

PTO Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 17, 2026

6:30 PM in Erie Elementary Media Center

First and foremost, turnout was wonderful! We had nearly 30 in attendance including many teachers, parapro, principal, parents and PTO members present.

*Special presentation by Mr. Jeff Atkins , our Executive Director of Auxiliary Services for Chippewa Valley Schools

- Regarding the bond project proposal this November 3 election
 - Vote yes!
 - There is NO rate increase for tax payers
- Safety & Improvement Bond: safety, skills, success
- \$20 million improvements to buildings, generators, fire equipment and more
 - Integrated system for all 24 buildings in district
- CTE programs - we have top in county and state
 - 14 collegiate bound classes (medical, trade programs, etc)
 - AP classes as well - these programs and rooms need better and newer resources
- Chippewa Valley Schools have 95% graduation rate compared to ~85% in MI
 - Goal is to maintain this fantastic success
- Erie specific:
 - Most improvements to a facility in the district in the project
 - We have great land and space for improvements
 - Parking lot improvements!
 - Goal is separate bus lane, CLE entrance pickup/dropoff and parent parking lot with a lane for dropoff/pickup
 - Similar improvements as other district elementary schools
 - 10,000 ft² addition (used Mohawk Elementary as an example)
 - Remodel media center, interior rooms and more
- Projected start date: aggressive to get this done, 5-6 year window
 - Goal end date Fall 2029
 - Ottawa is a complete remodel - currently outgrowing their pods, etc
- Group questions: are these improvements only as have happened in the past or an actual remodel?
 - This is a true remodel - many things are 20+ years old and that is the time frame of replacement. Generator will need to be bigger to accommodate new addition, new boiler

- Unfortunately 2019 proposal was victim of covid in 2020 so many items were delayed, unable to be worked on and resources went to most needed items to help at that time

1. Principal Report - Mrs. Croce

- a. Thank you to PTO for all you do for the school!
- b. Thank you to staff for coming to meetings, participating
- c. Parking lot changes for arrival
 - i. Going well this week! First week was a bit of push back but is getting better each day
 - ii. Continuing to work on breakfast students to use breakfast entrance versus coming in through main doors and going to cafeteria
 - 1. More adults are needed to direct students, working on this
 - 2. Goal is to have everyone in their classrooms and ready for announcements at 8:55am when final bell rings
 - 3. Currently have students walking in the building at 8:55am but it's improving!
- d. School-Wide Updates
 - i. CLP (Creative Learning Program) for special needs
 - ii. Best Buddies program - reminder this is an active program and other schools in the district will be participating this year
 - 1. 5th grade students apply to be a "best buddy"
 - 2. Meet with a CLP student 1x each month during specials
 - 3. Bridges gap between students with disabilities and those without - fantastic program!
 - 4. End of year walk, have traditional been held at the Detroit Zoo
- e. Morning meeting today with Watch DOGS and Watch MOMS
 - i. All volunteers are required to have background check
 - ii. Assist with lunch, recess, arrival, dismissal and various projects during the year
- f. Fire drills and Severe weather drills
 - i. The first was last week and was great! Very quick and efficient because classrooms have direct access to leave building
 - ii. Next week will be another drill as well as severe weather
 - iii. We are meeting the state standards for drills
- g. Staff meeting
 - i. Room parents - principal to get a list from teachers to ensure all have background check on file
 - 1. Looking to complete ASAP for Halloween/Fall parties, etc

- h. PTO - are we having anything special like the Pencil Grams for conference week? Just an idea!
- i. Science Olympiad
 - i. Meeting Monday for those interested
- j. Fast Bridge Testing ELA (English and Language Arts) this week and Math next week
 - i. MTSS in house to support our readers and meet students at the level they are at
- k. 3rd grade field trip coming up, concert, Halloween parade, parties and so much more! It's a busy fall and so much fun is happening!
- l. Aside from PTO meetings, possible meets with the principal in the future

2. Meeting Topics:

a. Restaurant Night - Chipotle 9/22

- i. Thank you to those who have completed our dining survey
- ii. Incredibly helpful for us to choose days/times/restaurants our families actually eat at so PTO can raise funds to support our students!
- iii. Goal is to have a variety of options (think dine-in, quick service, fast food, dessert, etc) on different days/times so everyone can participate

b. First Donut Day 10/2

- i. Will now be a PRE-ORDER!
- ii. Flyer to go home Thursday/Friday before, DUE by TUESDAY of Donut Day week
- iii. This will eliminate waste (both food and money!)
- iv. Will be paid by cash
 - 1. Unable to use PaySchools due to district rules
 - 2. Square is an option but is difficult to use/track
- v. Question: who is handling money?
 - 1. Teachers will all receive a cash envelope to collect funds which will be picked up with pre-order slips on Tuesday

c. Soar-A-Thon

- i. Name change this year! Trying to help families understand what the fundraiser is and have a more permanent name choice
- ii. We are hoping for a great fundraising year so we can increase teacher funds and get t-shirts for students

d. Chuck-E-Cheese 10/15

- i. On the Thursday, half day, of conferences just as it was last year

e. Halloween Hop 10/23

- i. Heather update
 - 1. This is the 3rd year!

2. Invites to go out on MONDAY 9/21
3. Candy Drive flyer goes out on MONDAY 9/28
 - a. The class with the greatest pounds of candy donated wins a pizza party!
4. 11-12 game and activity stations, win candy every time
5. Donated prizes from Cutting Edge Gymnastics, plushies, etc
6. Costume Contest
 - a. 2 winners from each grade (boy/girl) chosen by DJ

f. Spiritwear

- i. Was hoping to be ready to go but there is a delay with company, should go live very soon
- ii. Using a new company because they offer more merchandise, full store options, other schools are also using them

g. Kroger Rewards

- i. Please participate!
- ii. VERY easy to sign up, sign your family members up
- iii. No reduction in your rewards, we simply earn a small percentage of what is spent by our families
- iv. 100+ families now and a lot are families who are no longer at Erie

h. Group Questions:

- i. Can PTO possibly have a station to sign up at conferences?
 1. Principal Croce says yes!
 2. Log in for media center computers and ensure Kroger is not a blocked site
- ii. Flyers to be passed out to teachers and staff with no classes as well - restaurant nights especially
 1. How can we get teachers to give students flyers to take home asap? They should be checking their mailboxes and passing them out so information is taken home with enough time before events
 2. Teachers would like an additional copy to post in their classroom so they can send a picture in their parent apps as a reminder
 3. Latchkey space to also get flyers
- iii. Can we ZOOM or Google Meet the PTO meetings for families who cannot attend but would like to participate in meetings?
 1. Would require some additional setup and requests from the district but we should be able to do this. Ms. Papke offered to set up the virtual meeting when we get approval to do this.

3. Budget Review and Approval

- a. Target is based off of last years funds raised and estimated cost of events

- b. Goal is a very successful Soar-A-Thon, very dependent on its success
- c. Main income streams: Daddy-Daughter Dance, Soar-A-Thon and Santa Shop
 - i. Daddy-Daughter 50/50 is always an awesome success!
- d. Every-other year school shirts - offset school cost
- e. Recess equipment carts, now with a lock
- f. Need community approval, ask for objections?**
 - i. SACC to be included in staff allocations?
 - 1. Yes! We can work that out and will add a budget line
 - ii. Ms. Papke and Mrs. Hribar presentation and ask for funds to cover t-shirts supporting PBIS program incentive idea
 - 1. Each month has focus on a character trait, students are nominated and play a game to win a prize
 - 2. Nominated students to receive a t-shirt exclusive to program and have “bragging rights”
 - 3. Teachers all receive a shirt to wear the day of the PBIS assembly, creating unity across K-5! Same language and expectations of character and behavior
 - 4. Fantastic idea!
 - 5. We will work out logistics but we would love to support this program!