

Zach PTO Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 21, 2026

Meeting Called to Order: 6:08PM

Attendees:

Lisa Ordonez, Angel Herrick, Greg Spalding, Heather DeFazio, Rocio Martinez, Kristin Mank, Brooke Walter, Ali Black, Megan Clay, Lauren R.

- 1) Introductions
- 2) Approval of minutes from the previous meeting
 - a. Minutes are approved.
- 3) Reports
 - a. Principal Report (Angel Herrick)
 - i. Mid-year data focused on belonging and writing. Is every kid growing, no matter where they're at?
 - ii. We are deepening our understanding of autism. Creating a parent group to read about autism and will meet for numerous weeks. How can we continue being an inclusive community? We will be writing a grant to add communication assistance for all students to learn how to effectively communicate with each other.
 - iii. Sub-groups focusing on gifted and talented. Difficult to see growth with that group. Thanks to teachers Brooke Walter and Amy Kozusko for help in getting the numbers to determine their growth.
 - iv. Analysis at next staff meeting. Setting a writing goal.
 - v. Surveys from November are high. Assessed staff and family culture. Doing well comparatively across the district.
 - vi. We are at 523 students right now. Budget next year will be lower than normal due to government cuts in funding. We'll keep our status quo. 4th grade will be going down to a three track and 3rd grade will be moving to a four track – we will not be losing any staff, hoping to just move teachers around.
 - vii. Meeting with planning committee for the district on how to move forward.
 - viii. Pausing on spending money from Fund Run because we received a grant for the outdoor classroom. We will decide as a community on how to use the rest of the money. Adding more tables around the playground for students and outside the front of the school for staff use.
 1. Lauren R. asked regarding foliage. The visibility and wide-open space make her nervous, being next to a busy street: Angel says more native grasses and trees will be added. There is a possibility for a privacy fence/wall.
 - b. Teacher report (Mrs. Brooke Walter - 4th Grade, Mrs. Heather DeFazio- 1st Grade)
 - i. MAPS testing and Dibels testing have been completed.
 - ii. Coming back from break strong. Feeling optimistic.
 - iii. Kinder and 1st grade 100-day celebrations coming up.
 - iv. 4th and 5th grade went to symphony. CMEA coming up next week.

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- c. Treasurer Report (Rocio Martinez)
 - i. We received money from the outside tables, almost \$4,000.
 - ii. Expenses: \$22,000 – from FundRun, Book Bowl, supplies and food, mini grants, math software, grade level budgets, and principal's PTO fund.
 - iii. Total Funds: August – December approximately \$211,517.29.
 - iv. Total Expenses: \$129,417
 - v. Available Funds: \$46,785.26
- 4) Standing Committees
 - a. FUNdRUN - New lead?
 - i. Kristen M. present. Who is leading?
 - 1. Greg will be emailing Emily T. to determine the status of the committee for next year.
 - ii. 10-12 people on the committee. Maybe half are stepping back. Haven't had the official discussion on who is coming back next year.
 - iii. October 9th is the possible date for next year.
 - b. Back to School Bash – Meisha Pon and Lauren R.
 - i. Good food vendors lined up. 3 food trucks, 2 snack trucks.
 - ii. September 18th is the proposed date.
 - iii. Received quotes from vendors for activities. Next meeting we could vote on which vendor we use.
 - iv. Trying to figure out how to get more volunteers to keep costs down. Could reach out to leadership groups at the high schools for volunteers. Put it out to local neighborhoods too.
 - c. Scholastic book fair – Lisa Ordoñez
 - i. Dates have been set for next year – October 28-November 10th for online shopping and November 2-6 for in-person at the library.
 - ii. Rachel S. will be stepping down as co-chair and Lisa O. will take full responsibility. If we keep most of our current committee we are in good shape for next year.
 - d. Book Bowl – Lisa Ordoñez (on-going support), Sarah Goddard and Amanda Griffin (4th), Emily Thurn (3rd)
 - i. We need additional support for 4th grade next year and need to find new support for 3rd grade. Lisa will send Greg the information to put in the Family Memo.
 - ii. Lisa will meet with Angel to discuss changing out more of the books.
 - e. Staff Appreciation – Megan Clay, Kristin Haberman
 - i. Megan – bagels last week. Luncheon soup and salad sign up coming.
 - ii. Yogurt parfait bar coming up as well in May.
 - iii. Megan and Kristin will stay on board for about another 3 years.

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- f. Yearbook –Ali Black and Alin Arregui
 - i. Waiting for more pictures to be uploaded.
 - ii. Extra pages this year. Sales have started. Last purchase date is the Friday after Spring Break.
 - iii. Need pictures of 5th grade and the outdoor classroom.
- g. Library – Ali Black
 - i. Library is good. No news.
- h. Directory Committee – Elsie Pringle, Sarah Rechner
 - i. None present. Directory has gone out.
- 5) New Business
 - a. Grants/Projects for funding
 - i. Jamie Leopold (Kinder) – Art drying rack. Leveled Readers. \$235
 - 1. Approved.
 - ii. Danielle Connors (IS) – 2 sets “hand2mind” advancing phonics program, UFLI program. \$126
 - 1. Approved.
 - iii. Amy Uhrich – tub to store grade level copies. \$34.35
 - 1. Approved.
 - iv. 5th grade – new book club sets. \$600.57
 - 1. Approved.
 - v. Scott – 5 chomp saws for the maker space. \$1120.50
 - 1. Approved.
 - b. First Day School Supply Kit - Formerly run by Jenny Florez
 - i. Greg will investigate where we are with the kits and who will be running the program.
- 6) Old Business
 - a. Advanced Notice - PTO Opportunities 2026-27 - e-mail zachpto@gmail.com if **interested**
 - i. PTO President and Vice-President
 - ii. FUNdRUN positions (need 4 people)
 - iii. Book Bowl - 3rd and 4th grade
- 7) Next Meeting - Virtual on 2/25/26 at 12 pm.
- 8) Adjourn: 7:32PM