

Zach PTO Meeting Minutes

April 1, 2026

Meeting Called to Order:

Attendees:

Lisa Ordonez, Luiz Maceta, Rocio Martinez, Mary Nehring, James Everley, Amber Stire, Angel Herrick, Greg Spalding, Marie Austria, Megan Clay, Meisha Pon, Rachel Schmelzle, Brooke Walter, Heather DeFazio

- 1) Introductions
- 2) Approval of minutes from the previous meeting
 - a. Approved
- 3) Reports
 - a. Principal Report (Angel Herrick)
 - i. Last set of interviews for new principal. Should be announced next week.
 - ii. Outdoor classroom - \$25,000 grant written to get plants and plant infrastructure. Bid for water pieces. Hoping to finish by summer. Extra money from Fund Run held over in case needed for this project. Should have money left over for a new purchase for Zach – possible permanent picnic tables for outside front of school.
 - iii. Focusing on writing and CBA (center-based autism). New math adoption next year.
 - iv. We lost money but can hire due to higher student count next year (about 530 population). Half choice and half neighborhood for incoming Kindergarten class. Hiring new kinder para, media assistant, and CBA paras. Second counselor to work with Mrs. Fierro which will be a new hire. One year only math interventionist to help with new math curriculum – moving one teacher from another school into this position.
 - v. Budget cuts – most likely will not affect Zach. We are a newer building and a full building. Do not anticipate changes but we are not sure. Going to the meeting next week for an input session for the staff. There are several schools on the west side with low numbers who may be joining.
 1. Marie asked – what is the process of determining changes to the curriculum? Is it district wide or core knowledge? Angel – all schools have the same math curriculum. We will still have compacted math. Mr. Kenna will work on how the new curriculum will affect compacted math. It was a committee that looked over different curriculums and teachers looked through it as well. It's a new updated curriculum.
 2. Marie asked – is there already a landscaping company? Angel - Our facilities are trying to do a lot, we have another company doing the irrigation. We will do a concrete edging. Changing rocks to mulch. Company must come in to do concrete. Trying to budget as best as possible.

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- b. Treasurer Report (Rocio Martinez)
 - i. Pending expenses – mini grants from last meeting.
 - ii. Total expenses - \$155,387
 - 1. Biggest chunk is the outdoor classroom. The rest is PTO expenses, Fund Run, and other (Back to School Bash, Book Bowl, Directory).
 - 2. We had a carryover of \$115,661 from last year. We will have a positive balance next year, about \$76,000. \$25,000 is our reserve to begin the year next year.
 - iii. Mary asked – what is the budget for field trips? What does it include? Rocio and Angel – not all trips are included in budget. We take a lot of field trips, and they are not built into our budget. Many factors to consider – number of students, other companies that subsidize, parents donating money. We cannot ask who paid or who needs help to pay. It's an ongoing discussion on how to deal with the issue. Some use PTO grants to help pay or other grades can use their budget. Bussing in PSD is also creating a challenge. In the future, we may need to create a committee or group to discuss what are our values and how do we keep equity amongst students so that we can keep all these field trips. Rachel also chimed in about getting the payments up on School Pay better to align with when the field trip forms come home. Angel and teachers say it's a technical issue. Angel – next step would be if someone in the PTO group can get a meeting started in May. Brooke would be our teacher representative, and Laurel can help to get the conversation started.
 - c. Teacher report (Mrs. Brooke Walter - 4th Grade, Mrs. Heather DeFazio- 1st Grade)
 - i. Getting ready for CMAS. Looking forward to new math curriculum. Lots of field trips coming up to look forward to. 1st grade going to the zoo.
- 4) Standing Committees
- a. FUNdRUN - Emily Thurn
 - i. No one from the committee present.
 - ii. Marie – says meeting with Angel on Friday. Initial meeting for date and getting started details. Goal is \$45,000
 - b. Back to School Bash – Meisha Pon and Lauren R
 - i. Meisha – using different vendor. Rent-A-Theme, based in Denver. Considerably cheaper than previous vendor. More inclusivity of all students. Two options - \$7,200 or \$7,000. Various games, mini golf, bounce houses, Lego experience, etc. are parts of the packages. Rocio – no concerns with our budget for next year paying for this.
 - ii. Luiz – asked how much we paid this year. Rocio - \$8,500. Greg – we determined that PTO would cover the whole cost, no families purchasing tickets. Amber asked – what was our ticket revenue from last year? Rocio - \$4,000 ticket revenue last year. PTO has always helped to cover. With results of Fund Run we can use the money to help with the cost of Back to School Bash.

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- c. Scholastic book fair – Lisa Ordoñez
 - i. No news.
 - d. Book Bowl – Lisa Ordoñez (on-going support), Sarah Goddard and Amanda Griffin (4th), Emily Thurn (3rd)
 - i. Greg, Amber Stire and Luiz are interested in helping next year.
 - ii. Researching changing out one book per grade for next year. 4th grade will be in the fall and 3rd grade will be in the spring.
 - e. Staff Appreciation – Megan Clay, Kristin Haberman
 - i. Lunch next Tuesday – if not enough participation may order some food to supplement.
 - ii. Staff Appreciation Week in May - taco bar.
 - f. Yearbook – Ali Black and Alin Arregui
 - i. No one present.
 - ii. Deadline extended to tonight.
 - g. Library – Ali Black
 - i. Not present.
 - h. Directory Committee – Elsie Pringle, Sarah Rechner
- 5) New Business
- a. Grants/Projects for funding
 - i. 3rd grade – fiction texts to add to 3rd grade library. It's a lower area in their CMAS scores. Fiction books – 6 titles, 25 copies of each. \$983.15
 - 1. Approved
 - ii. 4th/5th grade – accordions for organization for students. Only a 3-track in 4th grade and new 5th graders next year. 80, Total - \$940.80
 - 1. Approved
 - b. Fund Run fundraising goal - \$45,000
 - c. Budget for next year
 - i. Next meeting in May.
 - d. Skating Party at Rollerland – day off school. Hopefully good turnout and plan more next year. Proceeds beyond 50, we get a check. Do we donate it to the Special Olympics? Yes, to encourage more people to come. Free for teachers.
 - e. Luiz – bike club for kids. Teach techniques. Talked with Mr. U. Is it possible to put it in the family memo? Angel – if you use the facilities, you must get PSD permission. If it's outside the school, we can advertise it and say it's not affiliated with the school. Just want to invite people, K, 1st and 2nd.

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- f. PTO meeting schedule for 26-27 School Year
 - i. **2026-27 PTO Meetings:**
 1. 09/9/2025 in-person 6-7 pm
 2. 10/07/2025 virtual 12-1 pm
 3. 11/4/2025 virtual 12-1 pm
 4. 01/20/2026 in-person 6-7 pm
 5. 02/24/2026 virtual 12-1 pm
 6. 04/07/2026 virtual 12-1 pm
 7. 05/05/2026 in-person 6-7 pm
- 6) Old Business
 - a. Advanced Notice - PTO Opportunities 2026-27 - e-mail zachpto@gmail.com if **interested**
 - i. FUNdRUN positions (need 4+ people)
- 7) Next Meeting - In-person on 5/6/26; 6 pm in the Media Center.
- 8) Adjourn: 1:10PM