



Rutherford Elementary PTA Meeting
Tuesday December 2, 2025 at 6:00pm
Recorded by: Lisa Tschida

Call to Order The meeting was called to order at 6:03pm

Welcome & Introductions

Kate Berg, Stacy Rassel, Kaira Bettin, Jamie Jansen, Stephanie Tack, Emily Garness, Lisa Tschida, Jennie Hoogheem, Celine Louwers, Jen Pilsch, Jenny McCormick, Scott Sirek

Presidents Updates

- Approval of the November minutes, motion passed
- We will have 3-4 open PTA positions next year, we need to have a Chair/Co-chair/President in place June 1, otherwise all of the money in our account is forfeited to MN PTA.

Treasurer's Report- As of end of November 2025:

- YTD Funds spent \$27,844 which is 32% of the \$87,000 2025-2026 budget
 - \$11,938 Staff & School Support
 - \$9,119 Community Enrichment
 - \$5,458 Fundraising Efforts
 - \$1,328 PTA Operations
- YTD Funds raised- \$30,911 which is 49% of our \$64,000 goal
 - \$28,311 Fundraising Events
 - \$1,000 Sponsorships
 - \$1,050 Program Support
 - \$549 PTA Membership Dues

Committee Updates

- **Grants**
- **Yearbook**
 - Nicole is leading this
 - 5th grade class picked the cover
 - 91 have been sold so far
 - Looking into options for families that did not get school photos due to not attending RSG and not knowing about re-take day

- **Staff Appreciation**
 - Bethany continues to do an amazing job

Old Business

- **Outdoor Learning Space** - bricks/pavers were installed, the space is complete. Some classes used the space this past fall, but will be great to see it in use this spring
- **Book Fair** - Was successful, moved the sip n shop to earlier in the week and only complaint from teachers that shopped later in the week was that there was not a lot of selection left, will need to evaluate any changes that we want to make to schedule or length of fair for next year
- **Sip N Shop**- Great turnout this year!
- **Art Gallery**- This was a new event this year, we had great participation from students

New Business

- Open Gym- Another new event this year, Friday, December 12 from 6–8 PM in the Blue Gym
- We need to vote on how much money we want to contribute to replacing the sound system in the gym. The PTA has a significant rollover fund to spend and the board wants to spend this back at the school. The district said a new sound system will be \$36,000.
 - Kate- motion to approve \$25,000 donation, Kaira- second motion
 - All in favor: Jen Pilsch, Stacy, Jennie Hoogheem, Kaira Bettin, Kate Berg, Aimee, Celine Louwers, Stephanie Tack
 - Motion passed. PTA will subsidize up to \$25,000 but final amount will be determined after the district provides their contribution amount.

Scott Sirek- Science Teacher

Been in the district about 20 years, I love science, I have truly enjoyed being at Rutherford. Its a new experience for me. This is a brand new curriculum for me. We are doing K-1 same, 2-3 same, 4-5 same and then next year will switch. Much easier to teach 3 vs 6 different experiences. I'm starting to play with expanding using drones and microprocessors.

Kaira- do you have a helper or assistant? We do have someone, Sonja, that comes over for 2 1st grade sessions per week but not sure how long that will continue. She takes a class so that I can do more prep work

Kate- how can we help you with prep work? Can we get a rotating parent volunteer sign up going to help you with this? I think long term, there will be pieces that I could use the help. Could use 3-8 volunteers now. In the past with parent volunteers, I have used parent expertise. Are there families or parents that have experience in certain areas? They can come in and share their knowledge, for example the water unit, is there a parent that works in water quality or management? I am just getting things started and figured out, but can definitely use volunteers now with the sorting.

Jen- what is the curriculum? It's the Smithsonian. We are doing things at K-1 that evolve, its exploratory and hands-on.

Scott- thank you to you guys at a group, you all came in out the gate being supportive. The zip-loc bags and totes, they have really helped with being prepped and saving time. The

refrigerator was another big item that the PTA provided and being able to have that creates many efficiencies and saves so much time for actual teaching. I have a couple kiddos that come in and help with the plants that were purchased using PTA dollars, we had a kiddo that was a bit off and came in and helped with the plants and became refocused.

Adjourn 7:01pm