



**Pierce Middle School PTO Meeting Minutes
May 19, 2026 - 7:00 p.m.**

Attendance: Lauren Nowicki, Melissa Orehowsky, Lindy Holloway, Cathy Sonnenberg, Natalja Palubinskas, Linda Pobocik-Insisiengmay, Bethany Derringer, Charlene Williams, Lakeytria Felder, Alex Fluegel, Molly Czoykowski, Sara Dirkse

1. Call to Order – Lauren Nowicki
 - a. Meeting called to order at 7:05 PM
2. Member Presentations – none
3. Secretary's Report / Approval of Minutes – Melissa Orehowsky
 - a. Motion to approve minutes by Melissa Orehowsky and second by Lindy Holloway. Approved
4. Treasurer's Report – Emily Smock / Natalja Palubinskas
 - a. Please send all requests/submissions to: treasurer@piercepto.org
 - b. Spirit wear order budget currently at \$1326 and budget is \$1000. There is another \$393 invoice to prepare for incoming 5th Grade Spirit Wear demand.
 - i. Need to determine an inventory and what vendors/setup and potential expenses moving into next year.
 - ii. Lindy motions to increase budget to \$1750. Melissa Orehowsky second motion. Approved.
 - c. Need to add the Teacher Holiday Party \$600 and Conferences \$349.48 – missing some items for April that are not on the ledger. Also need to clarify the update for the new playground equipment, initial budget for the PTO was \$31,250 but this needs to be updated/voted on to reduce with grants received.
 - i. Playground detail for overall funding:
 1. Projected \$69,772.50 for playground equipment. Generous donations provided by the following:
 - a. Grosse Pointe Foundation \$10,000.
 - b. Wilson Grant \$15,000.
 - c. STEAM Foundation is \$20,000

- d. PTO will cover remaining \$24,772.50
 - ii. Plan to update the budget to reflect changes prior voting on budget presented.
- 5. President's Report – Lauren Nowicki
 - a. Mother's Club at Grosse Pointe South is looking for members
 - b. Thank you for your time this year!
- 6. Vice President Report – Bethany Derringer
 - a. PTO Counsel:
 - i. Grosse Pointe Parent Advisory Council went well - looking forward to next year!
- 7. Committee Reports
 - a. Communications – Lindy Holloway
 - i. Sending out update for newsletter tomorrow, please send any information.
 - ii. If children have accomplishments, please feel free to share with school so those students can be recognized!
 - b. Membership – TBD
 - i. Need someone to take this over next year!
 - c. Fun Run – Emily Simaika and Sarah Vendittelli (continuing next year!)
 - i. Tentative date October 2nd (TBD)
 - d. Hospitality – Christy Sherding
 - i. No update
 - e. School Board Observer – Lakeytria Felder (staying as chair)
 - i. Destination Imagination & Pierce Botmasterz received grants from GP Foundation for Public Education
 - ii. Pierce teacher Andrea Doherty appointed as Pierce Assistant Principal
 - iii. Erica Shovein appointed as Executive Director for Student Services (Special Education)
 - iv. Next GP Parent Advisory Committee for Special Education is 5/20 at 6pm
 - Next School Board Meeting is Monday, June 9th at 7pm | Brownell
 - f. Spirit Wear – Kim Nyenhuis (Linda Pobocik-Insisiengmay chairing in 2026-2027)
 - i. No updates.
 - g. Lunch Volunteers – Priscilla Barczyk (staying as chair)
 - i. No new updates
 - h. Trojan Trolley – Lauren Nowicki (staying as chair)
 - i. Restocked for end of year
 - i. Book Fair – Margaret Nelson (Linda Pobocik-Insisiengmay plan to chair)

- i. No updates – need someone to take over this role!
- j. International Festival / Diversity: Michelle Shalhoub (need a chair for this)
 - i. Combining the two positions into one position
- k. Progressive Dinner – Lindy Holloway (continue to chair next year)
 - i. September 26th is tentative save the date
- l. Diversity Chair – Alex Fluegel (plan to combine role with International Festival)
 - i. No new updates
- m. Skate Night – Lauren Nowicki (continue to chair next year)
 - i. Plan to do again with Brownell
- n. Restaurant Nights – Brooke Macuga (Rhea Young to chair next year)
 - i. No new update
- o. Environmental Education Committee – Linda Pobocik-Insisiengmay (staying as chair)
 - i. Nursery purchase \$450 of natives, planted in front for the 8th Grade Celebration and rest of plants delayed with the weather. Plan to plant with the Green Team this Thursday!
 - ii. June 2nd is the Belle Isle Nature Center Field Trip, weather permitting and meet the minimum of 10-12 student threshold trip will occur.
 - iii. Need information on pesticide
- p. Principal's Report – Sara Dirkse
 - i. Rising 5th Graders coming in Wednesday May 27th to tour the school. 137 anticipated and planning to 5 sections (this is subject to change based on enrollment)
 - ii. South Link Crew Leaders – coming to visit and answer 8th Grade questions
 - iii. Choir Concert tomorrow night and Band Concert following week
 - iv. Field trips start next week – 7th grade is Mud Hens and 8th Grade is Holocaust Museum
 - v. New assistant principal approved – internal candidate! 68 applicants for the position with 24 people part of the interview committees.
 - vi. Check lost and found for missing items!
 - vii. Anticipate end of June for playground construction to be complete before start of the school year.
 - viii. Funding Request: Signage for athletics at the back doors at the gym

1. \$1634.22 is the cost. Request is \$634.22 is requested as additional for principal fund. Motion to request to increase by \$635 to fund for a total of \$1635 by Melissa Orehowsky and second by Lindy Holloway. Motion approved.
 2. End of year lunch is budgeted so can potentially do – last year the budget was rolled into this year’s budget. Will need to increase as there is no funds left under Teacher Staff Support (\$1275). Increased total to \$2550 by Melissa Orehowsky and second by Lindy Holloway. Motion approved.
- ix. Frame messages will come out of the \$655 PBIS budget.
 - q. Teacher Representative Report – Cathy Sonnenberg
 - i. Teacher Appreciation Week went well! Stranger Things theme
 - r. Board Vote
 - i. Lauren Nowicki – President
 - ii. Bethany Derringer– VP
 - iii. Emily Smock – Treasurer
 - iv. Lauren Wheatley – Assistant Treasurer
 - v. Molly Czoykowski – SecretaryCharlene Williams motion and Lindy Holloway second motion for new board appointees. Motion approved.
 - s. Old Business / New Business
 - i. Save Date:
 1. Ice Cream Social: Thursday, May 28th 6 – 7:30 PM
 - ii. Potentially welcome new families incoming into the school, providing a point of contact or post more details on upcoming events to those newer to area/district.
 - t. Adjournment
 - i. Meeting adjourned at 8:09 PM