

November PTO Meeting Notes 01/12/2026 at 6:30 pm

PTO Attendees: Diane Thiegis, Jennifer Yiangou, Molly Darsow, Allison Gilbert

Parents/Staff: Dr. Kate Hinton, Dr. Tiarks, Amber Gehring, Margret Jain, Dannielle White, Mukti Bhalia, Leena Arulanandam, Kari Koerner, McKinzie Woelfel, Linda Alter Capell

PTO Report & Recent Events

- a. Brief discussion and questions about student walkout
- b. Staff Holiday cards and FIRE Giftcards – Well received by staff & teachers
- c. Bagels for staff meeting cancelled due to illness, but rescheduled to staff meeting occurring 1/21. Jennifer will pick up 50 bagels and cream cheese from Hyvee.

Executive Director Update & any help requests for PTO – Dr. Hinton & Dr. Tiarks

- a. Still working to open up elementary school in Fall of 2026
- b. Various avenues are being pursued to fix the issue with the elementary approval
 - a. One new avenue to opening the school could be a merger with a K-8 Charter School that has Finnish educational practices and already has elementary approval
- c. Expansion of new Secondary school is going well. Third floor is almost completed, and second floor is shortly behind.

Treasurer Report - Jennifer Yiangou

- a. Staying steady on funds, but we'll need to get creative next year to generate additional revenue

Upcoming Activities

- a. Secondary Open House 1/20 – need volunteers from 5:30-7:30
- b. Elementary Town Hall 1/28
- c. Pizza Days – still the biggest fundraiser for the PTO, but pizza costs have steadily been going up over the years and we have not increased the price
- d. Winter Formal – Open to 6-12 grades this year on Saturday, 1/31
- e. Skate & Field Day – Friday Feb 13th at M Health Fairview Sports Center. PTO rented the space and will provide funds for skates. Molly will make flyer.
- f. Bus Driver Appreciation- Feb 18th - Planning to ask if families want to donate on when date gets closer through QR code on weekly newsletter. Depending on donations, we will take some money allotted for Prom budget and re-allocate to buying Dunkin Donuts gift cards.
- g. Conference Meal – Feb 19th – Acapulco will be catered

- h. Facilitated Conversation of Anxious Generation – Feb 28th 10am-12pm
 - a. PTO will provide snacks & refreshments
- i. Pi Celebration – March 19th – Donations of frozen pies are welcome. Chocolate pies are the favorite donation.

Questions/Comments

- a. It was discussed if PTO Meeting should continue to be in person and/or also be available on a platform such as Google Meets, but it was felt that it was too difficult at this time with the sound and where we meet to facilitate doing the PTO Meeting virtually.