

MINUTES FOR A MEETING OF THE MERAMEC PTO

February 20, 2025

A meeting of the Meramec Elementary School Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) was held on February 20, 2025 at 9:00am. The purpose of the meeting was to provide general updates and discuss new business.

ATTENDEES;

Ashley Slater (President), Matt Lourie (Co-Treasurer), Nikki Freyman (Co-Treasurer), Kami Waldman (Secretary), Patrick Fisher (Principal), Robin Lourie, Jennifer Williams, Robbie Lynn, Shamim Gusmirovic, Amy Favazza and Beth Williams.

CALL TO ORDER + WELCOME; (Ashley Slater)

ITEMS FOR APPROVAL; (Ashley Slater)

The minutes from the January meeting were posted to the website for review. Amy Favazza made a motion to approve the January minutes and Robin Lourie second the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

MAYORAL CANDIDATES;

Bridget McAndrew - Mayor Harris has termed out which leaves the position open. I care deeply about this community. We moved here 14 years ago. This community has a special meaning to me, to live and raise children here with this great school district, I want to give back to community that I love. I have 3 kids, they all went to Meramec, currently have 2 kids at Clayton High School and 1 at Wydown Middle. I enjoy the work, being an Alderman of Ward 3 for the last 7 years, working with city manager and staff at the city. There are lots of exciting projects that are happening in Clayton that I'd like to continue to be a part of. I've been working on policy goals, the Ice Rink site, member of the steering committee for the comprehensive city plan. Excited to continue to listen to what our community wants, implement the comprehensive plan, see more vibrancy added to downtown, more walkable retail, working on key sites that need to be redevelop and finding ways to help with the process to see them developed. Please vote on April 8th. Also, please vote yes on the fire safety sales tax.

Rick Hummel - I am a write in candidate. My family has spent 11 years at Meramec with 3 of our children. I enjoy my service as alderman of ward 1. I enjoy working with residence and issues. Thought we were going to have a contested mayoral race, since that didn't happen, I'd heard requests from residences to run. I want to make sure that our community has a choice of mayor, believe that this will make it a better process. My family moved to Clayton in 1984 and I have put lots of time into this city; 25 years of service to boards in Clayton. I have lived in all 3 Wards which allows me to have experienced all the different and unique neighborhoods. I served on the school board, treasurer for a committee to pass a bond issue and a tax increase. I now have 5 adult children, all who went K-12 in Clayton schools. My professional background is in banking and finances, leadership roles in serving small businesses. Our city is in good financial condition however, our revenues aren't rising as fast as our expenses. My financial background will be beneficial in this regard. The city has lots of expenses; streets, sidewalks, street lights, new fire truck, new municipal garage, we need to think long term about these plans. Collaborating with our neighboring government and school district is very important.

My top priorities;

Transparency, listening and building trust are keys to making progress.

Broaden the engagement of our citizens with financial and planning issues.

Maintaining a strong financial stance, building a strong down town, moving us to our future, and using the comprehensive plan to advance our priorities.

Q&A followed.

PRINCIPAL REPORT; (Mr. Fisher)

Thank you for the flexibility during the last few snow days. We are starting the interview process for a reading specialist. Still considering if 2nd grade will have additional classroom. As kids get older, class sizes can be larger. Ms. Hanner, Ms. Bruns and Ms. Ackeburg are retiring. Thank you for pancake breakfast and Valentin's Day parties. We had our first ever Day of Play, fun day for the kids, lots of different activities and new ways of learning were happening throughout the school. In April we will be having a Day of Service to the community or to the school. Tomorrow, conference sign ups will be sent out to parents.

TEACHER REQUEST; (Ms. Williams)

Request for funds to help with Artist Day on May 16th. Last year, the PTO provided lunches and snacks as well as volunteers. Looking for artists to join the day. Please contact Ms. Williams with any ideas. The current budget had allocated \$400 for this which should cover the needed costs.

TREASURER REPORT; (Nikki Freyman)

- Trivia night profited approximately \$4,000.
- Pancake breakfast was a success. Still don't have exact numbers yet.
- Happy to announce that through the Funds For Excellence (FFE) the PTO was able to approve all the teacher request, these included; flexible seating for the classroom, stem toys and kits, cardboard cutting saw and books.

COMMITTEE REPORTS;

Teacher Appreciation (Jenn Mariani via Ashely Slater)

- Planning 2 dinners during conference week.
- Teacher Appreciation Week is May 5-9.
- Planning lunches, breakfast, trail mix bar and Tom's coffee truck for TA week.
- Planning a lunch from Peel Pizza for end of the year on field day for teachers.

Yearbook (Danijela Boric via Ashley Slater)

- Looking for committee chairs for next year.
- Next year, yearbook pictures will be taken over by staff
- Hoping to form a yearbook club for students to help with the yearbook

Parent Connections (Ellen Reid via Ashley Slater)

- 5th grade class party still up in the air
- All other grade parties are completed.

Helping Hands (Jen Jordan via Ashley Slater)

- Scheduling a beautification day with Ms. Gillette, cleaning up the gardens, proposed date is May 17th
- Hoping to have 2 more dine to donate with Peel and Sugar Fire

Spirit Wear (Ashley Slater)

- Lots of inventory in stock. Hoping to do some sidewalk sales soon.

Family Dance Party (Ashley Slater)

- March 29th, more info to come

PickleBall (Ashley Slater)

- Forms are going out next week to sign up for tournament; \$75 to play, \$50 to watch. Pricing includes food and non-alcoholic beverages

International Night (Lauren Hamburg via Ashely Slater)

- April 25th
- Shamim Gusmirovic volunteered to be co-chair of the event.

Movie Night (Nikki Freyman)

- May 2nd, showing the movie "Leo".
- Will have concessions and Kona Ice Truck.
- Sept 5th is scheduled for next school year movie night

Field Day (Amy Favazza)

- Passing the torch to Diana Waldman for next year.
- May 23rd at Gay Field.
- Kids will ride buses over to the field.
- Will have bounce house, inflatable obstacle course and Kona Ice Truck

Summer Send Off (Jennifer Williams)

- May 27th at Gay Field.
- Will have 8 rides.
- Sugar Fire is going to sponsor a lounge area for adults.
- Kona Ice Truck will also be there.

5th Grade Promotion (Robin Lourie)

- May 30th

Upcoming Events (Ashley Slater)

- March 11-14, parent book swap, email went out this week with info.
- May 15, student book swap, email went out this week with info
- City 2 game, May 4th, more information to come.

ADJOURNMENT; (Ashely Slater)

Next meeting will be held on Thursday, April 17th at 8:45 at the Meramec Cafeteria.