

Fort Zeller Elementary School PTO
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, October 7th, 2026; 6:30pm

In attendance: Bobby Jo Arrigo, Haley Wanner, Kirsten Wenger, Anna Shannaman, Ashley Weiler, Brittany Weaver, Callie Salem, Amy Shade, Ashley Anspach, Bethany Snyder, Kelsey Gruber, Lindsay Hoffman, Emily Santos, Mrs. Houck, and Mrs. Wallace

Meeting started at 6:31pm

Principal's Report: Mrs. Houck

- Thank you – Holly Serio!
- Safety Drills – Interior Threat Drill – Held on September 21st, 2026
- First Raider Readers – October 1st, 2026
- Fire Prevention and Safety – October 6th, 2026 (No Head Start since it is on a Tuesday)
- Family Groups – first meeting is on October 8th, 2026
- No School – October 12th, 2026
- Two-Hour Delayed start – October 13th, 2026
- Rising Raiders – October 14th, 2026, from 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM
- First Grade Field Trip – Corn Cob Acres October 22nd, 2026 (Rain Date: October 23rd, 2026)
- Conferences – PTCFast to sign up for date/time
- End of First Marking Period October 28th, 2026
 - Report cards will be given to parents at conferences
 - Based on PA standards
 - 3 – mastered skill
 - 2 or 1 progression on skill
- Inservice – October 30th, 2026
- Facilities form for Gingerbread Shop needs returned ASAP – Kirsten to complete and return to Becky
- PBIS Report:
 - **Bee cards! 949 (We had 673 last year at this same time!)**
 - **Think Sheets: 17**
 - **Character Trait: Self Control**
 - **REACH Lessons:**
 - **Lessons this month were all about getting to know each other and talking about what a school counselor does (Kindergarten).**
 - **1st and 2nd grades reviewed what I do here at school and ways I can help students. 2nd grade also learned about the job program. Applications were due September 19th, 2026. Training for jobs is taking place this week, and jobs will start next week.**

Title I Report

1. On September 18th we celebrated the students who completed the Summer Reading Challenge with an ice cream party. Students also got to choose a brand-new book to keep.
2. On September 17th, ELCO held our first Literacy Under the Lights. It was such a fun evening that brought our school community together. More than 485 people registered to attend, and it was an extremely successful night. We are so grateful to everyone who helped make Literacy Under the Lights such a memorable event!
3. Our first Raiders Read event for the year was held on Thursday, October 1st, 2026

AG Week Request

- Kick off assembly
 - Monday, April 19th, 2026, at Fort Zeller – hosted by high school students
- Barn tours for all grades
 - Thursday, April 22nd, 2026
- Asking for budget on busing – PTO agreed to cover costs
 - Two buses for morning
 - Break for lunch
 - Two buses for afternoon

Secretary's Report: Bobby Jo

- Adoption of the September meeting minutes.
 - Anna Shannaman was the first to adopt September's meeting minutes
 - Haley Wanner was the second to adopt September's meeting minutes

Treasurer's Report: Haley Wanner

- Adoption of the August treasurer's report.
 - Ashley Anspach was the first to adopt September's treasurer report
 - Lindsey Hoffman was the second to adopt September's treasurer report
- Will send in check for first grade field trip once final tally is available
 - Mrs. Wallace advised that the due date for permission slips is October 8th, 2026

Assemblies: Committee Chair, Ashley Weiler

- No updates to provide

Fundraising: Committee Chair, Anna Shanaman

- Pizza and Sub cards – will run after Race for ED is completed – late October
 - Justino's – will set up with Josh to sell cards
 - 26/27 school year he will raise to \$5.50 for sub tickets and \$10 for pizza tickets
 - PTO earns \$3/ticket – selling sub tickets for \$9 and pizza tickets for \$13
- Union House Day – continue to hold in November?
 - PTO earns 10% on food sales all day – do not need to show flyer

- Asked for thoughts on a Spirit Wear fundraiser
 - Will reach out to Kasey at Cornerstone for ideas
 - Possibly running this year round

Book Fair: Committee Chair: Unfilled

****Update given by Kirsten Wenger**

- Fall Book Fair – Preview Day 11/19/26, Buy Day 11/20/26, will also be open for conferences on November 23rd and 24th, 2026
- Will set up a call with Scholastic to discuss details
 - More chapter books
 - Less comics
 - More variety
 - More \$5 and under books
- If book is unavailable for students, will place an additional order (worked well last year)

Race for Education: Tri-Chairs, Bethany Snyder, Callie Salem, Kelsey Gruver

- Additional helpers: Amy Shade and Ashley Anspach
- Race for Education: Friday, October 9th, 2026 (rain date 10/16/2026)
- Collections
 - Business Donations - \$8,850
 - Student Donations - \$8,425
- So far, students have reached third tier of prizes
 - Monday, October 5th, 2026, they hit \$7,500 goal
 - Popsicles were purchased and are being stored at school
- Students were already given their RFE stickers for reaching the \$2,500 goal
- Some classes have received their extra recess for the \$5,000 goal
- In anticipation of hitting the \$10,000 goal
 - Chips have already been delivered to school (donated by Dieffenbach)
 - Drinks will be delivered the week of October 13th, 2026, to school (donated by Swiss)
- Shirts were delivered 1.5 weeks before the race and have been sent home with students
 - Waiting on final invoice – needs to be paid
- Flyer will be sent home Thursday, October 8th, 2026, as a reminder about the race and donations
- Sending donuts to Kelsey's class as a Thank You for filling water bottles
- Taurus Fitness donating obstacles on race day (no climbing block available)
- Fire Drop Coffee will be available from 8:00am – 1:30pm
- Richland Library sending librarian to read books to students after the race
 - Will be indoors to avoid bees
 - Set-up in music room
- Apple slices were purchased though cafeteria
 - Will provide invoice once available
- Blow-up costumes available for PTO volunteers

- Frog
- Chicken
- Unicorn Dinosaur
- Subman will be at school from 12:00pm-3:00pm
- Top three classes will have an ice cream party
 - Donated gift cards from Boyers will pay for items
- Glow sticks have been purchased for the winning class
- Water bottles will be filled by Kelsey Thorley's class on October 8th, 2026, and will have stickers with the student's name and teacher
- Poster with business sponsors has been purchased through JDM and is ready to display on race day
- Volunteers are asked to bring additional bubble machines and wands
- Donations will be accepted throughout race day
 - Website will shut down on October 9th, 2026, at 11:59 PM

Hospitality: Committee Chair, Lydia Eberly

- Celebrated National Custodian Day with a little treat for the janitors
- Working on possibly treating the teachers to a drink or cinnamon roll
 - Week of October 30th, 2026
 - Available for all teachers and staff
- Dinner for conferences was discussed
 - Possibility of using Homestead Chef
 - Needs schedule and menu, will need to stagger lunches for teachers
 - Asked about preordering to avoid lines
 - May also consider catering to have leftovers for following day

Gingerbread Shop: Co-Chairs, Kirsten Wenger & Becky Rizzo

- Tentatively scheduled to be open December 9th and 10th, 2026 for shopping
- Kirsten has facilities form and will complete ASAP, returning to Becky
- Items were purchased during Prime days
- Will separate into classrooms so items do not sellout
- Will include leftover inventory from last year
 - Currently at school
- Asked if anyone knows of anyone that has bulk jewelry or anything they used to sell and would like to donate
 - Intermediate school might have some items that they would be willing to part with

Memory Book: Committee Chair Jazmine Yiengst

****Update given by Kirsten Wenger**

- Contact was made with the new advisor and Kirsten was sent information
- Numbers need to be finalized before the agreement can be signed and process started
- May price match last year's prices
 - Kirsten to find pricing and reach out

- Becky has thumbnails available; concerns were expressed on how the children looked in some of the pictures

Fun in the Sun: Committee Chair Erin Horning, Lindsay Hoffman

- No updates to provide

Old Business:

- None to discuss

New Business:

- None to discuss

Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 4th, 2026, 6:30pm, Fort Zeller – School Library.

This meeting was adjourned at 7:25pm