March 2026 Whitney Elementary PTA Meeting

Date: March 5, 2026

Time: 6:01

Attendance: 28

Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance

1. Guest Speaker - Foundation for the Future
    a. Dan Faust reviewed the Foundation for the Future plans for elementary schools in Strongsville.
    b. Disclosure: This is only informational material that is factual.
    c. Mr. Faust reviewed the PowerPoint.
    d. The plan and FAQS pamphlet were passed out can be found here.
    e. Review this website: https://www.scsmustangs.org/our-district/master-facilities
    f. Community Events will also be happening over the next month or reach out to any principals, Dr. Ryba or School Board. Contact Information is available at scsmustangs.org.
        i. Building Tours where each elementary school will be open so that the community can see the challenges that we are facing.
    g. High-Level Issues:
        i. Space issues for many of our schools
        ii. Accessibility limitations and requirements
        iii. Age, wear and tear, maintenance
    h. High Level Plan Information:
        i. Third party vendors were used to determine growth and capacity.
    i. Options:
        i. Multiple options were reviewed (three vs four school options).
        ii. Plan that was landed represents the greatest consolidation but also to take traffic, site views, neighborhood capacity etc. into account.
    j. Renovation vs Replace:
        i. Per the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission when renovation exceeds more than 67% replacement cost, replacement is recommended.
            1. Chapman: 74%
            2. Surrarrer: 74%
            3. Muraski: 77%
            4. Whitney: 83%

k. Ballot Issue:
    i. 3 new construction K-5 schools at Albion, Chapman, and Surrarrer properties with approximately 700 students each
    ii. Renovation and expansion of Muraski as a centralized preschool unifying the preschool classrooms at Lunn Road and Chapman ES.
    iii. Renovation of Kisner Elementary
        1. Will accommodate approximately 500 students.
l. Bond Issue Overview:
    i. $147,650,000 school improvement bond issue which is 10.5 million reductions in Bond request due to strong financial stewardship.
    ii. Estimated millage: 3.43 mills.
    iii. Approximate Cost: $120 per $100,000 of appraised property value annually ($1 a day)
    iv. Repayment period is 36 years.
    v. Bond funds will be restricted to construction, renovation, site work, and infrastructure. It cannot be used for salaries, supplies, or operating expenses.
m. Questions:
    i. What is the current enrollment for K-5? Approximately 3,000 Projected: Next ten years for all grades is approximately 6500 (current all grades: 5600)
    ii. What is going to happen to Whitney? Whitney will be demolished and abated. The school will be maintaining this site and plans for it to be used for the youth/sports. The Whitney site will stay under ownership of SCS. Most likely will be used for youth practice fields. Any sort of repurpose of the actual school is not in the plans. Upkeep will be maintained by the school district.
    iii. What about the administration building? The current location has a longer lifespan than Whitney. The administrative offices will stay there for the near future.
    iv. Technology: Any technology that can be moved and has a usable life will be used at the new school, not thrown away.
    v. If the bond fails what is plan b? Address why the bond failed and then adjust where necessary. If it were the plan, they would look at the plan, if it's the dollars, they will look at that.
    vi. Will operational costs on new buildings be lower than the current operational costs? Yes, they will.

2. Secretary – Kris Nadjem
    a. February 2026 Summary: Discussed upcoming leadership transitions, reviewed committee fund balances, and clarified district guidelines for grants and high-value donations with more coming on that soon. Discussed reallocating funds to support 5th Grade Recognition and confirmed that remaining committee funds and the goal of Read-a-thon is to help cover the digital sign. Updates were shared on school activities, safety drills, community outreach, and on upcoming and past events which included the Book Fair, Carnival, and Read-a-thon. New business focused on forming the nominating committee and the committee chair Signup Genius.
    b. Approval of Minutes from February
        i. Motion 1: Jackie Steffy
        ii. Motion 2: Michele Molls
3. Treasurer's Report – Molly Sunkle
    a. Copies were passed out of the budget that included February expenses, pending expenses and income.
    b. Anything in yellow was moved around to account for the sign.
    c. Any questions: none
4. Principal's Report- Mrs. Hawk
    a. No news.
5. President's Report- Bethany Bixler
    a. Thank you cards for conference dinners.
    b. Thank you for founders' day.
    c. President meeting: Jason Keppler, athletic director, looking for sponsorships for new turf for the middle school and high school.
        i. $100-300 over the next five years think about moving forward. PTA unit would be recognized in the
6. Vice President- Carol Boyd
    a. Final Meeting location (May): Looking into various locations. TBD. Carol is working on it. 😊
    b. Do we need to increase budget for next year? Or change process?
7. Teacher Representative – Mrs. Barrett and Mrs. Bova
    a. Thank you for conference dinners.
    b. Mustang Sidekicks was held last month, kids really enjoyed it.
        i. Will be held once a month.
    c. Mrs. Trimper is making the announcements for Read-a-thon.
8. Council Delegate- Jackie Steffy & Michele Molls

a. Guest Speaker was about the school plan.
b. Turf: it is already allotted for and the turf only lasts ten years. It will be good for special needs kids because they can use it for different activities. Opens more opportunities for them. Marching band too. There is currently lots of drainage problems. Turf is better for concussions.
c. DARE dance for 6-8 May 1. 5th grade May 8
d. Dare skating April 2nd.
e. Safety Town registration opens May 23.
f. Mrs. Fadenholtz won our T in PTA. Will be recognized at the May lunch-in. (Mrs. Fadenholtz says thank you, she feels truly honored and gives credit to Whitney)

9. Standing Committee Reports
    a. Fundraising (Mums, Stoller, & Spirit Wear) - Amanda D, Michele, Molly
        i. No updated news
    ~~b. Fall Festival - Michele Molls, Amanda Williams, Debbie Tomoff~~
    c. Book Fair - Laurel Rich & Debbie Tomoff
        i. Next week, all volunteer spots are filled.
    d. 5th Grade Recognition - Meredith Deguire & Michele Molls
        i. No updated news
    e. Hospitality Chair -Molly Sunkle & Carol Boyd (Conferences)
        i. No updated news
    ~~f. Membership - Amanda Williams & Sharmila Samaroo~~
    g. Birthday Book Club - Carla Gamin & Orysia Hartman
        i. No updated news
    h. Grants- Kris Nadjem & Carol Boyd
        i. No updated news
    ~~i. Carnival - Laura Van Vechten & Jackie Steffy~~
    j. School Assemblies - Michele Molls
        i. April 2nd Scientist is coming!
    k. Family Breakfast with a Buddy- Desiree Causevic & Amanda Williams
        i. It's done. Well under budget from cash and food donations.
    l. Read-a-thon - Molly Sunkle & Bethany Bixler
        i. Middle of a little over $3,000 with one more week.
        ii. Prizes went out yesterday and they will go out again.
    ~~m. Holiday Shop – Bethany Bixler & Barb Major~~
    ~~n. Homecoming Parade – Michele Molls & Laura VanVechten~~
    o. Room Parent – Meredith DeGuire & Michele Molls
        i. No updated news

p. Pizza / Restaurant Night Coordinator - Molly Sunkle & Desire
    i. Marcos White Box Night: smooth, everyone listened to the directions.
    ii. We raised $752.23.
    iii. Chik Fila is 3/26/26 with a spirit day: wear cow print and red. Rally at the restaurant 5-7 but the fundraiser is all day.
q. Yearbook/Historian- Desiree Causevic & Julie Montemarano
    i. Meeting next week to put together.
    ii. Issues with Lifetouch subject. That is chosen by the district.
    iii. Winners for cover were announced.
r. Staff Appreciation (May) - Samantha Kolakowski, Laurel Rich, Carol Boyd
    i. Meeting Monday to finalize plans.
    ii. Laurel's company is going to donate.
~~s. Kindergarten Orientation- Amanda Williams & Sharmila Samroo~~
t. PBIS Initiative Support - Molly Sunkle
    i. No updated news
u. Newsletter - Desiree Causevic
    i. No updated news
~~v. Mother/Son & Daddy/Daughter Events - Laurel Rich & Vineet~~
w. Family Science Night (grade 3-5) Molly Sunkle & Jackie Steffy
    i. April 22nd.
    ii. School board, custodians, and council man will be judges.
x. Family Fun Nights - Molly Sunkle & Laura VanVechten
    i. Bingo March 19, crumble cookie fundraiser possibility.

10. Unfinished Business:
    a. Pavilion dedication is set from April 22
11. New Business:
    a. Nominating Committee – Slate
        a. See below.
    b. Committee Chair Sign up Genius
12. Announcements:
    a. Volunteer Hours - Google Form
    b. Shelter Dedication at 4/22/26 5:30 with the Science Fair.
    c. Last Meeting - April 2, 2026, End of Year business / Elections

Adjournment Time: 7:29

Proposed board for 2026-2027 school year:

President: Molly Sunkle

VP1: Carol Boyd

Treasurer: Laurel Rich

Secretary: Amanda Williams

Council Delegate: Jackie Steffy

Council Delegate Alternate: Bethany Bixlar

Members voting for board positions will be at the April 2026 meeting.