



Defer Elementary PTO

Tuesday, October 13th, 2026

Defer Elementary School

7:00 PM

1. Call to Order and Introductions – Kelsey Howard

- a. Meeting called to order at 7:04 pm

2. Review of the Previous Minutes –Cara Rossi

- a. Tricia moved to approve the minutes and Andrea seconded, motion passes.

3. Treasurer's Report - Allison Keelean and Tricia Engberg

- a. Allison reviewed the September report
 - i. Revenue from directory sales, fun run donations and Kroger Community Rewards.
 - 1. Steps to set Kroger Community Rewards:
 - a. Log into your profile on the Kroger Rewards portal.
 - b. Navigate over to your account preferences page.
 - c. Choose Community Rewards options from navigation menu.
 - d. Look up Defer Elementary PTO using our organization name or NPO designation.
 - e. Save selection to complete enrollment for Defer Elementary PTO.
 - f. <https://www.kroger.com/i/community/community-rewards>
 - ii. Expenses for new family signs and shirts which will need to make a budget exception for and will require an adjustment in future budgets, admin expenses for school support, and popsicles for back to school night. Did receive a refund for teacher backpacks and they will be provided by the squishy provider.
 - iii. Will need to increase the PBIS budget line from \$0 to account for \$324 for bracelets - most to approve by Ted Watts, seconded by Lakeytria Felder, motion approved.
 - iv. Motion to approve the September budget by Ted Watts, seconded by Lakeytria Felder, motion approved.
- b. Question on the international festival budget and the funds allocated from each school - Allison will pull the historical budgets and follow up.

4. President's Report – Kelsey Howard

- a. Thank you to everyone, especially the committee, volunteers and Andrea who made Fun Run a great success! The Fun Run revenue is what funds all of our activities and events.
- b. This month the PTO provided pizza parties, added an additional lunch for teachers during conferences, purchased teacher back packs, celebrated National Custodian day, and contributed items to the Angel Fund.
- c. Thank you to the Progressive Dinner and Haunted Garage committees for all their work prepping for these upcoming events.

5. Vice President's Report – Kelly Eppinger

- a. PTO Council met last week.
 - i. Highlights from the meeting - looking for highlights from the community to include in the district newsletter. Anyone can share - contact at info@gpschools.org.
 - ii. Ferry
 - iii. District is looking to create a standard way to allocate dollars for playscapes at middle schools.
 - iv. We do owe \$100 for our PTO dues - Kelly will follow up with Allison.
 - v. \$203k applications to the district grant program and they will be determining what will be funded.

6. **Communications Report** – Kirsta Sawicki

- a. Upcoming social posts for Donuts with your Dragon
- b. Will be asking for 3-4 volunteers for the Haunted Garage
- c. Any social requests can go to contact@deferpto.org
- d. Anything for inclusion in the newsletter needs to be submitted to Kirsta by 10am Thursday.

7. **Committee Reports**

- a. Fun Run - Andrea Gruenwald
 - i. Big thank you to all volunteers!
 - ii. Andrea shared [this presentation](#) with lots of FundHub stats
 - 1. had 90% participation compared to 99% last year
 - 2. Average donation was \$126 / registered participant
 - 3. Green week cash donations exceeded last year
 - 4. 77 students achieved Super Start status
 - 5. Total raised was \$57,083.48.
 - 6. 108% increase in community sponsors - discounted DJs, donated banners, incentives, gift cards, etc.
 - 7. Improvements made over the last few years increase inclusion by not making everything registration based.
 - 8. Team total raised over the last 4 years - \$221,362.
 - iii. Sponsor Thank Yous were designed by the 4th grade students and the committee voted for winners to be turned into printed cards.
- b. Progressive Dinner (10/17) - Beth Lowry
 - i. Progressive Dinner is this Saturday.
 - ii. Sign-ups close tomorrow.
 - iii. Secured appetizer and dessert houses as well as enough host houses.
 - iv. Hosts were informed last night - will add in a host confirmation to next year's planning.
- c. Haunted Garage (10/23) - Sarah Stan
 - i. Flyers went out with QR codes for ticket purchases; can also be completed and turned into the office.
 - ii. Volunteer request will go out on social media soon to help at the event.
 - iii. Haunted Garage is 6-9:30 - Friday, Saturday, Sunday (10/2 - 11/1, except 10/31).
- d. Craft Fair (12/12)
 - i. More info to come out after Progressive Dinner on social media - save the date and call for volunteers.
 - ii. Need to consider if we want to do a larger fourth Grade craft but will need extra support to do this.

8. **Committee Key Dates**

- a. Donuts with Dragons 10/22 in the back of the school
 - i. Will deliver donuts to the Kids Club students
 - ii. No cider this year
- b. Beautification - Fall Clean up 10/24 9am-11am
 - i. Ask for teachers to include the Fall Clean-up announcements in the class newsletters. Will also be in the Burning News this week.
- c. Family Skate (11/3 1pm - 3pm, 1/27 6pm - 8pm, 2/24 6pm - 8pm, 3/11 6pm - 8pm)
 - i. \$7 per skater
- d. Scholastic Book Fair (12/7 - 12/14, open for sales 12/7 - 12/12)
- e. Lunch Time Enrichment - updates at the next meeting as new volunteers signed up this year
 - i. Will run 1/4/27 - 2/12/27

9. **Teachers Report** – Jane Nugent

- a. Fun Run was planned out so well for the afternoon - big thank you!

- b. Big thank you for the teacher lounge, new back packs, conference meals, etc.
- c. Inquiry on a shared game cart - Kelsey applied for a Meijer \$500 grant to cover this and waiting to hear back.
- d. Big thank you for the 4th grade field trip buses!
- e. There will be a few upcoming requests from teachers - chomp saws and the Harriet Tubman field trip at Maire (which was budgeted for).

10. Principal's Report – Lisa Rheume

- a. Wrapping up the first 6 weeks of school. Students and families are doing great!
- b. Big thank you for lunch time volunteers - there have been so many recently.
- c. New crossing guard at Nottingham with new signs to make sure people are not crossing Kercheval at that intersection.
- d. Parent Teacher Conferences were last week.
- e. Defer Elementary Facebook page is being brought back. Link will be in the newsletter this week.
- f. North South Tailgate is a community event and will be on 10/23.
- g. Dr. Rheume is always available for questions so reach out!

11. Old Business

- a. None

12. New Business

- a. Teacher Wish Lists
 - i. Lakeytria inquired about the PTO funding more of the teacher requests (like the game cart), leadership loop monthly replenishment rather than having an Amazon Wish List.
 - ii. Allison shared that she built the budget at a deficit so we can spend down the money that was earned through the fun run and there are areas we can make these adjustments as the requests come in. We do have room in the budget to pay for more - non-profit best practice is to have six months of operating budget in reserve - will want \$47k dollars in the bank. We are forecast to end the budget at \$30k which is very conservative. There is an amount in the bylaws which is very low.
 - iii. In the past, we have done surveys to collect community and teacher feedback to collect specific needs and could do this again.
 - iv. There is potential to create an easier / more consistent process for the teachers to request funding for items. Dr. Rheume, Jane Nugent and Laura Tannheimer will discuss and we can discuss at a subsequent meeting.

13. Member Comment(s)

- a. Comment made about saying the Fun Run is the “one and done” fundraiser but there are other events labeled as fundraisers as well. May consider to change “fun”raisers or a family fun night for events / activities that we raise funds as a kick-back like Haunted Garage and Hungry Howies night.
- b. Question about signage rules changing - email Dr. Rheume and she can follow up.
- c. Flyer for the Voices of the World library will be in the newsletter this week. Question to get headphones in the library to listen to books while in the library. PTO has 5 extra headphones that can be used for this.
- d. Concern expressed that there has not been a consistent crossing guard at Nottingham and Vernier. Dr. Rheume requested an email about this and she will contact public safety about this posting.

14. Adjournment

- a. Meeting adjourned at 8:25pm.

Upcoming Meetings:

- November 10, 2026