



Home & School Meeting, September 8, 2026
Multipurpose Room at Prairie, 9 a.m.

A. CALL TO ORDER

- a. 9:01 am

B. WELCOME

- a. Introductions (Presidents, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Principal)

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. [DRAFT H&S Meeting Minutes 5/12/2026](#)
 - i. L.D
 - ii. T.C

D. PRESIDENT REPORT

- a. Thank Yous
 - i. 5th Grade Special Projects: Tia Claffy, Ali McKenna & Christine Cox
 - ii. Art Awareness: Laura DeFalco, Michaela Kent & Emily DiValerio
 - iii. Assemblies: Emily DiValerio & Toral Shah
 - iv. Birthday Books: Sarah Daniluk
 - v. Directory Spot: Marianne Yock
 - vi. Fundraising/Fun Run: Nichole Schulz & Megan Hower
 - vii. Garden: Noemi Diaz Herrera, Dennis Johnson, & Anne Nourallah
 - viii. Marquee: Laura Ramey, Joe Papuga & Shari Landeweer
 - ix. Parent Safety Patrol: Karin Barden & Laura DeFalco
 - x. Picture Day Volunteers: Michaela Kent & Whitney White
 - xi. Prairie Fest: Ted Grossestreuer & Courtney Celani
 - xii. Room Parents: Mackenzie Henry & Whitney White
 - xiii. School Supply Kits: Molly Bliss & Alicia Klabunde
 - xiv. Social Media: Donna Heine & Jillian McGrath
 - xv. Staff Appreciation Food: Mora Escarra & Toral Shah
 - xvi. Staff Appreciation Gifts: Hillary Lafferty, Ryan Doornbos & Megan Drake
 - xvii. Yearbook: Carolyn Buckingham, Lisa Crisup & Allison Kellogg
- b. General H&S Board Updates
 - i. Liaisons for 2026-27 School Year
 - 1. General Home & School- Nicole Kmetz
 - 2. Board of Education- Joe Kozminski
 - ii. [S.U.C.C.E.S.S COOKOUT](#)
 - 1. Saturday, 9/19, 1-3:30 p.m., Scott Elementary
 - iii. Crosstown Classic, Saturday, October 17 (rain date October 24) - SAVE THE DATE

- iv. Naperville 203 APP - replaces REMIND
 - 1. Prairie staff will be trained at the end of the month, but there is no expectation that elementary staff will be using this app at this time.
 - 2. Parents are encouraged to download
- v. Spring Break update to [District Calendar](#)
 - 1. This is an updated calendar
- vi. [Career Motive-8](#)
 - 1. More info will come
- c. Prairie H&S Updates
 - i. [Volunteer Signup Form](#) (closes on Saturday, September 12)
 - 1. Signing up does not equal commitment. It just shows interest for additional information to be sent to you.
 - iii. H&S Meeting Schedule:
 - Tuesday, September 8, 9:00 am
 - Tuesday, October 20, 9:00 am
 - Tuesday, November 10, 9:00 am
 - Tuesday, December 8, 9:00 am
 - Tuesday, January 12, 9:00 am
 - Tuesday, February 9, 9:00 am
 - Tuesday, March 9, 9:00 am
 - Tuesday, April 13, 9:00 am
 - Tuesday, May 11, 9:00 am
- d. Upcoming H&S-Sponsored Events
 - Prairie Fest: Wednesday, September 9, 5:00-7:30 p.m.
 - Volunteers are still needed, especially last hour
 - Fun Run: Friday, September 25
 - Schedule:
 - Kindergarten 9:15 - 9:55am
 - 1st Grade 10:00-10:40am
 - 2nd Grade 10:45-11:25am
 - 3rd Grade 8:30-9:10am
 - 4th Grade 12:15-1:00pm
 - 5th Grade 1:30-2:15pm (color run)
 -
 - Prairie Book Fair: Monday, October 5 - Wednesday, October 7
 - Prairie Book Fair Evening Shop: Monday, October 5 (6-7p)
 - New evening shop option this year
 - National Walk, Bike and Roll to School Day: Wednesday, October 7
- e. Contact the board with any questions or suggestions:
 - i. Alyssa Connolly, prairiehs@gmail.com
Melissa Fox, prairiecopresident@gmail.com
 - ii. Hillary Lafferty, prairieschoolvp@gmail.com
 - iii. Alicia Klabunde, prairiesecretary@gmail.com
 - iv. Kevin Ramey, prairietreas@gmail.com

E. VICE PRESIDENT REPORT

- a. Week at a Glance

- i. Explain Week at a Glance
 - 1. Now embedded so no clicking needed
 - 2. Unable to make changes after Friday
- ii. Submissions are due by noon on Wednesday for the following week.
- iii. Email to Hillary Lafferty at prairieschoolvp@gmail.com.
- iv. Links to flyers need to be marked as shareable. Can attach PDFs or google doc links (preferred).
- v. Please note if you want to run for multiple weeks.
- vi. If you have a submission, review the draft on Thursday and give your approval.

F. TREASURER REPORT

- a. Review current year account reconciliations, P/L reports and transaction detail reports

[August Reports](#)

[July Reports](#)

[June Reports](#)

[May Reports](#)

- i. Savings Account - \$7,575.40
- ii. Checking Account Bank - \$48,645.80; Book - \$48,645.80
- iii. Approval of Reports
 - 1. M.K.
 - 2. M.H.
- b. [2026--2027 Budget](#)
- c. Forms
 - i. Deposit form is available in the Prairie office - cash needs 2 signatures
 - ii. Check Request Forms
 - 1. [Printable form](#)
 - 2. [Google form](#)
- d. All deposits need to go through Prairie office with 4-part deposit form
- e. Cannot reimburse tax - [Tax exemption certificate](#)
 - i. Good through this school year
- f. School Supply budget
 - i. Budgeted \$3,000. Actual expenses \$3,751.92
 - ii. Approval Needed
 - 1. M.H
 - 2. M.B.O

G. SECRETARY REPORT

- a. Correspondence
 - i. H&S Meeting Educational Topic Survey Coming Out
 - 1. Looking for parent input - please complete
 - ii. Google Account Reminders

1. Log into accounts if you have already and reach out if any access issues
 2. Make sure to keep us updated on any password changes.
 - iii. Staff Favorites will be updated soon
 - iv. Thank you's
- b. Attendance raffle - Book Fair Bucks
- i. Megan Drake

H. PRINCIPAL REPORT

a. Thank You

- i. Thank you for a smooth start to the school year and for your attendance at Meet the Teacher as well as Curriculum Night. Students and staff are transitioning back into the routines of school and we are excited about the year ahead.

b. Parent Teacher Conferences

- i. Thursday, October 8th and Friday, October 9th are parent teacher conferences. There is no school on both of these days. Thursday's conferences are 5-8 p.m. Friday's conferences are from 8-12. Additional information regarding sign-up will be forthcoming.
 1. Google Meet will be used instead of zoom
 2. Honors Math - you will schedule with your child's home room teacher and they will share info on Honors Math
 3. For PI - you will also schedule with PI instructor

c. Building/Procedural Reminders

i. **Safety Reminders**

1. Accessing the Building During School
2. Must use Door 1 and be buzzed into the main office
3. Driver's License or State ID will be run through our Raptor System. Issued a Temporary Badge that must be worn the entire time you are visiting the building
4. Supervision Before and After School
5. Students should not be unsupervised in the morning before we open the doors at 8 am.
6. Students playing on the playground or in the fields after school must have adult supervision

ii. **Staff Email Response**

1. Please allow 24 hours for staff to respond to email during the school week. On the weekends, there is no expectation that staff is checking emails so the response time will be longer.

iii. **Talk 203**

1. Do not respond directly to Talk 203 messages. If you have a question, please email the staff member directly using their school email address. This includes building administration.

d. Google Classroom

- i. 5th grade will be piloting Google Classroom this year. This is not a building wide initiative.

I. TEACHER REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

- a. A big thank you for Schmaltz's Deli for our welcome-back lunch! It was a delicious way to kick off the school year, and we are so grateful for your generosity.
- b. We also appreciate the flexibility, patience, and understanding of our entire Prairie community as we prepared to start the year. With construction taking place both inside the building and on our playground, our first days back were certainly atypical! We truly felt the appreciation and understanding from our families so thank you!

J. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Verbal
 - i. Fun Run Registration is open
 - 1. Link in the WAAG
 - 2. Fliers are circulating
 - 3. Please register and share with friends & family
- b. Prairie Fest
 - i. Please come
 - ii. Please volunteer
- c. 5th Grade Party kick off Friday
 - i. Still looking for volunteers
- d. Morning Drop off
 - i. Always looking for extra volunteers
 - ii. Inquiry about a police officer who was suggesting ticketing for parking north of the school in front of the baseball field. Parents should be cautious of parking in this region. Naperville P.D. is stating you need to park at least 10 feet away from the drive. Safety patrol leads are working with the P.D. to clarify. Please notify Karin Bardin or Laura DeFalco if you have issues with parking in this area.
- e. Room Parents
 - i. Sign up coming out. It will look different this year due to new kits
 - ii. Similar to Art Awareness with standardized kits, each grade will now have their own predefined set of games, crafts, activities put together in a box. Out of this box will be the activities for the room parties. No pre-planning or extra work for parents required. Activities have been approved and/or recommended by the grade level teachers.
 - iii. No need for a lead room parent
- f. Written reports attached.

K. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Absentee community written reports
 - i. Kevin Gallagher
 - 1. Dear Home & School Board Members and Principal Zallis, I hope you're having a wonderful start to the school year! I'm writing to share an idea that I believe would bring a ton of energy and healthy activity to our school yard: replacing our soccer goals. With North America having hosted the World Cup this past summer, soccer excitement among the kids is at an all-time high. Having proper goals back on the Prairie field would be a fantastic way to capture that momentum, encouraging our kids to stay active, build teamwork, and play together—both during recess and as well as after school with neighborhood

friends. I have been driving my kids to the Knoch Turf fields or Naperville Central HSs soccer fields just to have access to goals to shoot on this summer. I understand our previous goals had to be removed after being damaged by private youth soccer clubs moving them around, and that frustration was completely understandable. However, with the right setup—such as semi-permanent ground anchors, heavy-duty frames, or lockable equipment—we can easily prevent those issues this time around. I have discovered that Highlands Elementary currently maintain two pairs of goals (two fields) on their property, suggesting that we can make this work smoothly for our community, too. Thank you so much for all the time and care you invest in our school and our kids! Please let me know if I can be helpful in making this suggestion a reality.

- ii. Mr. Zallis is not interested in setting up permanent soccer goals. There were safety issues along with misuse of previous goals. He is open to having temporary options shared with him. Our fields are high volume fields. Individuals are currently using the fields without renting.
- iii. Additional playground discussions reviewed
 - 1. Options for new basketball hoops currently being considered
 - a. Looking into options that lower for all ages
 - b. Mr. Zallis will be speaking further with home and school about purchase options
 - 2. Shade Structure
 - a. Once the shade structure was put in, the district now has to take care of it
 - b. District sent someone came out to look at it and they recommended taking down the current black structure and putting in new polls with a new shade. But there has been no movement since
 - c. Parents can email Naperville District Operations Manager Kevin Bee kbee@naperville203.org to continue to push the issue
 - d. More to follow on playground updates
 - 3. Stencils on backtop
 - a. Blacktops need to be resurfaced first before stencils can be applied
 - b. Plan is to do back blacktop first, since it is in worse shape
 - c. Likely will resurface over a holiday - but no formal timeline has been given to us at from the district at this time
 - 4. Recess Materials
 - a. Emily DeValerio states that current playground materials are at the end of their life. Would H&S be able to help purchase additional equipment?
 - i. Mr. Zallis states that the students are very hard on the equipment and good quality equipment is usually ordered twice a year (beginning and middle of year)
 - 5. Outdoor electricity will be put in to help with electric gaga pit
 - 6. Students were surveyed last year by Mrs Musgrave about equipment they would be interested in having on the playground.

L. UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, September 16: Room Parent Sign Up Opens (9:00AM)

Thursday, September 17: Fun Run Kickoff

Thursday, September 17: National IT Professional Day
Friday, September 25: Fun Run
Thursday, October 2: National Custodian's Day
Monday, October 5 - Wednesday, October 7: Prairie Book Fair
Monday, October 5: Book Fair Evening Shop (6-7PM)
Wednesday, October 7: National Walk and Bike to School Day
Thursday, October 8: No School - Institute Day
Thursday, October 8: Parent/Teacher Conferences (5:00PM - 8:30PM)
Friday, October 9: No School - Institute Day
Friday, October 9: Parent/Teacher Conferences (8:00AM - 12:00PM)
Monday, October 12: No School - Columbus/Indigenous People Day
Wednesday, October 14: School Picture Retake Day
Thursday, October 15: 4th Grade Lyric Opera Trip - NCC (10 AM)
Thursday, October 15: 5th Grade Outdoor Ed
Saturday, October 17: Crosstown Classic @ Jefferson Junior High School
Tuesday, October 20: Home & School Meeting - MPR (9:00AM)

Motion to Adjourn 9:45

C.T.

J.M

H&S Committee Reports Month: September 2026

Yearbook

Each of the 5th grade classrooms had the yearbook cover contest presentation last Friday. Yearbook cover entries are due September 25th. We will also have our yearbook volunteer meeting on Tuesday, September 15th at 7pm. If you're interested in learning more about how you can get involved, please join us at Prairie in the LC that night! We will also be starting sign ups for class pages at the meeting, and this is on a first come basis. Please contact the Yearbook chairs at yearbookprairie@gmail.com if you have any questions!

School Supplies

We have a surplus of headphones available for purchase in the front office for \$17 if needed for replacement of lost or broken items.