. Tricia reviewed the proposed budget for 2026 - 2027
 - i. Revenue items have been conservatively estimated
 - ii. Craft Fair and Progressive Dinner are break even events
 - iii. Expenses were updated based on previous expenditures and increasing ability to use our surplus of fundings
 1. Purchasing a new 3D printer and filament
 2. Removed bulk supplies from parent supply lists as PTO is sponsoring
 3. Increased the amount of teacher reimbursements, special funds and backpacks for field trips / emergencies
- b. August and July actuals
 - i. Major expenses were new student signs, bulk supplies (paper towels, wipes, ziploc bags, tissues, head phones), teacher reimbursements for classrooms and the teacher lounge
- c. Kelsey motioned to approve, Lindsey seconded, Budget approved for 2026 - 2027
- d. The proposed 2026–2027 PTO budget was presented for approval. A motion was made by Kelsey Hoawrd to approve the budget and was seconded by Lindsey Kocenasz. The motion passed, with one member voting in opposition.
- e. Member comments on budget
 - i. Comment made to add teacher grants as a line item within the budget and while this is not a specific line item, the PTO has been able to cover a lot of teacher funding requests. Could consider this after the Fun Run
 1. Laura Tanheimer made a request for classroom games in each class, PTO has a lot of games available in the PTO closet that can be a start to provide these and then teachers can build out wishlists for additional
 - ii. Comment made about PBIS funds
 1. Leadership loot is the school store line item for \$900
 2. Potential to use scholastic for the leadership loot prizes or raffle prizes
 - iii. Question on the Angel Fund which has been used for mainly field trips and some specific family needs (school supplies or clothes).
 1. Is there an opportunity to increase this budget at all, potentially after Fun Run
 2. Has not been used as often in the last two years because there are family that donate to cover additional students.
 3. The PTO Council had a surplus of funds and also covered some needs that would have been covered by Angel Fund.

3. President's Report – Kelsey Howard

- a. Thank you for the great attendance today.
- b. Emphasising what the PTO funds have been used for - new student shirts, new student yard signs, Back to School night popsicles, Welcome Back lunch for teachers, food for the after school PTO coffee hour.

4. Vice President's Report – Kelly Eppinger

- a. Kelly attends the PTO Council meeting which will meet next in October and will bring this back to the next meeting.

5. Communications Report – Kirsta Sawicki

- a. Working through a cadence of key monthly dates for social posts and newsletter.
- b. If there are any communications need reach out to Kirsta and send the content for the update and she will create the collateral for posting.
- c. Email is contact@deferpto.org

6. Committee Reports

- a. Fun Run (10/2) - Andrea guenwald
 - i. Week 3 - reached \$19k this week, \$4600 from sponsors, anticipate exceeding goal
 - ii. Kickoff prizes for all students are going out tomorrow
 - iii. Working on a spirit store for the Super Stars who raise \$250+
 - iv. Will need day of volunteers (set-up / tear down, line leader, run, pass out water, etc.), sign-up will come out this Friday
- b. Progressive Dinner (10/17) - Beth Lowry
 - i. Parent only event - all attendees start at the appetizer house 6 - 8pm, dinner house 8 - 10pm, dessert house (10 - 12pm)
 - ii. Break even event
 - iii. Ticket purchase details will be on the PTO Square site
- c. Beautification - Lindsey Studders
 - i. Watch socials for the fall clean-up
- d. Haunted Garage (10/23) - Sarah Stan
 - i. Friday October 23, 6 - 9:30pm
 - ii. Will get information on socials
 - iii. Will have a booth outside to sell tickets at pick-up
 - iv. Prices will be \$16 and \$25, can be purchased on the Haunted Garage site, will have a redirect link from our Square site to their site
 - v. Sarah will share the other school dates with Krista
 - vi. Need 6 volunteers to help day of
- e. Foreign language library update
 - i. Books are available in the library for students to use.
 - ii. Dr. Rheume will see if there is an option to have students listen during library class time.

7. Committee Key Dates

- a. Donuts with Dragons (TBD) - will be in October
- b. Family Skate (11/3 1pm - 3pm, 1/27 6pm - 8pm, 2/24 6pm - 8pm, 3/11 6pm - 8pm)
 - i. \$7 per skater
- c. Scholastic Book Fair (Shopping is available 12/7 - 12/12, breakdown 12/13- 12/14)
- d. Craft Fair (12/12)

8. Teachers Report – Laura Tannheimer

- a. Big thank you for the teacher's lounge!
- b. Thank you for lunch on the first day of school, backpacks and reimbursements!

9. Principal's Report –Lisa Rheume

- a. Great back to school night event!
- b. Students have done a great job coming back to school, working on PBIS routines.
- c. Amazing lunch volunteer turnout - thank you!
- d. News updates and important info is in the Friday newsletter.

10. Old Business

- a. Teacher's Lounge is complete.

- b. New spirit wear is coming out. Website and ordering is available at anytime. All student grade shirts are available at cost in case you need to swap it out for a smaller size. Looking to have orders placed online and shipped to the school for pick-up.

11. New Business

- a. Lunchtime Enrichment - looking for a co-chair to prepare for next year.
- b. Bookfair is also looking for additional volunteers / co-chairs.

12. Member Comment(s)

- a. Question on back to school night - will it always be the first day and same format without the formal talks? Dr. Rheaume appreciated the feedback.
- b. Committee descriptions and volunteer opportunities are outlined on the website for review. Sign-up genius is live for all the open volunteer roles. Reach out to Kelsey and Kelly if you have any questions about volunteering.

13. Adjournment

- a. Meeting adjourned at 8:07pm

Upcoming Meetings:

- October 13, 2026