



MIDDLE SCHOOL SOUTH

MSS PTO Meeting Minutes

Date: September 1, 2026

Location: MSS

Called to Order By: PTO Co-Presidents at 7pm

Attendance: Leah Kalhoun, Heather Schumacher, Jessie Larson, Sonia Delm, Rosa Castaneda, Mr. Dangler, Mrs. Olsen, Heather Wooden, McKenna Serawka, Karyn Baugher, Jessica Magieva, Diane Vance, Katie Barr, Tessa Zevallos

Approval of Previous Minutes

- The May 2026 meeting minutes were reviewed and approved.

MSS Staff and PTO Executive Reports

Principal's Report

Mr. Dengler

- Shared that the school year has gotten off to a great start.
- Reported that the new lunch line is functioning well.
- Noted that some students initially experienced difficulty opening lockers; the issue has since been resolved.
- 6th Grade Activity night was a great time. Kids loved the Color Wars.

Teachers' Report

Mrs. Olsen - Teaches 6th Grade Math & Social Studies

- Confirmed that she will serve as the Teacher Representative for the 2026-2027 school year.
- Announced that Mr. Polomcheck will host the Northern Illinois Music Ensemble Contest on 02-20-2027.

Action Item:

- Parent volunteers are needed for the events to help with concessions. Leah K will handle the Musical Ensemble and Katie B will handle the Musical.
- PTO will discuss whether the event should be used as a fundraising opportunity.

Annie the Musical

- Annie will be on the weekend of 11/19 through 11/21. Shows on 11/19 and 11/20 at 7pm and on 11/21 at 2pm.
- The PTO will share profits from the production of *Annie the Musical*.
- Mrs. Olsen will coordinate food planning and oversee volunteers.

PTO Co-Presidents' Report

Leah Kahoun and Heather Schumacher

- Requested approval of the new Executive Board. Motion approved.
- Introduced themselves as PTO Co-Presidents.
- Presented a committee resource binder containing organizational information, passwords, FAQs, and other materials designed to support current and future PTO leadership.
- The All School activity night was changed from Friday September 4th to Friday October 2nd at the request of both MSS and MSN (9/4 was the Friday of Labor Day weekend).

PTO Secretary's Report

Rosa Castaneda and Jan Yglesias

- Will update the MSS PTO portal with the new Executive Board information and PTO meeting dates.
- Going forward, meeting minutes will be posted on the District 95 PTO webpage.

PTO Vice President's Report

Jessie Larson

- Will continue serving as PTO Vice President for the 2026–2027 school year.
- Currently seeking a volunteer to serve as Co-VP.

No Stress Fundraiser

- Fundraiser dates: September 14 through October 19, 2026.
- Discussed adding information explaining how fundraising proceeds benefit students and the school.

Action Item:

- Create and distribute a flyer to increase participation.

Fundraiser Incentive Discussion

- Discussed implementing a grade-level competition similar to a successful program at Middle School North.
- Students would submit signed participation forms. The parents would review, indicate what amount they are donating and simply indicate they read it, sign it and have their student turn it in.
- Each grade will have a winning class. The class with the highest participation would receive a reward.

Proposed Incentive:

- Outdoor activity time with Mr. Dengler, including sports and games.

PTO Treasurer's Report

Sonia Delm

- The 2026-2027 Treasurer's Report is not yet completed.
- Provided copies of the May 2026 Treasurer's Report for the 2025-2026 school year.

Committee Reports and Presentations

Communications

Heather Wooden and Katie Barr

- Heather will be handling the bi-weekly newsletter and Katie will be handling the social media aspect of position.
- Heather asked that she is notified by Wednesday of the week of the newsletter. Katie can push out information at anytime on the socials (Facebook and Instagram)

- Discussed the inability to currently schedule communications in advance.
 - Requested exploration of options that would allow communications to be scheduled automatically.
 - Suggested evaluating an upgraded version of Smore for enhanced communication capabilities.
 - Send items to LZMedia email box or can text Katie so she can get it up immediately.
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Recent and Upcoming Events

6th Grade Orientation Afterparty

- Held on August 5, 2026.

6th Grade Activity Night

- Held on August 21, 2026.
- Event was highly successful and well attended.
- Crafts and water activities were especially popular.
- Remaining craft supplies and snacks can be used for future PTO events.

Red Ribbon Week

- Scheduled for October 23-31, 2026.

Halloween Bash

- Scheduled for October 23, 2026.

Haunted Hallway

- Scheduled for October 23, 2026.

All School Activity Night

- Rescheduled from September 4 to October 2, 2026.
- Event theme will be sports-related.
- Leah and Heather are heading this event. Kelly Wittich is helping but cannot be at event.

Standing Committees

Hospitality / Restaurant Nights

- Back to School
 - Theme was "Jimothy the Racoon".
 - They used Casey's Gas Station for breakfast pizza option and said they were great to work with and will look at using for future food days.
- Future Restaurant Nights Scheduled
 - McAlister's Deli (Lake Zurich) from 9/24 to 9/29 that is MSS vs MSN. The school that has the most participation will get a \$1,000 donation to the PTO.
 - Chipotle (LZ - IL 22 and Rand Rd) - 10/6 from 5-9pm
 - Noodles (Kildeer) - 12/03 from 4-8pm
- Potential restaurant partners for Teacher Conferences include:
 - El Vallado
 - Hungry Mule

Discussion:

- For McAlister's we want to offer the teachers the ability to order for lunch and we will have a volunteer who will pick up food and deliver it to the school.
- Planning should allow sufficient time for food pickup and teacher meal breaks.

Joanie's Closet

- 529 School Bags collected
- Raised \$16K for winter gear
- Raised \$29K for snacks
- Raised \$20K for the Angel Fund
- Raised \$20K for Summer Scholarships

Inventory Manager

- No updates reported.

Spiritwear

- No updates reported.

Directory

- Will continue to use Membership Toolkit for this school year.
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New Business

Harlem Wizards Collaborative Fundraiser

- PTO will participate in a collaborative fundraiser with the Harlem Wizards on Thursday October 29th at the LZHS Field House.
 - Tickets will be on sale as of 09-14-2026 and are \$20 for students and \$25 for Adults. The PTO will receive **\$4.00 for each ticket sold**.
 - Additional event details will be shared as they become available.
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Action Items Summary

Action Item	Owner
Determine PTO involvement and fundraising opportunities for Northern Illinois Music Ensemble event	PTO Board
Recruit parent volunteers for Northern Illinois Music Ensemble event	PTO Board
Update MSS PTO portal and meeting dates	Rosa Castaneda & Jan Yglesias
Create and distribute No Stress Fundraiser flyer	Jessie Larson
Explore communication scheduling solutions and Smore upgrade options	Heather Wooden
Secure volunteer support for Restaurant Night food pickup and delivery	Hospitality Committee

Meeting Adjourned.