

Lincoln Elementary PTO

September 15, 2026, 5:30pm in-person

President: Brett Watson

Vice President: Lauren Ross

Treasurer: Derek Rodgers & Julie Reynolds

Secretary: Krystal Nizar

Meeting attendees: Board members, Matt Lesan (principal), Tami Clements (teacher), parents and families of Lincoln

Meeting notes:

- **Welcome:** introductions, strong attendance from new parents of entering kindergarten class
- **Principal's Report:** Matt Lesan
 - Start of school going well, spirits and energy are high
 - Update on upcoming planned field trips for 5th & 2nd grades, virtual field trip, STEM night
- **Treasurer's Report:** Julie Reynolds
 - Still have sizable fund remaining from pre-covid fundraising for playground equipment which was not spent. Funds being utilized to fulfill teachers needs, library book purchases in face of current budgetary downturn
 - Strong continued revenue sources from: Lincoln merch sales from ice cream social, cash donations, and initial football parking
 - Will continue with previous preferred strategy of solicitation via email for families to donate directly if able rather than asking children to solicit within the community.
 - PTO supports Lincoln t-shirts, Teacher Appreciation Week, pantry, vouchers/gift cards for books, field trips
- **President's Update:** Brett Watson
 - Student support pantry being organized again with student family advocate and admin office support – variety of shelf stable food items will be offered students to combat food insecurity
 - Winter clothing drive to be held this fall: 30 kids provided with winter gear last season. Community donations stream remains strong, able to share some donations to other schools, including for infants/outgrown gear
 - Primary fundraising drivers including Fun Night and annual events overlook provided for new PTO members

- **Fall 2025 Events & Activities**

- **City High Homecoming Parade** on Wednesday 10/7 Mercer Parking Lot
 - 100th anniversary themed shirts, banner, 100 balloons? Seeking parent champion to help lead/coordinate theme, organize and distribute candy bags
 - Plan to include in current tshirt order additional for parents to purchase the Lincoln 100th shirt design
 - Volunteer needed to wear the Lincoln Lion mascot costume?
- **Lincoln's 100th event celebration** on Sunday 10/11 2 PM Lincoln, 4PM ceremony planned in the gym to open up the 2007/2011 time capsule. Cake to follow.
 - This year is Lincoln's 100 Year Celebration. Lincoln is the 3rd oldest elementary in the district behind Mann and Longfellow built in 1916 and 1917.
 - Manville Heights Neighborhood Association (MHNA) collaborating to help get event flyers out to community members and neighborhoods which used to be part of Lincoln districting as well
 - Much historical material including original school bell and Lincoln memorabilia have been located by PTO and principal. Interviews of the original Lincoln class. Class pictures/ newspaper images will be projected via the room AV units
 - Lincoln quilts (since 1976) to be exhibited
 - Plan to seek out more info regarding mobile display stands for the class quilts as no clear way to display or hang safely in gym currently – plan to inquire with 4H extension or Johnson county fair grounds re: quilt exhibition stands that might be available to borrow
 - New 25 year time capsule to be created (items collected from each classroom) and 2007's will be opened at the event
- **Iowa Football Parking**
 - Successful fundraising from first two home football game parking
 - Reminder email to sign-up. Clarify to volunteers they only need to collect and direct self parking. Parent support for putting up and taking down signs. Custodial support appreciated with coning off the lot.

- Considering price increase next year. Current signs would need updated. Cash pay option still most practical and reliable due to notable connectivity issues at the lot.
- Invite Lincoln Student Council and/or GOTR to sell bottled water or bake sale treats
- Lucas elementary request: invite them to host parking for one of the last home games (vs Nebraska 11/27 or vs Perdue 11/14?)
- **Fundraiser with Jersey Mike's Subs** - Coralville location, specific Fall date TBD, 4-9pm weekday
 - 50% of sales back to Lincoln PTO, very successful turn out last year
 - Catering order for teachers did not work. Will stick with families making their own purchases.
 - Online code will be supplied with flyer sent home in Friday folders.
- **Fall Party & Book Fair** - Wednesday 10/21 Lincoln playground with book fair to set up in foyer outside the library @ 5-7pm
 - Lauren Ross coordinating, update on needs/planning
 - Sidekick partnership confirmed. Food truck specifics TBD.
 - MHNA collaboration? Costumes welcomed
- **Fall Parent/Teacher Conferences** - Wednesday 11/18
 - Parent sign up for meal supplies needed.
 - Dinners to be provided for the teachers (#20) potluck style vs catered?
- **Original Works Student Art Sale** - percentage of sales to PTO and back to art supplies fund
 - Sarah DeJong coordinating, update on needs/planning
 - Expect package to arrive to school office for Sarah. Need to coordinate winter submission dates with new art teacher (has participated in art sale before with their previous school)
 - Families can order their child's art piece printed on mugs, tea towels, etc.
- **Winter/Spring Events, Ideas, etc.**
 - International Night. Planned for January 2027. Erin Hayward organizing, seeking additional parent volunteer coordinator (particularly those with

students in younger grades) goal >15 tables, last year's event hosted 18 nation tables. Funds available for supplies. Student "passports" for country stamps, paper goods will be supplied by PTO organizers.

- Winter Bingo Night. Mickey's can provide the Bingo supplies. Chili/Mac & Cheese dinner? Budgeting and date discussion TBD.
- Interest in Lincoln family garage sale/rummage sale fundraiser
- Pancake day - anticipated during AM school day. Notifications will be sent out early so parents can make arrangements to attend. Tentatively Friday 2/12/27. Parent volunteers needed.
- Scholastic book fair - planned for Spring. Includes program for classroom books for the teachers and gift card/vouchers for students who have need
- Skate night at Coralville mall Ice Rink, date TBD

Next meeting: Tuesday, Oct 13, 2026 @ 7:15pm Zoom Link