

Fulmar Road Elementary School PTO

March 2025 – General Meeting Minutes

Date, Time & Location:

Wednesday, March 19, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.

Board Attendance (in person):

Monica Biundo
Gabby DiNizio
C.J. Umbrino
Victoria Scaglione
Ellen Faulkner
Jess Cipollone
Danielle Vezzuto

Board Attendance (Zoom)

Lauren Doria

Meeting called to order by: Monica Biundo, Co-President

Principal's update given by Principal Chadwick

Thank you to everybody for jumping on tonight. If anyone has anything to add that I've missed, teachers, staff, feel free to chime in. Any parents, if you have any questions at the end, I'd be happy to answer that.

In February, we had Phil Robinson come and present his Birds of Prey Assembly, and that was for grades K-5. Thanks to the PTO for coordinating that, I know the kids enjoyed that. They've watched plenty of videos and books about Birds of Prey but to see them up front, close and in their own school was pretty cool.

Kindergarten

In Kindergarten and First Grade, they also had an author visit, Mike Ciccotello. He spent 45 minutes with two classes at a time, and read one of his books to the children and did a directed drawing of one of his characters from the book, and the children got to hear all about what it's like being an author. Thanks to the PTO.

Seeing the children using their phonics skills in their writing, they're tapping out words and chopping as they write. It's great to see such progress.

In math, we are continuing with addition and subtraction.

The weather has been so nice, the kids are enjoying getting out to play.

Grade 1

They also had the opportunity to see Mike Ciccotello, he shared how he began writing and illustrating books. He showed how to adjust the size of eyes on characters and make a huge difference to show the difference in character's feelings. The kids loved following along with his YouTube channel last week and did their own directed drawings.

Beginning their opinion unit in writing, students will begin to write pieces of their opinion with details and reasons to support their opinion.

In math, they finished up the unit of composite 2D and 3D shapes. We've begun delving deeper into addition. In the current unit the students are learning how to represent and solve addition word problems, continuing to reinforce mat fact fluency with friends of 10s, doubles, near doubles, and facts.

In STEAM, Mrs. Murphy challenged the students to create a strong bridge to hold coins. Students were given playdoh, pipe cleaners, a paper cup, and pennies, the goal was to create the strong bridge to hold the most amount of coins. They were encouraged to analyze, plan, and restructure if needed to improve their design.

Grade 2

In math, they finished up their unit on 3 digit addition this week, and will be beginning a unit on 3 digit subtraction.

In reading, as they grow as readers, their texts get longer, and this week we will explore different strategies to help us keep track of what's going on in our longer books.

In writing, as students write about their opinions of books and characters, they will write longer and more detailed letters, by noticing as many details as they can in their books. They will support their details by gathering evidence from the books.

In science, students will make a model of a land form, and will make a map to show the shapes and kinds of land and water in area and create a riddle to describe the characteristics of land form.

Grade 3

They continue to grow as readers and writers, honing their skills as we read like detectives, pulling information from the text to answer questions about the texts.

In math, they are finishing up the fractions unit, and will begin measuring and data unit. This includes measuring liquid, volume, and mass, telling time to the nearest minute, and elapsed time. We will work with picture graphs and bar graphs.

In social studies, they are finishing up their China unit, including heroic figures, traditions and holidays that make up the culture as they compare it to ours. They will be exploring Brazil next.

In science, they've started their weather unit, and are learning about how weather is tracked. They will represent tables and graphical displays to describe typical weather conditions expected during a particular season.

Grade 4

In math, they have started their fraction unit, and will be focused on equivalent fractions, comparing, ordering, as well as subtracting mixed numbers. Remember to keep strengthening those math facts.

In science, students are about to begin their next unit entitled Waves and Energy, and will build on our previous energy unit. The trout in the classroom will continue to grow and have entered into the final life cycle stage that we will observe in the classroom, known as the Finger Lakes stage. Parents – May 2 will be trout release, so keep an eye out for that permission slip coming home.

In social studies, classes have finished their unit on Early Explorers, and are beginning to learn about colonial times. We had a BOCES member visit out class and explain what life was like for children growing up during the colonial era. They got to play and make colonial toys and the day for colonial day will be shared once finalized.

In ELA, we completed our read aloud novel, "Number of the Stars", the class enjoyed this historical fiction novel. Please ask them to tell you about it. ELA test prep – computer based testing is quickly approaching.

We are excited to announce that the Fourth Grade will be going over to the high school to preview their play, "Annie", on April 3rd.

They are eagerly awaiting our next One Book, One School, which we did all of our recording, so that will kick off next week. We'll be uploading all of our chapters that have read by our staff and also we've invited a number of our Spanish speaking families to come in, so all the chapters will be posted on YouTube and released in both English and Spanish.

Grade 5

The students really enjoyed their trip to Taconic Outdoor Education Center. Mr. Mitchell loved his maple syrup. They were so excited to see and participate in the Birds of Prey presentation.

In ELA, they just finished their non-fiction unit. They are excited to share and read each other's books on Book Creator.

In math, they are finishing up their work on fractions, and adding and subtracting fractions and finishing up multiplying and dividing.

In social studies, they're finishing up their work with European Exploration and the Columbian exchange. They are starting their civil rights unit this month.

In science, they've moved into their last unit of study – Science Matter and Energy in Organism and Ecosystems. They have been working hard and completed all of the lab assignments required to sit for the science test.

They enjoyed their trip to the middle school to preview the middle school musical, with was "Frozen Junior".

They are excited to go back at the end of the month to learn more about music options and selections in the middle school.

That concluded my update, if I've missed anything, feel free to chime in.

President's Report given by Monica Biundo

We'll be doing the Fifth Grade's lawn signs, they will be coming out in about a month to purchase. Also, if you go on our Spirit Wear link, through the Ruffinos Spirit Wear link, there is a class of 2025 shirt that can be purchased for fifth graders.

Treasurer's Report given by Gabby DiNizio

- operating account \$ 95,140.45
- small business account \$ 2,302.06

Activities Treasurer Report given by C.J. Umbrino

•Activities account \$ 42,435.06

Thank you to everybody for submitting your paperwork to get paid for your winter workshops. I'm getting the checks out. Anybody who submitted today, I can drop it off late tomorrow and you will have your check Friday morning before the weekend.

PTO Workshops Report given by Lauren Doria

The workshops went live last week, I hope the new registration process made things a little easier for everyone. Just a reminder, spring workshop registration is open, and it will close next Friday, March 28.

Cultural Enrichment Report given by Victoria Scaglione

Nothing to report. The next thing coming up is that the Second Grade is going to the Maritime Aquarium on April 23.

Recording Secretary Report given by Ellen Faulkner

February 2025 meeting minutes - approved.

Fundraising Report given by Jess Cipollone

We have the auction on Friday, we are very excited about it, it's 90s themed, come dressed in theme if you like, but you definitely don't have to, we just want everybody to have fun.

April 3 – talent show – tickets are on sale now, we are super excited about that. We have a performance by the teachers.

Membership Report given by Danielle Vezzuto

We did receive a couple more memberships with our spring workshops registration. Membership is always open and ongoing.

Yearbooks Report given by Monica Biundo for Jeanine McCarthy

Yearbook sales are still ongoing. Fifth Grade ads were due Monday, but some were not submitted. Once you have that ready, please submit it, and also, buy a yearbook!

Questions/Comments

Mrs. Shea - Workshops – thank you to CJ and Lauren for doing such an excellent job, they're super efficient and really wonderful to work with, and we all appreciate it so much – thank you!

Monica Biundo – the Auction is this week, it will be fun, 90s. Talent Show, April 3, come out and support the kids and teachers, and see them on stage. Mother's Day and Father's Day sales are coming up, lots of opportunity to volunteer, if you are interested in volunteering, it's not too late. Spirit Day is June 20.

CJ Umbrino – Staff Appreciation week is coming up, May 5-9. There is a CheddarUp link, if you looking to donate either monetary donations or beverage donations, anything to show love to the Fular Road teachers would be much appreciated.

AnnMarie Graser – is there a chance to get involved in Spirit Day? Will there be different committees?

Beth Swansen – we will need help for Spirit Day. We will make sure, like for Mother's Day and Father's Day, I will send an email out to everybody that is signed up for the PTO, asking for help in certain situations. I would absolutely love to have some of the younger students' parents come on and start to help, so when the older kids graduate, it works well.

AnnMarie Graser – for events and planning, maybe some outdoor activities, I would love to have more discussions on planning.

Beth Swansen – the planning is Mrs. Fallman and Mrs. Murphy. They take care of all the activities and planning. The PTO helps with the lunches and finding parent volunteers to assist with those activities.

AnnMarie Graser – I'd like more outdoor activities, I can help plan.

Beth Swansen – it's hard with the weather, last year it rained a little and we had to move lunch inside, I can talk to her about that.

AnnMarie Graser – the parents can be involved, there's a lot of different backgrounds and resources

Beth Swansen – thank you

Next Meeting:

5/21/2025 @ 7:00pm

Meeting Adjourned: 7:19 p.m.

Minutes Compiled by: Ellen Faulkner, Recording Secretary