



Defer Elementary PTO
Tuesday, September 13, 2022
Defer Elementary School
7:00 PM

In attendance: Christy Sherding, Stephen Justin, Sophan Buffa, JJ DeRosier, Erin Weakland, Lindy Holloway, Dr. Rheume, Jane Nugent, Beth Lowe, Patrice Arend, Stacy Hutchcraft, Amanda Metes, Julie Etheridge, Janani Yates, LaKeytria Felder, Lauren Nowicki, Lindsey Hunt Koczenasz, Melissa Woywood, Charlene Williams, Laura Ochab, Julia Miller, Nadia Nijimbere, Kate Pierce, Chris Pilsner, Leah Tocco, Lisa Schrage

1. **Call to Order and Introductions** – Christy Sherding - @ 7:06 PM Defer PTO Mission Statement, reminder to vote you must be a PTO member. Explained how to become a member of the PTO.
2. **Review of the Previous Minutes** – Sophan Buffa – Motion to pass minutes by Lindy Holloway, seconded by JJ DeRosier.
3. **Treasurer’s Report** – Stephen Justin
 - a. Review Budget and Expenses.
 - b. Overview of Fun Run, funds raised are used to support all items in the budget. Goal is \$30k for the 2022 Fun Run.
 - c. Angel Fund is discussed, explained by Dr. Rheume. The school manages the need privately. If additional funds are needed, the school will coordinate with the PTO for a request.
 - d. Motion to pass the treasurer’s report by Sophan Buffa, seconded by Lindy Holloway
 - e. Trombly PTO funds (~\$633) still on budget after statue and benches were purchased in Spring 2022. Erin Weakland made a motion to merge the Trombly PTO funds to the Defer PTO general fund. Seconded by Lindy Holloway.
 - f. Motion to approve Aug 22nd Treasurer report – Lindy Holloway motioned; JJ DeRosier seconded.
4. **President’s Report** – Christy Sherding – Thank you to volunteers and reminders on how to contact the PTO.
5. **Vice President’s Report** – Sophan Buffa will be attending the GPPSS PTO Council Meetings. First meeting is set for October.
6. **Communications Report** – JJ DeRosier – Social media channels are Facebook and Twitter. PTO information is shared in the weekly meetings sent out by school. You can also reach out to JJ via contact@deferpto.org If you need information shared on social or in the newsletter, please be sure to send prepackaged post (Images/verbiage) and contact JJ ahead of time.
7. **Committee Reports**
 - a. Bounce Back to School (9/16) – Sophan Buffa
 - i. 6 Bounce houses and 4 obstacle courses. Volunteers (parent/Pierce students NJHS) to manage traffic.
 - ii. Popsicle cart (2 lines) will be available to students– vegan, gluten/nut free, sponsored by the PTO
 - b. Fundraising / Fun Run (10/7) – Stacy Hutchcraft – Currently \$13k raised, 71% of students are registered online
 - i. We have received donations from many local business in support of Defer – posts will be coming in social media each week.

- ii. 2 classes already met their class goal! Lots of fun prizes and surprises coming.
 - iii. Volunteers will be needed, a Signup Genius will be coming soon.
 - iv. Question or concerns, please email Deferfunrun@gmail.com signup genius will be coming soon.
- c. Defer Progressive Dinner (10/15) – Lindy Holloway
 - i. Appetizer and Dessert Houses are secured.
 - ii. Dinner house hosts are needed. Food and beverage are provided. Please contact Lindy if you'd like to volunteer.
 - iii. More info coming regarding ticket sales soon.
- d. Haunted Garage (10/28) – Erin Weakland
 - i. Mark calendars for Oct 28th. More information to be shared at Oct meeting and on social media
- e. Spirit Wear – Sophan Buffa – Lots of options, hats, sweatshirts, etc.
 - i. Order via the PTO webpage.
 - ii. Idea shared to start “Spirit Wear Fridays” – Dr Rheume to consider following Fun Run (Nov).
- f. Committee Chairs and Volunteers – Christy Sherding
 - i. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered. If you signed up to chair, we will be reaching out to you (end of September) with a packet filled with information you'll need to execute. Overview of event, volunteers that signed up, lessons learned, etc.
 - ii. Any questions, please come to the PTO with any questions.

8. **Teachers Report** – Jane Nugent

- a. Jane has shared information with all of Defer teaching staff on how to reach out to the PTO for requests.
- b. Thank you for sponsoring teacher lunch and Tuesday treats!

9. **Principal's Report** – Dr. Rheume

- a. Welcome back night was successful. It was wonderful to welcome back students and parents.
- b. Thank you to parents for help with pick up and drop off. We need parents to stay in car, ready to get out of car. It is a **drop and go line only**. Safe cross walk and safe walk to school are all linked in Defer weekly newsletter.
- c. Thank you for the support in the Fun Run. This is our only fundraiser of the year which funds new equipment, technology, books, etc. We greatly appreciate our generous community.
- d. Greenhouse is almost done. More information coming in the next couple weeks.
- e. Sensory library is now in place. This was funded by the PTO in the 2021/22 school year.
- f. Requests
 - i. New birthday books are needed.
 - 1. Sophan to check with Michelle Shalhoub if there are funds remaining from the Scholastic Book Fair.
 - ii. \$500 is requested to support the ‘school store’ where students can spend their ‘Leadership Loot’.
 - 1. Kate Pierce motioned to add \$500 to the school store, Lindy Holloway seconded.

10. **Old Business** - None

11. **New Business**

- a. Instagram – JJ DeRosier proposing starting an Instagram page, making sure photos of kids are not posted. Function would be to communicate events and updates at school. Account would be managed by Communications Secretary. Dr. Rheume suggests checking with Mary Howlett.
 - i. JJ to write up formal request to vote on at the October meeting.
- b. Virtual Meetings – request was made to set up a virtual meeting. We don't currently have the equipment available to manage virtual meetings.
 - i. If you cannot attend a meeting, we can communicate on your behalf, meeting minutes are always posted once approved, on the Defer website.

- ii. Bi laws need to be reviewed and discussed on October agenda around this item.
 - iii. Moving forward – we will have childcare available from NJHS
- c. Cider & Donuts (10/27) – Nicole Luyk has offered to chair the event, with the 3rd grade Brownies.
- i. Event is sponsored by the PTO
 - ii. This is a good leadership and volunteer opportunity for the Girl Scout Troop.
 - iii. Motown Freedom Bakery will be used to provide gluten/nut allergens to make sure all students have safe options.
- d. School Supply Kits – Patrice Arend
- i. We need to decide what to do with the extra kits. PTO agreed to keep the kits and donate to classrooms to use as needed – new students, angel fund, etc. Lindy motioned to fund the additional cost of the kits; Steve seconded. Motion approved.
 - ii. Defer will receive 3% back from sales
- e. Book Buzz – Charlene Williams – Due to the large interest and success of the program, Mr. DeCenso (Defer Librarian) and GPPL are working on taking on this program. They will be looking for parent volunteers. More details to come.

12. Member Comment(s)

- a. In regards to the upcoming School Board Election, PTO will remain neutral. The League of Women Voters is a great place to get information on candidates. Look on their social for their Candidate Forum, scheduled on September 27th at the Brownell Middle School Auditorium.
- b. Skate Night – Lauren Nowicki has suggested an all-school skate night on November 10th at The Great Skate
- c. Kate Pierce – After signing up on the volunteer list, how do we get contacted? Christy will be reaching out with volunteer contacts soon. See 7f above.

13. Adjournment @ 8:28 PM

Next Meeting: October 11th