



DOUGLAS
ELEMENTARY

Douglas Elementary PTO Meeting Minutes

March 12, 2026 DES Media Center 8:30am

Board Members: Raechel Hardin, President/Becky Starring, Vice President/Renee Russell, Treasurer/Alison Mixan, Secretary/Deb Wall, Member-at-Large/Michaelle Gust, DES Principa1

Others in Attendance: 3

Board Members not present: Deb Wall

I. President's Update (Raechel Hardin)

- A. The meeting was called to order by Raechel Hardin at 8:30am. March's minutes were approved by the board via email and posted on the DES PTO website.
- B. An at-large board position is still open. We also need leadership for the book fair and walkathon.
- C. Raechel suggested the Holland roller rink as a potential PBIS reward or as a walkathon incentive.
- D. Raechel proposed using Miri Kakon, a DES parent, for walk-a-thon t-shirts and other merchandise. Miri said she could match the pricing from prior years. Raechel plans to talk to Birdie Holley about using Superior Sports for middle/high school t-shirts. Michaelle liked the idea of creating flags with the DES logo. We can also consider Miri for making Saugatuck/DES merchandise to sell at back-to-school night and conferences.

II. Principal's Update (Michaelle Gust)

- A. Michaelle provided dates for upcoming events/activities.
 - 1. The Mountainfilm on Tour is coming up. 3rd-5th grades will attend on Wednesday, March 18th and TK-2nd will attend on Thursday, March 19th.
 - 2. There will be no school on Friday, March 20th.
 - 3. Spring Break is April 3rd-April 12th.
 - 4. April 22nd is Admin Assistant Day.
 - 5. Eloquence Day is on Thursday, April 23rd.

III. Treasurer's Update (Renee Russell)

- A. Renee provided two treasurer's reports, one for the year-to-date and the other for the month of February. All spending continues to be on track relative to our budget.
- B. Renee recommended adding a May meeting and a June financial update since we still have financial transactions during those months.
- C. With each month's minutes, Raechel advised uploading a copy of the year-to-date budget on the DES PTO website.

IV. Teacher's Report (Alaina Hale/Nicole Robb)

- A. No updates as of now.

V. Committee Reports

- A. Garden Committee (Dana Phillips)**



1. A garden cleanup to prep for spring will take place on April 17th from 9am-11am.

B. Family Dance (Kelli Bowman and Joelle Sanger)

1. The date and final details have been confirmed with Kim Sharda.
2. Decorations have been finalized and will be ordered. A Signup Genius will be sent in the next week for volunteers.

C. March is Reading Month (Amy McKee/Meaghan Kelley/Amanda Frank)

1. March is Reading Month is in full swing! There are lots of activities promoting reading that have kept the students engaged.
 - a. Each classroom is participating in “Get Your PAWS on a Good Book” where they can earn tennis balls, Once the contest ends, a tennis ball with a teacher’s name on it will be “selected” by a real dog to earn a class prize.
 - b. Steve Tamayo, a local balloon artist and DES parent, will be coming in to make balloon dogs for the younger grades and teach the upper grades how to make balloon dogs.
 - c. Meaghan and Amy noted that the doodle artist was fantastic and did a great job adapting her presentation to the different grade levels.
 - d. The donation drive to support PAWS with a Cause and Wishbone is underway. Students have been bringing in requested items from the list sent home. Two teams of dogs from PAWS with a Cause have visited, and owners of leader dogs will be visiting to explain how their dogs help humans.
 - e. Each grade level is doing a special project connected to this year’s reading month theme with the Vanderbeeks, the visiting artists.
2. Meaghan and Amy noted their expenses will be coming in under budget.

D. Screen-Free Week (Leah Root)

1. The Color Run is scheduled for Friday, May 8th beginning at 5:30pm at Schultz Park. Paperwork has been submitted to the City of Douglas to reserve the field.
2. Leah is currently doing an inventory of what she will need for the event.
3. She plans to make a bingo game for incentives. We can check the PTO closet to see if there are any extra items that Leah can use as prizes.

E. Eloquence Day (Karen Kerridge/Lisa Diaz)

1. Everything is on track. Food donations have been received, and invitations will be going out by the end of March.

VI. Additional Comments (None)

Meeting adjourned at 9:24 am Minutes compiled by Alison Mixan, Secretary