

Minutes of Discovery PTO General Meeting

Date: March 3, 2025

Location: Discovery Elementary School (Room 26)

PTO Executive Board Present:

Jennifer Crossett
Kathleen Hillenbrand
Dani Nazemian
Kajal Vithalani

Lauren Roenicke
Nicole Collins
Alexis Solis

Others Present:

Julie Morgan
Julie Delaway
Jennifer Ouellet
Jamie Prescott

Jeanine Smith
Brianna Fillmore
General PTO members: 9

*Meeting called to order at 5:31 pm by Jennifer Crossett. Quorum was established.
Dani Nazemian acted as Secretary.*

Introductions & Welcome (Jennifer Crossett)

Jennifer welcomed General PTO members.

Treasurer Update (Kathleen Hillenbrand)

Kathleen provided an update on the budget. After factoring in earnings from Fun Run, we are at \$168,274 raised for next year. Kathleen provided an overview on the STEAM program and intervention specialist roles, which are salaried, funded district employees. Kathleen confirmed that the Board has approved payment for both of these roles, which means the funds for these roles will come out of the PTO budget first. Mrs. Morgan explains the district's process.

Kathleen also provided an update on the Board's approval of ST Math and on the status of the grade level grants, noting that the Board approved a fourth grade request for headphones and books. Kathleen requested that any budget ideas be sent to Kathleen before April 1.

Jennifer raised the idea of a potential student scholarship that could be used for field trips, the yearbook, spirit wear and Monster Bash. The Board will discuss.

Fun Run (Lauren Roenicke)

Lauren reminded all that Fun Run platform remains open for donations. Lauren noted that the event went smoothly from our standpoint and that we will be seeking feedback from teachers and parents. The Board solicited feedback from general PTO members at the meeting:

- Some feedback received re shirts not being the same. The Board acknowledged that the goal for next year is to ask sponsors to try to get everyone a shirt, so that there are no differences between classrooms. Perhaps classrooms could decorate shirts in advance.
- Feedback received re need for additional and earlier communications.
- Paper bracelets for marking laps.
- Suggestion to collect money from room parent at the beginning of the year for class t-shirts, if not covered by sponsors.
- Suggestion to have students wear a white shirt and to use chalk for a color run. Confetti could be used for a separate lane for students with allergies/asthma.

Open Discussions

- Fundraising Ideas:
 - “Happy Birthday” on the marquee, including for half birthdays (for summer birthdays)
 - Sponsoring the library, classrooms
- Inclusion: Tovah Agler addressed the request to add inclusion duties to an executive Board position. The Board confirmed that the Board has approved adding inclusion awareness to the Secretary position (currently held by Dani). Tovah also referenced additional suggestions previously emailed to the Board, including regarding translating the PTO newsletter into Spanish and providing ways for families to sponsor other students. Katie Wade requested that the Board consider using Zoom/similar format for General PTO meetings. Questions were asked, and discussion ensued.

Principal Updates (Julie Morgan)

Ms. Morgan mentioned that the children and staff did a great job at the lockdown. Everyone did what they were supposed to do. The lockdown lasted 50-55 minutes from start to finish.

Meeting adjourned at 6:08 pm by Jennifer Crossett.

Respectfully submitted,



Dani Nazemian

Secretary