



# Meeting Minutes

## Martell Elementary PTO

Wednesday, September 16th at 6:30 PM

In Person - Media Center

### I. Call to Order / Welcome

- BY Amy Benevides at 6:33pm

### II. Approval of May 2026 Meeting Minutes

- 1<sup>st</sup> approval: Jackie Goulding
- 2<sup>nd</sup> approval: Jessica Harrington

### III. Principal's Report – Collette Ivey, Principal

- Mrs. Wilson is reporting for Mrs. Ivey.

We are off to a great start at Martell.

#### Staff Updates

Welcome to our new classroom teachers:

Autumn Battiat-K

Sydney Wallace-K

Ben Barsh-4

Bonnie Backing-El Teacher

Michelle Goleski-ELD

Veronica Recker-Rdg Interventionist

#### Attendance Secretary

If you have not heard Mrs. Richman has made the difficult decision to accept a reduction in FTE as attendance secretary at Hamilton. We are so grateful to Mrs. Richman for her many years of service to the Martell Community. She will be terribly missed by students, parents and staff.

#### Library

At the start of the year you received notification that Mrs. Shadia Martin, 2nd grade teacher at Wass would be fulfilling the library opening at Martell. Due to the challenge of back filling the second grade position at Wass, Mrs. Shadia Martin has decided to remain in her current teaching position at Wass. For the time being librarian, Mary Burns, Troy Librarian will be at Martell each morning. Mrs. Murugesan, will be the guest teacher for k-1 library until further notice.

#### PTO Donations

We are so appreciative for all of the goodies that have been delivered to supply our staff lounge with snacks and drinks to keep us going throughout our days. We have received so many wonderful goodies to enjoy!

#### Student Assessments

Students in K–2 completed their math benchmark assessments, while students in grades 3–5 completed the Math NWEA assessment last week. In addition, all K–5 students have participated in one-on-one reading benchmark assessments and Writing Pathways.

Each of these assessments provides our teachers with valuable information about student strengths and areas for continued growth. The results help guide our instruction and identify the next learning opportunities for each student, ensuring we continue to meet students where they are and move their learning forward.

At Curriculum Night, we shared that one of our schoolwide goals this year is the implementation of **BIST (Behavior Intervention Support Team)** at Martell. Throughout the year, we will share more about BIST and simple ways families can reinforce these same skills at home.

This week, we would like to introduce the **Three Goals for My Life** that we teach and reinforce with our students:

- 1. I can make good choices even if I am mad.**
- 2. I can be okay even if others are not okay.**
- 3. I can do something even if I don't want to (or if it's hard).**

These three simple statements help students build self-regulation, independence, perseverance, and responsibility.

A special thank you to our PTO Board for supporting our staff and community in launching the new school year. We are off to an AMAZING start.

#### **IV. Teacher's Report – Nicole Wilson, Teacher Representative**

- 5th Grade is off to a great start. Students have been taking the lead with safety and service squad. This week they are excited to start learning about the new instrument that they have chosen...Concerts in the Winter and Spring.
- 4th Grade is busy diving into curriculum. They are busy writing personal narratives, reading Tiger Rising, and participating in various team building activities to build community.
- 3rd grade is planning a fall trip to Blakes. They are piloting a new Collaborative Classroom curriculum and enjoying it.
- 2nd grade is piloting Ufli! Students are getting the hang of it:)
- First grade is off to a fantastic start! First grade students have been busy learning classroom procedures, building a strong classroom community, and diving into foundational reading, writing, and math skills. We are excited to see their confidence and independence growing each day!
- Kindergarteners are continuing to practice the routines and procedures in our classroom and school. They have been practicing reading and writing independently, and they are working hard to build their reading stamina. We are also excited for our field trip to Blake's Cider Mill on September 28th, where we'll play in Funland, go on a hayride through the orchard, enjoy cider and donuts, pick apples and pumpkins, and have a picnic lunch.

#### **V. Officer Reports**

- **President's Report – Amy Benavides**
  - Updated Year at a Glance with New October Meeting Date (October 14th) The one out today is revised.
  - Please join the Google Calendar, Facebook Group & WhatsApp Group for updates from PTO
  - September Newsletter & Communications Google Drive
    - There is a QR code to scan that includes all things sent home.
  - Need Committee Leads for Spring Fun Fair, Staff Sunshine Crew, Skate World, & 5th Grade Promotion
    - Oct and Nov we have someone signed up to lead the surprise for the staff. Still looking for Jan-May sign-ups.
    - Longhorn to cater lunch for December for all staff before Christmas break.
  - October meeting had to move to Wednesday 10/14 at 6:30pm
- **Vice President's Report – Krista Russo**
  - Room Parent Updates –
    - Room Parent Kickoff in person last week.
    - Trying to improve communication, teamwork and all of the support to help everyone be successful.
    - The needs for chairs is important. If we don't have chairs, we have to cancel the events.
  - Second year on the board at Martell.

- **Treasurer's Report – Sam Becker**

- Treasurers Report
  - \$19,522.14 current balance
  - The Fun Run will increase that balance
  - The budget will be set about a month after the Fun Run money is received.
  - Two other ways to raise money:
    - Kroger rewards – you get to pick your charity and Martell receives a check once a quarter just from you grocery shopping.
    - Box Tops
    - We increased the request per family for the Fun Run due to being down in attendance.
- 26/27 Reimbursement Form Link: <https://tinyurl.com/MartellReimbursement>
  - We will post the reimbursement link on the Facebook page.
  - We need the receipts to be reimbursed.

- **Secretary**

- Introduction – Erin Johnson
- This is election year for all positions will be up for grabs if anyone is interested.

## VI. Committee Reports

- **Staff Sunshine Crew:** Stock the lounge update & volunteers needed – Volunteers needed for January – May
  - Amazon deliveries worked well and convenient for all parents.
- **Fun Run:** Update, Volunteers & Corporate/Small Business Sponsors
  - Tier 2 unlocked at \$8k – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade won.
  - All tiers have a prize attached and it goes by average dollar donated.
  - Tier 1 was won by kindergarten for a spirit day of their choice.
  - The amount requested per student is \$70.
  - The winner of the tiers is based on the average dollar raised just from one tier to the next tier.
  - The Fun Run is next Wednesday!
  - We will be accepting donations through October 9<sup>th</sup>, so we can reach our goal.
  - The Fun Run has changed to an obstacle course behind the playground instead of the drop off loop.
  - Mrs. Allen is letting us borrow equipment for the obstacle course.
  - We are in need of volunteers to help setup, DJ (read shoutouts and play music).
  - Shout out table will be set up and available for \$1. Shout outs will be read as the student is running.
  - We can use Zeffy as an in-person tap to pay and there are no fees.
  - Could we use Zeffy to pay ahead for shoutouts? Parents eager for an option for a shoutout “ahead” option.
  - There will be a parent viewing area.
  - The fire truck is confirmed for the run/opening ceremony for 5<sup>th</sup> graders.
  - Class shirts will be in before Fun Run and when they arrive it will be posted in the Facebook group so they can wear them for the Fun Run.
  - The shop will open again in October if anyone else needs shirts.
  - We are looking for corporate/business sponsors for the Fun Run. There are many different tiers to choose from.
- **Dining Out Night:** Featuring 5th Grade, September 28th @ Red Robin on Crooks Road.
  - Every month there will be a dining out night and most of the restaurants have already been identified.
  - Every dining night will feature a grade, but everyone is encouraged to come.
  - We are asking the teachers to join for their grade level.
  - Mrs. Wilson will communicate to the teachers to see if they are available for their grade level.

- Restaurant partners will usually donate 20%-25% of total sales. Usually you have to show the flyer for the sales to be counted.
- Usually carry-out is counted too, but you just have to let them know.
- **Trunk or Treat (10/21):**
  - Chairs Mary Parks and Erin Johnson
  - Is it possible to add coloring station or pumpkin decorating station?
  - Food truck option?
  - Close down the loop for more space?
  - What if we added a DJ for a dance party too.
  - Looking for extra things to do for the kids besides just getting candy.
  - We need to make an Amazon Wishlist to send out for parent donations for candy dropoff and noncandy items.
- **Yearbook:** <https://tinyurl.com/MartellPictavo> or <https://tinyurl.com/MartellPictavo> to upload photos!
  - Chairs – Shelby and Amber
  - We are encouraging all room parents to take photos and add them to the drive at all parties.
  - Pictures are organized in categories by events.

## VII. Unfinished (Old) Business

- The district will be here at the October meeting.

## VIII. New Business

- A parent volunteer would like to coordinate a Martell Talent show. Looking for budget and possible date in 2027. Have to discuss during school hours or after school hours. Budget needed was low, parent donated sound system, a few decorations on the stage, and a limit for time for the performance.
- A 1<sup>st</sup> grade troop - a Daisy Troop, will be starting this year. The meetings will be on Mondays. Marcy Carlson is the troop leader.
- Question about school supply lists – The teachers create the lists for what they need throughout the year. Some are used for community supplies, and some is individual supplies. Second grades list seemed much higher than other grades.
- A couple parents have talked about making a bulk purchase for school supplies to get what the teachers really need. Hoping to do that next year.
- Krista is going to bring the supply concern up to Mrs. Ivey.
- Amy's idea was a school supply bar for January to restock their supplies half way through the year.

## IX. Adjournment at 7:49pm

- 1<sup>st</sup> Amy Benevides
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Jackie Goulding

## Important Dates

- |                                                                  |                                                   |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| ● <b>September 23rd</b> - Martell Fun Run @ 9AM                  | ● <b>October 14th</b> - Next PTO Meeting @ 6:30PM |
| ● <b>September 25th</b> - Martell Picture Day                    | ● <b>October 21st</b> - Trunk or Treat Event      |
| ● <b>September 28th</b> - 5th Grade Dining Out Night @ Red Robin |                                                   |
| ● <b>October 8/9th</b> - Parent Teacher Conferences              | <b>Attendance:</b>                                |

Amy Benevides

Krista Russo

Samantha Becker

Erin Johnson

Nicole Wilson

Jessica Harrington

Judith Miller

Marcie Carlson

Amber Dahl

Don Sherman

Alyssa Caloncagon

Melissa Bilby

Richa Shah

Shelby Swinburnson

Kendra Bigler

Jackie Goulding

Victoria Chale

Sharah Akeel

Mary Parks

Ninon Casillas

Laura Baetens

Siri Vummaneni

Brittney McMillan