

September 18, 2025

A meeting of the Meramec Elementary School Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) was held on September 18, 2025 at 8:45am. 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, Chris Win, Shamim Gusmirovic, Jen Mariani, Tricia Spener, Katie Cotsworth, Amy Chappuis, Amy Balsavias, Marcell Williams and Ellen Reid.

CALL TO ORDER + WELCOME; (Ashley Slater)

ITEMS FOR APPROVAL; (Ashley Slater)

The minutes from the April meeting were posted to the website for review. Jen Mariani made a motion to approve the April minutes and Robin Lourie second the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

BOARD OF EDUCATION UPDATE; (Chris Win)

The Board of Education hosted 1 of 3 public forums to discuss the districts long range facilities plan. Heard lots of feedback from the public. The next forums will be on October 21st and November 18th at CHS library at 7pm.

The Board of Education priority list for district improvements;

1. All 3 elementary schools. Currently working with architects and staff about what is needed for each school.
2. Adding a wing to the high school for CTE (Career Technical Education), robotics, etc.
3. Athletics facilities; Wydown field to be changed to turf, improvements at Gay Field and the facilities around it and are considering a swap with Gay Field and Shaw Park ball fields.

PRINCIPAL REPORT; (Mr. Fisher)

Our staff and parents have been meeting with architects/planners about the building/facility needs of Meramec. Our current school has less flexible spaces and less spaces to collaborate or build projects. Meramec was built in 1938, making everything in the building old and need of a revamp. Our student population is always in flux and we currently need more space. We have not discussed a two school solution at all. During the rebuilding/renovation, we would not be able to be in the building. One of the benefits of a new building/renovation is that since we are a public building, it could become a community resource for the after 6pm hours.

TEACHER SPOTLIGHT; (Ms. Balsavias)

Meramec would like to introduce a new mentor program for new families. New families would be matched up with old families. The mentor family will reach out to the new family a few times a year, give them tips and advice about their favorite Meramec traditions, grocery stores and any and all things about our community. This would build connections and friendships. People feeling included on day one is very important to our school community. This year we have 28 new students/24 new families in 1-5th grades. Help promote this program through the PTO's social media and newsletter.

## TREASURER REPORT; (Nikkie Freyman)

The Treasure Report is posted on the PTO dashboard. The Funds for Excellence, FFE, is our most important revenue stream. We have currently collected \$13,200 with a goal of \$19K.

Summary of items that we have budgeted for the year;

- Movie night, made \$918
- Pancake breakfast will be combined with the book fair.
- Summer send off, is the biggest event and expense, typically we break even on this event.
- Dine to Donate is a fundraiser. Our last one at Chipotle made \$165.
- Fifth grade promotion is a separate fee/line item.
- Mum sale fundraiser is coming up, presale starts soon.
- School supply kits raised, \$3,100.
- Yearbooks, \$1000 rebate from last year sales.
- Spirit wear, PTO buys all the staff and all new students a shirt for community/school pride.
- Art Walk, PTO provides ice cream for the event.
- Artist Day, usually occurs every other year. PTO budgeted to provide lunch for artists.
- Back to school bash, all the district schools contribute to this event.
- Coffee and popsicle events.
- Field day in May, budget for obstacle course and Kona Ice truck.
- Library bags for kindergarten students.
- One School One Book, each family gets a book that the school reads together.
- Room parties, snacks for Halloween, Winter and Vday parties.
- Snow cone day, Aug. 28th.
- STEM day
- Homecoming float supplies
- Parent connections events, help buy appetizers and hold space at Clayton Wine House
- Building improvement fund from brick sales, went towards gaga ball pit. These funds are only allowed for playground improvements, have around \$5K left.

Jennifer Williams made a motion to approve the 2025-2026 budget and Marcell Williams second the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## PAC.ED REPORT; (Tricia Spener)

Tricia Spener is the PAC.ED parent representative for Meramec.

- What is PAC.ED? It is the Parent Advisory Council for the Education of Students with Disabilities
- Who is Clayton PAC.ED? It is a volunteer organization composed of families, the School District of Clayton and Special School District of St. Louis County (SSD) staff and administrators, as well as community members to create awareness and understanding of students with disabilities.
- Membership in Clayton PAC.ED is free and open to ALL family members, teachers, and other individuals interested in attending Clayton PAC.ED programs, engagement events, and meetings. If you would like to get involved, please contact us at [paced@claytonschoools.net](mailto:paced@claytonschoools.net).
- October 16 there will be a parent coffee drop in at Starbucks downtown.
- October 22 the district is partnering with SSD for Unity Every Day. Wear orange to promote kindness, acceptance and inclusion.
- November 5, 6:30-8, location TBD, there will be an in person parent education meeting about the empowerment and advocacy of sexual health and disability.

## COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS;

### Teacher Appreciation (Jen Mariani)

- Hosted a coffee truck for teachers on the first day.
- Provided dinner for teachers and staff at curriculum night.
- Meeting with Ms. Pinson and Ms. Berkbigler to review all the events for the year.

### Year Book (Jen Jordan via Ashley Slater)

- Ms. Berry will be taking over year book and will be working with Meramec's student council.

### Parent Connection (Ellen Reid)

- All parties will be held 5:30-7:30pm at Clayton Wine House with a cheese board at no cost.
- 1st Grade - 9/24
- 2nd Grade - 10/8
- 3rd Grade - 10/22
- 4th Grade - 11/4
- 5th Grade - 11/19
- Each parent connection party costs \$200, hoping to get parent sponsors for each grade event to cover cost.

### Helping Hands (Brie Finnegan and Sarah Evans via Ashely Slater)

- Helping Hands a long standing committee at Meramec whose mission is to provide families with activities to engage and serve their community.
- October 4th is a Service Day at Home Sweet Home, a local furniture bank. 30 people will be able to participate, sign up coming out soon.

### Spirit Wear (Rachael Brightfield and Steph Goette via Ashely Slater)

- Hoping to have pricing back soon for new items.
- PTO will only be taking pre-orders and will not buy extra stock.

### Dine to Donate (Noah Briscoe via Ashely Slater)

- Trying to have one Dine to Donate each month.
- Mod Pizza 11/23
- Shake Shack 11/19
- September event brought in \$165.80

### Room Parent (Monica R via Ashely Slater)

- Room Parent meeting will be held on Sept. 25th

### Upcoming Events (Ashely Slater)

- Mum Sale, October 1st, presale starts soon
- City 2 Game, Sept 28th, \$5 of every ticket sold comes back to the school
- Homecoming, Sept. 27th, cheerleaders will be walking in the parade and 5th graders will have a float. Meramec students should gather along parade route dressed in school colors.

## ADJOURNMENT; (Ashely Slater)

Next meeting will be held on Thursday, October 16th at 8:45 at the Meramec Cafeteria.