



*The purpose of the Ferson Creek Elementary PTO is to enhance the curricular and extracurricular educational experience of all children and to support programs which would otherwise not be offered by providing necessary funding, volunteers and materials to teachers, students and the school.*

## **Meeting Minutes**

**Ferson Creek PTO**  
September 11, 2018  
9:30 AM - Faculty Lounge

### **1. Call to Order**

Led by Co-President Shannon Puri at 9:32 AM

### **2. Attendance**

**Present:** Shannon Puri, Pam Rancour, Grace Urbasic, Sarah Goettel, Ms. Jayna Richardson, Dr. Kelly Sculles, Kerrie Martin, Jaclyn Vasquez, Melina Hunter, Anne Ferguson, Staci Roth, Josh Nelson, Paula Reed, John Rothecker, Kristi Bruns, Keri Bardouniotis, Liz Holcumb, Jenny Hunt, Ashley Holdsworth.

**Call-in:** Colleen Brown

There were 20 in attendance.

### **3. Introductions**

Attendees stated their favorite family restaurants as lead generation for future restaurant nights. (see Restaurant Nights below)

### **2. Officers' Reports**

#### **A. President's Report (Shannon Puri)**

**Welcome the 2018-19 Executive Board:** Shannon Puri (Co-President), Grace Urbasic (Co-Vice President), Kerrie Martin (Co-Vice President), Pam Rancour (Co-Treasurer), Sarah Goettel (Co-Treasurer), Anne Ferguson (Co-Secretary)

**Motion:** Shannon moved to add two members to the board, Jaclyn Vasquez (Co-Secretary) and Melinda Hunter (Co-President)

**VOTE:** 20 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain

**Motion Approved**

## **B. Treasurer's Report (Pam Rancour)**

- 10k carry-over profit from last school year. Funds to be utilized for playground storage equipment, new building event banners and potentially spirit wear bags for students' winter gear

### **Budget Proposal**

- Line item adjustments from last year include:
  - **PTO Today Insurance** has been secured as a new budget item
  - **Retirement Gifts** is currently \$0 but will remain a budget item for future years as needed
  - **Welcome Event** budget of \$250 has been utilized this year
  - **Fifth Grade Breakfast** is underfunded as donations were received last year

**Motion: Shannon moved to increase the Fifth Grade Breakfast budget from \$300 to \$400.**

**VOTE: 20 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain**

**Motion Approved**

## **C. Principal's Report (Dr. Kelly Sculles)**

- The district is strengthening its multi-tier system of support (MTSS), enrichment and instruction. New programs this year include:
  - Professional Learning Committees formed by a partnership between Munhall and Ferson which will roll-out to all the elementary schools
  - SABERS (Social, Academic, Emotional Behavior Risk Screener) through Fast Bridge Learning is a new tool for teachers to screen students at risk of social-emotional and behavioral problems
- New elementary technologies include: coding (creating instructions and commands with robotics), green screen video technology (allowing separately filmed back grounds to be added to video footage of the subject) and 3D printers (creation of physical objects from three dimensional digital models)

## **D. Teacher's Report (Ms. Jayna Richardson)**

- Thank you for the Welcome Event for teachers and staff and with support for the magazine subscriptions
- Thank you to Annie Wilson for her creativity and efforts to secure donations from Nothing Bundt Cakes in Geneva for the event

#### 4. Committee Reports

##### A. Gray Willows Farm (Josh Nelson)

- Gray Willows is a 220 acre farm on the corner of Burlington and Corron owned by the Campton Township Open Space Program (<https://campton-park-and-open-space.org>). Extensive development and restorations have allowed an opportunity for Ferson to enter into an "Adopt-A-Park" partnership.
- Ways in which Ferson can help the Farm: continue oak tree donations (5th grade donated a tree last year), various service projects ("native seeds" planting is the most popular), fundraising, utilization of the Whitney School House (a one-room school house being relocated and restored on 8 acres of the Farm and repurposed as an environmental classroom)
- Ways the Farm can help Ferson: create a place for field trips and environmental learning, science programs, literature connections. Other ideas and feedback welcome.
- Promotions for the Farm thus far include: Prairie Fest, volunteer programs, Adopt-A-Park, placement on the National Register of Historic Places, Pollinator Habitat Grant (through schools)

##### B. Calendar (Shannon Puri)

Picture Day	9/12	
District PTO Meeting	9/19	
Mum Pick up	9/19	
Boo Bash Planning Committee Meeting	9/20	7:30 PM
Restaurant Night at CPK	9/26	
PTO Meeting	10/2	1:30 PM

##### C. Restaurant Nights (Kerrie Martin)

- Weekly restaurant nights between Thanksgiving and Christmas will be introduced this year
- Favorite family restaurants by meeting attendees: Nick's Pizza, Skippy's, Red Robin, Filling Station, Rookies, Portillos, Village Tavern, Pizza Cucina, Buona Beef, Panera, Houlihans, Corner Grind (Elburn), Jalapeño Grill, Preservation

##### D. Write-a-Check Campaign (Shannon Puri)

- Campaign runs through the month of September via check or PayPal
- Ferson PTO is now registered through PayPal as a non-profit which lowers processing fees

##### E. Mums (Shannon Puri)

- Sales broke records this year as the program was rolled out almost a month earlier
- 430 mums sold

**F. Boo Bash (Shannon Puri)**

- Event date is 10/20 from 5-8 PM
- Sara Alfaro is leading the Haunted Hall
- Liz Holcomb is leading the food/beverage in the Community Room
- A leader is needed for games in the Gym

**5. Unfinished (old) Business**

None

**6. New Business**

**A. Committee Chair Openings**

- Representative to attend District PTO Meetings
- Leader for Boo Bash games in Gym
- Representative to create and rollout Welcome Wagon for new Ferson families
- Photographers for Yearbook

**B. D303 School Board Meeting Update (John Rothecker)**

- District website (<https://district.d303.org>), top tab Board/Board Book contains district data to include budget and meeting minutes
- D303 townships have lowest tax rates in Kane County
- Average \$500 property tax reduction per household expected next year due to district repayment of outstanding debts
- Anti-bullying and Crisis Prevention Programs are being developed and rolled out district wide
- Student enrollment has decreased by 238 students this year; average class size is now 27 (down from 28 last school year)
- Next meeting is 10/9

**7. Announcements**

None

**8. Adjourn 10:24 AM**