Way Elementary PTO Meeting Minutes

Date: November 10, 2026 | **Time:** 9:15 AM

Location: Way Elementary KidZone & Google Meet

I. Call to Order

A. Meeting called to order by PTO President at 9:20 AM

B. Welcome & introductions of executive board members.

C. 9 members present in person for the PTO meeting (see list at bottom)

II. Approval of Minutes

A. Review and approval of the September 2026 PTO Meeting Minutes.

B. Review and approval of the October 2026 PTO Meeting Minutes.

C. September and October Meeting Minutes approved

III. Statement of Treasurer: PTO Treasurer Yana Krefman

A. Financial Standing & Monthly Financial Review

October 2026 Treasurer's Report (PDF) and November 2026 Preliminary Treasurer's Report (PDF)

B. Fundraising & Event Financial Recaps

a. Fun Run Fundraiser:

➔ **$31,935** Total Raised
➔ **388** Student Participants
➔ **313** Students Received Donations

C. Budget-to-Actual Review & Upcoming Disbursements

a. Reviewed year-to-date spending against the approved 2026–2027 operating budget of $65,741.00, including committee allocations, actual expenditures, and remaining balances.
b. *Budget-to-Actual Report (PDF)*

c. Reviewed anticipated upcoming disbursements and outstanding financial commitments.

IV. Reading of Communications

A. New Google Form for parent feedback

1. Submit agenda items to discuss at PTO meetings
2. Ask questions to the PTO board
3. Give feedback or ideas to the PTO board (option to be anonymous)

B. Submissions received this month (or "No communications received this month")

C. Google form will be sent out in each weekly newsletter

V. Reports

A. Principal Report: Principal Rossi

1. Thank you's for Halloween to all parents and all volunteers
2. Capturing Kids Hearts initiative - district adopted
    a. Making a difference with students
    b. Priority of staff being greeters for the kids- building relationships. Goal is before a child enters their classroom, they have been greeted by 5 staff members
    c. During morning announcements: calling out little things to celebrate
    d. At home: talk about a good part of the day with your kids, work on responding to staff greetings (say hello!)
3. Curriculum changes continue to be implemented, new science in January
    a. Will keep parents updates on curriculum in the Way weekly Newsletters
4. Conferences in 2 weeks

a. United Arts also has slots available for conferences

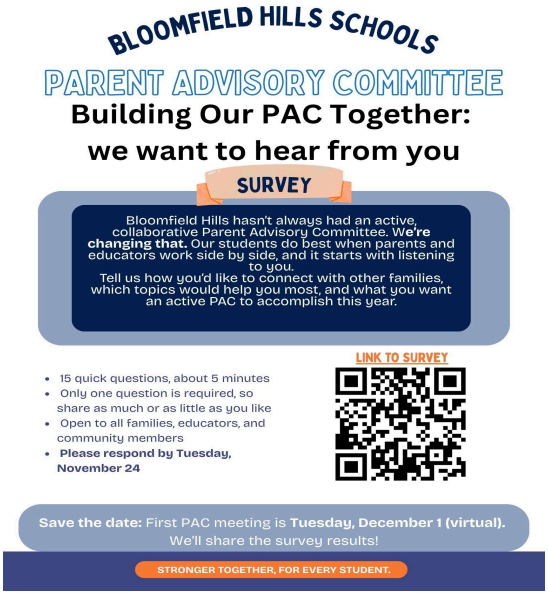
B. President Report: Sarah Dougherty and Jen Jovanis

1. PAC Update

a. The Bloomfield Hills Parent Advisory Committee holds its first meeting of the year virtually on December 1st. All parents are welcome to join.

b. In advance of the December 1st meeting - Survey

c. Students with IEP or 504 or undergoing testing



2. Drop off candy for Motor City Mitten Mission to the office by tomorrow.

3. Need to update PTO bylaws by March- need an attorney to assist the Bylaws committee- send PTO contact info please.

4. New google form to sign up for committees next year- more information coming

5. Restaurant Fundraiser Ideas- Buddy's, Little Caesers, Papa Romanos (also does sponsorships), Pita Way (Emilio and Sam), Brooklyn Pizza

a. Follow-up with Jenna to reach out to restaurants

C. Standing Committees

1. Room Parent Report: PTO Secretary Lauren Bruss

a. Thank you for all the help with the Fun Run and Halloweenfest
b. Reminder for class parties: please have volunteers help with cleanup. A volunteer's main role during the party is spending time with the kids.
c. Start thinking about Winter party in December

2. Staff Appreciation:

a. Committee Chairs: Kristy Mandel, Jenna Klar, Chandler Yatooma
b. Starting to plan for upcoming winter staff morale boosters and holiday treats.
c. Catering dinner for staff during Conferences- Dinner boxes in the lounge

3. Communications:

a. Sign up for the Newsletter

b. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram

c. Email with any questions:

i. PTO Co-Presidents: wayptobh@gmail.com

ii. PTO Treasurer: waytreasurer@gmail.com

iii. PTO Secretary (room parent questions): wayptosecretary@gmail.com

4. Ongoing Fundraising:

a. Committee Chair: Jenna Klar
b. Mabel's Labels, Kroger, Toyology

D. Special Committees

1. Halloweenfest Debrief

a. Thank you to all the volunteers who made this incredible event possible. Thank you to our Halloween and Candy Crawl Committee

Chairs Kristy Mandel, Lauren Kruso, Kelly Wilson, and Beth Tomburrini

b. Thanking the custodians for the monumental cleanup after Halloween: the PTO gave thank you cards with Visa gift cards to both the day and night custodians
c. Halloweenfest feedback?
    i. Mad Science is getting old for the older kids, consider one more vendor next year. Pancakes next year? Or longer classroom parties.
    ii. Poll teachers and parents about what they want for Halloween next year

2. Make a Difference Day

a. Thank you to Jenna Klar for coordinating and organizing.

3. Fall Book Fair:

a. Committee Chairs: Amy Orlando, Katie Wolf, Chris Kado
b. November 16-20
    i. Nov 17 and 18- adult only shopping during conferences

VI. Unfinished Business

A. Follow up with Superintendent and Principal Rossi about path from Stoneleigh- salting and plowing in the winter

1. Our Custodial service is responsible to salt and plow- Jenny will coordinate with custodians before winter to make sure the path is taken care of.

VII. New Business

A. Winter Clothing Drive:

1. Jenna Klar is collecting winter gear this month to support families in Oakland County through Kids Empowered on the Move.

2. Starting tomorrow, drop off new or lightly used winter gear to the boxes in the front of the school (will be in vestibule or just inside the main doors)

3. Have students drop off gear, or bring it with you during Conferences

4. In early December, we will have an after school volunteer opportunity to sort the winter gear before donating to families- more information to follow.

B. New Volunteer Opportunities- Media Center would love some help

1. Circulation Link - Please come and help check in books and return them to the book shelves! (Tuesday-Thursday)
2. Adding New Books Link - Please help add labels to the books and get them ready to be checked out! (Anytime during the week - Sign up is just for the Monday of the week, but you can come anytime that week! Once-a-week help is perfect!)
3. Repairing Books - Help repair books so they can get back out on the shelves! (Anytime during the week. The Sign Up is just for the Monday of the week, but you can come at anytime that week! Once-a-week help is perfect!)
4. Questions? Contact the Media Center at mmcdermidwiercinski@bloomfield.org

C. Variety Show- need parent volunteers to be committee co-chairs.

1. Friday, March 12
    a. Student show morning assembly
    b. Parent show 6:00 PM
2. Dress rehearsal 3/9 half day
3. Melissa Lewis volunteered to assist Jenna organize the event

D. Assembly Ideas- TBD.

1. Basketball Jones
2. Travelling animals
3. Open to suggestions and ideas

E. Lost and Found

1. Will be out for Conferences
2. Parents to help organize and deliver items to classroom

F. Stock the Lounge and mobile cart delivering to rooms

1. Will coordinate with Jenna and Kristy
2. Considering switching back to Monthly Sign-ups by Grade Level- will PTO will coordinate with Kate Sbahi to set up

VIII. Announcements

A. Next PTO Meeting: December 8, 2026 at 9:15 AM

B. Upcoming Events:

1. Conferences 11/17 and 11/18
2. Book Fair 11/16 - 11/20
3. Dining Out for Way Night - more info coming soon
4. Winter Classroom Parties

IX. Adjournment

A. Meeting adjourned at 10:00 AM

In person Attendees:

Sara Schey

Anna Williams

Melissa Lewis

Kim Kerwin

Jenny Kyriakopoulos

Vanessa Fantich

Chris Kado

Kate Sbahi

Kristy Mandel