

**Ann Arbor PTO Council Membership Meeting**  
*Welcoming All with Respect, Compassion, and Integrity*

April 22, 7:00-8:30 pm

THIS MONTH IS:

Arab American Heritage Month

Limb Difference Month

First night of Passover - Sorry!

**Please sign in on the [Attendance Sheet](#)**

**Start 7 pm MAKE SURE TO RECORD**

PTOC Rep TO DO:

- Share about fundraiser - let us know if ideas for partnerships or circulating. Ensure your school is sharing in weekly communications, if possible
- Share information about the May 11 7 pm AFC Ann Arbor Game
- Follow AAEA on facebook and instagram and encourage others to do so as well
- Consider running for executive board
- Consider Equity Advisor position as you fill your boards for next year
- Make sure dues are paid to be able to vote.

1. 7:00 - 7:10 Welcome and announcements, fundraiser updates
  - a. Current total for fundraiser is \$10,704 much lower than our total last year. We need help sharing the word! Title I schools need our help
2. 7:10 - 7:20 Reflection, building joy and community
  - a. Helen expressed concerns about a lack of understanding among trustees regarding important issues such as teacher salaries and childcare, which she believed were crucial for retaining staff. She also appreciated the value of community discussions and wished for more such direct communication. Jordan shared his hope for more financial detail to be provided in the upcoming meeting. She also announced an exciting partnership with a local soccer team, AFC Ann Arbor, with the aim to promote equity and share goals. Jordan encouraged members to share the news in community groups to support the fundraiser and strengthen the connection with the community.
3. 7:20 - 7:45 Elevating teacher and student voices during this time

- a. Supporting the AAEA - Sarah Anton, Co-Chair of the AAEA Action team, spoke about the importance of open dialogue with parents and teachers to improve school conditions for children. She encouraged members to sign an open letter, which has already received over 2,000 signatures, and to engage parents and caregivers in upcoming Board of Education meetings. Sarah also shared a Board of Education toolkit, created by the team, to help members understand the process of speaking at board meetings and submitting commentary. Finally, she mentioned the team's plans to launch a storefront for the newly-requested "We Are One" T-shirts, promising that the group will be the first to know when this becomes available.
  - b. Sarah discussed the upcoming actions, including attending a PTO, FC, Ann Arbor football game, and the intention to build more support among parents and teachers. She also mentioned that teachers in Ann Arbor have had pay freezes for years and the team is working on a plan to attract good talent. Becca brought up the issue of providing more detailed suggestions to the board, which Sarah confirmed is still in discussion. Jordan then asked for ideas on how the community could offer more help in schools and suggested forming a subcommittee to funnel requests. She also highlighted an upcoming advocacy day and encouraged everyone to sign up or write letters in support of the school budget.
4. 7:45 - 7:55 What are your plans for teacher appreciation?
  - a. Jordan highlighted the new approach for the year, which involved collaborating closely with the principal to distribute activities throughout the year. Lydia shared the implementation of an idea from the Google Group email list at Carpenter, which included the use of gift cards and parent-provided treats. Hallie then discussed the staff and teacher appreciation week at Dickin, which included Venmo gift cards, chalk art, and a lunch. Lastly, Jordan acknowledged the efforts of other schools, including Eber White and Pathways, and expressed gratitude towards the community's support.
5. 7:55 - 8:05 Executive Board slate discussion
  - a. Jordan discussed the need for the PTO council to fill executive board roles, with a deadline set for April 30, and the final slate to be published between April 30 and May 5. She encouraged members to nominate suitable individuals, especially those interested in the treasurer role, and emphasized that dual roles were possible.
6. 8:05 - 8:25 SEL Curriculum Presentation
  - a. Bill emphasized the importance of social-emotional learning (SEL) in response to growing research and state recognition in 2017. He discussed how SEL curricula were developed during the pandemic by ad hoc groups,

including social workers, psychologists, and counselors, leading to a consensus on the importance of student wellbeing. Bill and others established a multi-tier system of support, focusing on the social and emotional aspects of student wellbeing. He defined SEL as a process that equips individuals with skills, knowledge, and attitudes to manage their emotions and build relationships, stressing the significance of self-awareness, self-regulation, social awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision-making as key competencies. Bill underlined the need to consider the broader context, including the classroom, school, family, and community, when teaching SEL.

7. 8:25 - 8:30 Closing thoughts
8. Next meeting is May 20 at 7pm on zoom: we will have an end of the year wrap up and executive board vote.
9. Adjourn – **8:30**

**Need to reach members of the board?**

PTOC Chairs can be reached at: [PTOCchairs@gmail.com](mailto:PTOCchairs@gmail.com)

PTOC Treasurer can be reached at: [PTOCtreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:PTOCtreasurer@gmail.com)

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