

PTO Elm Creek Elementary Parent Teacher Organization (ECE PTO)
General Meeting
April 8th, 2025, 6:30pm
Elm Creek Elementary Media Center

Elm Creek Elementary



Helping Our Students Soar!

Agenda

Welcome and Call to Order-2024-25 PTO President, Bao Vang

- ☐ Ice Breaker: What is your favorite sign of spring OR what TV show series would you recommend?

PTO Board Officers Reports

- **President's Report**, Bao Vang

- ☐ Criminal Case Update - April 28, 11:00am PSI - look at mortgage, how much she spends, etc. to see how much she needs to pay per month (will be a long time). New offer was sent friday - 60 days WH, 5 years probation (21 mos if violation), and retribution. If we do go to trial, ADA estimates will be April 30. Should know week before 28th. Co-attorney does think she will take a plea to avoid long sentence.
- ☐ Update Baldwin Mascot - Board wants to update the costume. Anyone have connections? If not, the board will look for something to buy.
- ☐ Secretary Position Update - Charles resigned. Open if anyone wants to fill in for the rest of the year. Anyone know anyone who might be interested?

- **Vice President's Report**, Sarah Grenfell

- ☐ Elections: PTO Positions for 25/26 School Year - See "Elections" addendum - Board was made aware that we didn't follow bylaws when voting last month, also staff without a student in school can't be a committee director.

- President - Kathleen Petersen
- VP - Nicole Hurt
- Treasurer - Michael Taube
- Apex - Gina Moore
- Harvest Bingo - Sarah Grenfell and Jillisa Kraetz
- Book fair - Jillisa Kraetz
- Hospitality - Angela Carney
- Comms - Heidi Janssen
- Holiday Shop - Taylor Vernstrom
- Carnival - Megan Dischinger
- Family Dance - Renae Osorio

- ☐ Committee Director Appreciation - Dinner is cancelled because people were uncomfortable with using PTO money for a dinner. Board is grateful for committee directors and wants them to feel appreciated. See "Appreciation Speech" addendum for what was shared at the meeting.
- ☐ PTO Event Payment Options Survey Results - only 81 responses. Majority want cash, followed by Venmo. Katie noted godaddy/square account already exists because of the website.

Gina asked about recruiting. Ideas started flowing about grade level liaisons, letting people know kids are welcome, preschool parents being involved, translating notes, etc.

- ☐ **Treasurer's Report**, Michael Taube (Bao Vang presenting)
 - ☐ Monthly activity and Treasurer's reports See budget packet. Bao pointed out correction, Sarah noted they will correct it (bullet #1 under expenses) before minutes go out.
 - ☐ Budget Amendments - See "Budget - Draft Amendments" addendum -
 - ☐ Voted yay on carnival change. Gina asked questions about Apex budget/income being realistic given economic climate.
 - ☐ Voted yay on scholastic carnival change
 - ☐ Voted yay on increase for dare tshirts increase
 - ☐ Voted yay on increase for Camp Baldwin
 - ☐ Voted yay on increase for staff appreciation week
 - ☐ Voted yay on increase for Tax filing late penalty
 - ☐ Tax filing status
 - ☐ Asking for forgiveness for the potential late penalty
 - ☐ Taxes are not yet officially filed. More TBD
 - ☐ Audit
 - ☐ Open to being audited if anyone would like to audit the PTO

Committee Director Reports

- ☐ Book Fair: Jillisa Kraetz
 - ☐ During the day- ewallets are essential
 - ☐ Families that still have money in their ewallets will be notified
 - ☐ PTO doesn't make money from this one because it's BOGO
- ☐ Hospitality: Angela Carney
 - ☐ Looking for staff appreciation shout outs from the kiddos
 - ☐ Getting the word out that staff appreciation happens to EC parents
- ☐ Dine to Donate: Mark Herbert
 - ☐ Culvers possibility
- ☐ Carnival: Megan Dischinger

Ness' Notes, Beth Ness

- ☐ EC PTO Meeting PPT - April

Upcoming Events

- ☐ Kindergarten Orientation - April 22, 5pm in gym/kindergarten rooms
- ☐ BOGO Book Fair - May 1-2, during the school day in media center
- ☐ Staff Appreciation Week - May 6-9
- ☐ Carnival - May 9, 6pm
- ☐ PTO General Meeting - May 13, 6:30pm in media center

Adjournment

Elections - Open Positions and Nominees

- **PTO Board**

- ☐ President
 - Kathleen Petersen
- ☐ Vice President
 - Nicole Hurt
- ☐ Treasurer
 - Michael Taube
- ☐ Secretary
 - Voting in May

- **Committee Directors**

- ☐ APEX
 - Gina Morris
- ☐ Harvest Bingo
 - Sarah Grenfell (co-chair Jillisa Kraetz)
- ☐ Book Fair (Fall, Winter, BOGO)
 - Jillisa Kraetz
- ☐ Hospitality
 - Angela Carney
- ☐ Communications
 - Heidi Janssen
- ☐ Holiday Shoppe
 - Taylor Vernstrom
- ☐ Family Dance
 - Rensae Osorio
 - Katie Brand
- ☐ Carnival
 - Megan Dischinger
- ☐ Dine to Donate
 - Open

Appreciation Speech

I want to discuss the committee director appreciation dinner. The board decided to cancel based on the feedback that we heard and the amount of people that rsvp'd. As many of you are aware, the feedback we received mentioned that using PTO dollars for a dinner to appreciate the work this group does made them feel uncomfortable. I wanted to explain that I can understand this discomfort. This PTO went through several years of someone stealing from the PTO for personal use without anyone knowing. Regardless of what happens with the criminal case - this crime happened to this school and community and has left a wound. It makes sense as a response to be extra cautious about what any money is used for. This feedback made me feel like people felt the board was trying to be corrupt by trying to show appreciation. The board is here for the community and showed that we listened to the membership and cancelled the dinner due to this even though our intention was positive.

I was speaking with Angela about staff appreciation and we all know how she speaks so highly of the teachers and staff at the school. How much work they all do to provide a great experience for our school. The impact they have on the kids and how they deserve the world; we can't thank them enough. When I listened, all I could hear was her describing all of the committee directors too. I've had the privilege to work with all of you this year and got to see the huge amount of work I had no idea you all did to put on each event. You also volunteer your time to put together what I would say easily connects the kids, school, and community together. This group is the extra magic of the year and what helps give so much back to the school through the funds we help raise. You all are memory makers - who doesn't remember one event from when you went to school that wasn't hosted by the PTO. I know I loved book fairs and one year my family won a giant salted nut roll at the carnival that we had to cut up and give away to neighbors for what felt like weeks. These memories are because of the work of people like you.



The PTO pays for principal appreciation (who gets a whole month to celebrate - deservedly), the PTO pays for staff appreciation (who gets a whole week of special love showered upon them), the PTO pays for general volunteer appreciation (which Joelle helps lead), and in my opinion the PTO committee directors deserve one dinner to say thank you to you. For reference \$500 is less than 1% of the income from the PTO. You all are worthy of so much more than 1%.

I'm not asking for anyone to have a change of heart this year. I simply ask that everyone take a moment and be open to the idea that just because something awful happened doesn't mean that everyone is awful after. I hope the PTO can heal from what happened and open their hearts to understand that appreciation is a healthy part of recognizing the work people do. If the community knew the work you all did I know they would easily approve 1 dinner of thanks.

I hope over the next year the PTO has an opportunity to grow closer together in a way we weren't able to accomplish this year. I sincerely appreciate all of you and the board sees you and thanks you for all of the work each and every one of you did or will do this year. We are lucky to have you.

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Elm Creek Elementary PTO 2024-2025 Budget				
Elm Creek Elementary				
				
				
	Budget Income	Budget Expense	Notes	Funds Type
Other Expenses				
Insurance	\$ -	\$ 799.00		Cash
Gmail Accounts	\$ -	\$ 1,020.00	\$12 / address (7) / month + \$12 yearly domain registration	Cash
Website	\$ -	\$ 263.88		Cash
Cleaning Baldwin	\$ -	\$ 400.00		Cash
General operating supplies	\$ -	\$ 100.00	Cash box, PTO mtg signs	Cash
Snacks for PTO General Meetings	\$ -	\$ 450.00	Bottled water, chips, popcorn, etc. ~\$50 / meeting	Cash
Financial Software	\$ -	\$ 80.00	QuickBooks Online Plus, 1-Year Subscription, 5 Users	Cash
Tax Filing Late Penalty	\$ -	\$ 5,500.00	Proposed Amendment: Taxes, form 990-EZ and associated schedules, were due to be filed by 12/15/2024 (15th day of 5th month after accounting period end which was 7/31/2024). They were provided to an accountant to file on 3/13/2025, 88 days late. Accountant provided a draft to review on 4/2/2025, 108 days late. Late fees for form 990-EZ are \$50 / day. Rounded from \$5,400 to \$5,500 to account for some additional back and forth with accountant before filing is completed. An abatement is possible, but not guaranteed. Set aside funds in case IRS determines penalties need to be paid. One time expense (assuming future years file in a timely manner).	Cash
Other Subtotal	\$ -	\$ 8,612.88		
Total Program	\$ -	\$ 55,061.65		
Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 3,199.06			
Cash Total	\$ 92,409.60	\$ 91,276.65		Cash
Cash Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 1,132.95			
Scholastic Total	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 18,033.89		Scholastic
Scholastic Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 1,966.11			