



Defer Elementary PTO

Tuesday, November 11, 2025

Defer Elementary School

7:00 PM

1. **Call to Order and Introductions** – JJ DeRosier called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.
2. **Review of the Previous Minutes** – Cara Rossi
 - a. Minutes are available on the Defer PTO website:
<https://mi01000971.schoolwires.net/domain/1223>
 - b. October meeting minutes presented - Emily motioned to approve, Allison seconded. Motion passes.
3. **Treasurer's Report** - Emily Szymczak Smock (treasurer) and [Allison Keelean](#) (assistant treasurer)
 - a. Final fun run number not added to the report as we are waiting for the finalization of those dollars.
 - b. Haunted Garage income was \$6768 which is higher than what is listed in the report and expenses will also be updated.
 - c. Anticipate both updates in the January report.
 - d. Cara motioned to approve, Lekeytria seconds. Motion passes.
4. **President's Report** – JJ DeRosier
 - a. Haunted Garage was great.
 - b. Donuts with your dragon was hosted by the 3rd grade GS troop which went well despite the weather. Original intent was a Donut with your Dad, Muffins with your Moms which turned into a neutral event and then COVID made it be an outdoor event. Recommendation for next year to order more donuts, move to the back which will be announced / have signs.
5. **Vice President's Report** – JJ DeRosier on behalf of Kelsey Howard
 - a. PTO Council Meeting is occurring today so there are no major updates.
 - b. Meeting room fee follow up with Dineen is in process.
6. **Communications Report** – JJ DeRosier on behalf of Lindsey Koczenasz
 - a. Please make sure all social media requests go to the communications email contact@deferpto.org early so they can be scheduled in advance and in all the appropriate newsletters.
 - b. Upcoming posts will be around lunchtime enrichment volunteer requests.
7. **Committee Reports**
 - a. Directory - JJ DeRosier on behalf of Martin Stieger
 - i. Directory is up and live, available on Facebook pinned post and link on Square site.
 - ii. When the directory fee is paid, you can use the same email address as last year and registration.
 - b. Hospitality - JJ DeRosier on behalf of Kelsey Howard

- i. Staff winter breakfast will be on 12/15 and all paperwork is in process.
- c. Beautification - JJ DeRosier on behalf of Lindsay Studders
 - i. Congratulations to Lindsay and the committee as Defer was recognized as a business beautification award winner this year, ceremony this thursday.
- d. Inclusion committee – JJ DeRosier on behalf of Kelsey Howard
 - i. November board is Native American Heritage Month - weaving together our past, present and future
 - ii. Michigan Adoption Day is celebrated on November 25th.
- e. Scholastic Bookfair - Ted Watts
 - i. Book fair dates finalized 12/8 - 12/15, 12/15 is not an actual sale day.
 - ii. Will have a 3 day pick-up window to ensure pick-up before the holidays.
 - iii. May be dropped off between 12/3 - 12/5. Tedd will connect with Ms. Krotche and Dr. Rheame to coordinate the drop off and storage location.
 - iv. Shopping dates will be 12/8 and 12/9 to preview; actual shopping Wednesday through Saturday (craft fair).
 - v. Tedd will get previous sign-up genius from Sophan to copy previous volunteer times. Will get this and then send to Lindsay for social posts.
 - vi. Tedd recommends having K/1 parents come in to help build the wish lists or use the 3rd / 4th grade buddies. Laura to share with the teachers.
 - vii. Request to minimize the presence of non-book items during some of the sale days.
 - viii. \$5 Scholastic Bucks will be provided to all students. If we exhaust those funds, PTO can fund more to cover books and kids that need more assistance. PTO recommends using the Scholastic dollars for the book fair dollars and then if there are additional funds needed to fund birthday books and teacher wish lists.
 - ix. Courtesy of the Defer PTO Stickers made - Sophan and Ms. Krotche can help.
- f. Craft Fair - Cara Rossi
 - i. Have volunteers for crafts.
 - ii. Confirmed Posterity Gallery will provide a free crafts table.
 - iii. Need to identify if other groups want to have a hot cocoa station.
 - iv. Will have NHS volunteers assist as well.
- g. Lunchtime Enrichment - Nicole Luyk, Melanie Parks-Linford
 - i. Call for volunteers will be coming out soon.
 - ii. Run Monday through Friday but you can set your schedule with whatever works for you.
 - iii. More adults we have, the more options we have and the more kids that can participate.

8. **Teachers Report** – Laura Tanniheimer

- a. Leadership loot cart started a few weeks ago and kids are happy to spend their leadership loot.
- b. Will get an update on the therapy dog trading cards for next meeting.
- c. Treasure chest needs to be restocked.

9. Principal's Report – Laura Tanniheimer on behalf of Dr. Rheume

- a. Thank you to all the volunteers for events and lunches.
- b. Thank you for Mr. Fitzpatrick for all his help during her leave.

10. Old Business

- a. Teachers Lounge
 - i. Updated cost info for cabinets and counters to comply with ADA requirements.
 - ii. Cabinets prices vary between \$4k - \$5k + \$3k.
 - iii. Counter and sink \$1900.
 - iv. School district is paying for electrical and plumbing and there is a potential they can support with some of these costs. They may also cover labor. Now that Dr. Rheume is back, she will address this with the Facilities dept and help move this forward.
- b. Foreign language book project
 - i. All of the books are available in the library but have an old school check out system.
 - ii. Have a script and are working on getting a video made.
 - iii. Will have an announcement for the school, at town hall and in the newsletter.
- c. Gaga Ball flooring
 - i. Emily received a quote for \$2206 for just the flooring. Adding labor would be double the cost.
 - ii. Richard paid \$3500 and they installed it themselves.
 - iii. Emily will connect with Dr. Rheume and Mr. Dave to discuss who is the most appropriate to install.

11. New Business - no new business

12. Member Comment(s)

- a. Spring concert will be March 10th at 6:30 and 7:30.
- b. There was a question if we are able to turn the Little Library into a pantry - we don't know who runs it? It will be best to connect with Dr. Rheume and Ms. Krotche on this.

13. Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 8:28pm.

Upcoming Meetings:

- **No Meeting in December we will resume January 13, 2026**
- **Stay tuned for announcements on upcoming events via Smore news and our Defer PTO social channels.**