



Defer Elementary PTO

Tuesday, September 9th, 2025 – Welcome back meeting

Defer Elementary School

7:00 PM

1. **Call to Order and Introductions** – JJ DeRosier called the meeting to order at 7:06pm
2. **Review of the Previous Minutes** –Cara Rossi
 - a. Minutes are available on the Defer PTO website:
<https://mi01000971.schoolwires.net/domain/1223>
 - b. May meeting was light but we will print them for the October meeting
3. **Treasurer's Report** - Emily Smzyzak Smock (treasurer) and [Allison Keelean](#) (assistant responsible for reimbursements and support)
 - a. 3 accounting reports shared
 - i. 2025-2026 Budget - Kelly motioned to approved the budget. Motion approved.
 1. Conservative revenue projections with the Fun Run as the one and done fundraiser, stable from last year
 2. Expense category review
 - a. school support - decreased from last year due to chromebook expense, increase in playground for gaga ball replacement
 - b. break even events - stable
 - c. community support - slight increase for international festival
 - d. Staff support - increases as we added a specials fund so specials teachers can receive reimbursement (\$300 per teacher), classroom enrichment for other teachers, teachers lounge improvements planned for this year
 - e. Student events / activities - increased to allow for additional funds for spring social, safety field trip and lunchtime enrichment
 3. Columns on the right have previous years budget and comments
 - ii. July and August Treasurer's Reports - Lindsay motions to approve the reports. Motion approved.
 1. Not a lot of activity, some expenses for Fun Run and teacher reimbursements
 2. Revenue due to interest on the account
 3. Directory expense may be removed as we referred another
 4. Kroger Community Rewards - you can allocate donations to the Defer PTO through your Kroger app and we received some revenue from this, could be good to communicate how to sign up for this
4. **President's Report** – JJ DeRosier
5. **Vice President's Report** – Kelsey Howard
 - a. As a VP, Kelsey attends district wide PTO meetings, not recent meetings to update on
6. **Communications Report** – Lindsey Koczenasz
 - a. Lots of social media communications coming out soon
 - b. Best way to support is to comment or like the posts to make it more visible on the
 - c. More asks for volunteers
 - d. Spirit wear
 - e. Fun Run

- f. Haunted Garage

7. GPPSS Bond - Rebecca Fannon

- a. \$120M bond on the ballot which remain at or below the current millage which will not have an impact on taxes as is just a continuation of current
- b. <https://www.gpschools.org/2025bond> - has the information on the bond program
- c. \$60M of critical needs so if this does not pass, the money will need to come out of the general fund of which the majority of is staff expenses
- d. Windows are being replaced on Trombly but the Board has not decided what will happen to the property, they will take action on this if the bond passes. The budget was \$1.5M and it came in under budget and it is funded outside of this bond
- e. Determination of projects and bids do not start until after the bond passes
- f. The district is not able to do any communication / marketing on voting a certain way but independent groups can share stories, there is a story in process
- g. Performing Arts Center Auditorium - at North but used by all schools and can be rented out
- h. Recommendation to make yard signs, share materials at local businesses which Rebecca is taking back
- i. Charlene recommended for a presentation to the Board of Realtors
- j. Rebecca sends the district newsletter and you can respond with any specific questions which will be added to the FAQs

8. Committee Reports

- a. Fun Run- [Andrea Gruenwald](#)
 - i. 1 week from kickoff - at 37% of the goal
 - ii. 67% of students are registered - pizza parties announced today and will kickoff tomorrow
 - iii. Considering a new Super Star prize (raising \$250), averaging 100 Super Stars each year - could we potentially do a Defer Super Star special at the Halloween in the park, JJ's Custard or a cider and donut, could rent out the movie theater for a Super Star movie showing
 - iv. Time of the event is being determined based on Pierce's Fun Run - will be shared closer to the date and keep the times generic (afternoon, after lunch)
- b. Progressive Dinner- Beth Lowry
 - i. October 4th - day after Fun Run
 - ii. Hosts for 52 people but usually have 65-70, so need more hosts
 - 1. Currently have 25 people signed up to attend
 - iii. Need a dessert host but if we do not have a host, there is a back-up plan
 - iv. Tentatively have an appetizer house
 - v. When you host, you can select 2 people to join with you, can have multiple tables / seating options, keep it informal
 - vi. Will be making a short video of what it is like to host
 - vii. Committee will be making house assignments based on the grades
- c. Beautification- Lindsay Studders
 - i. No major updates
 - ii. Green school certification in process
 - iii. Lunchtime enrichment planned for in the Greenhouse
 - iv. Collaborating with Mrs. Kliman on Earth Day activities
 - v. Planning to start a Greenhouse club with a school psychologists
- d. Haunted Garage- Nicole Luyk and Sarah Stan

- i. October 24th is the Defer night at the Haunted Garage - will be requesting to change it as it is the North / South tailgate at a meeting on the 15th and then will start with messaging
- e. Inclusion committee – Kelsey Howard
 - i. Hispanic Heritage Month board up now
- f. Scholastic Bookfair- Ted Watts
 - i. November / December will be needed at that time
- g. Craft Fair - Cara Rossi
 - i. Will ask for volunteers after Fun Run
 - ii. Date - 12/14

9. Teachers Report – Laura Tanniheimer/Jane Nugent

- a. Buses 4th grade - request will come to Allison and Emily from Dineen
- b. Need to get popsicles for reading with Larry - 9/19 or 10/1, will be doing it in the gym
 - i. Will add a social media post to remind people on the 9/11 due date for the form

10. Principal's Report – Walt Fitzpatrick

- a. Thank you for the warm welcome to Defer and the partnership between staff and PTO

11. Old Business

- a. Teachers Lounge - no update
- b. Foreign language book project - lots of progress made in the end of the school year to kick off this year
- c. Gaga Ball cover - JJ has reached out to 4 vendors for quotes but has not gotten any responses yet

12. New Business

- a. Meeting conflict Defer spring concert schedules same night as PTO in March both scheduled for March 10, will change meeting to March 17th, can adjust as needed

13. Member Comment(s)

- a. Voting - you receive voting power on the PTO by purchasing the Directory on the PTO Square site
- b. Tables - tops and seats were removed and Mr. Dave and district employees build new tops and seats
- c. Grade Facebook groups - can share with the Ms. Nugent / teachers to include in the Teacher Newsletters

14. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm.

Upcoming Meetings:

- **October 14, 2025**
- **Stay tuned for announcements on upcoming events via Smore news and our Defer PTO social channels.**