WAY ELEMENTARY PTO
MEETING MINUTES 10/13/26

AGENDA

Start Time: 9:24 AM

Meeting was called to order by Co-Presidents Jen Jovanis and Sarah Dougherty at 9:24 AM. 15 in-person attendees (listed at the bottom).

Welcome

1. **Communication**
    a. If there is anything you feel needs to be discussed at the meeting please let us know ahead of time.
        i. wayptobh@gmail.com
        ii. waytreasurer@gmail.com
    b. Please make sure you pay your $35 family dues
    c. Sign up for our PTO newsletter: https://mailchi.mp/b6683aa590f8/pto-newsletter-signup
2. **Superintendent District Update** - Rick West

    Powerpoint:

    Fall 2026 Semi-Annual Superintendent Update - PTOs (Community)….

    a. Points of Pride- 83% of our Bloomfield Hills students accepted to college, 95% of graduates will attend college in the fall. We have the highest scores in reading and math in Oakland County for the PSAT 8/9 and 6th grade M-STEP. Bloomfield Hills Athletics is doing extremely well, especially student athletes
    b. Quick Updates

i. Lone Pine and Eastover Tennis Courts
    1. Survey completed from the community. The Board has authorized us to seek partnership to keep the tennis courts open and available for our students
ii. Oakland County Parks fully running Operations at Johnson Nature Center and Bower Farm
iii. Advocacy
    1. Bloomfield Hills Schools continues to partner with our representatives (5 representatives and 1 Senator in our area)
    2. Legislative Liaison- Rick West works closely with or legislators to advocate for public education
iv. E-motos- banned on all school properties
    1. More information to come- educational
v. Board of education has 4 seats available this year- new members starting in January

c. Bond and Sinking Fund Projects
    i. Water issues at schools are being thoroughly investigated with construction crews
    ii. Significant assets to maintain our buildings
d. Strategic Plans- Destination Bloomfield 2030
    i. Learning for a Changing World
        1. Enhance high-quality Instruction
        2. Strengthen literacy curriculum and resources
        3. Expand career connectedness and exploration
        4. Advance innovative programming

ii. A culture where students thrive
    1. Focusing on screen free initiatives
    2. Amplify student voices
    3. Cultivate belonging and school connectedness
    4. Increase student engagement with extracurriculars
    5. Integrate wellness and responsible technology
iii. A team rooted in care and collaboration
    1. Establish a staff advisory council
    2. Standardize staff communication and feedback processes
    3. Enhance and evaluate workplace climate and morale
iv. Focused Investments for a strong community
    1. Maximize academic return on investment
    2. Invest in and maintain facilities and infrastructure
    3. Enhance communication regarding financial stewardship
    4. Strengthen safety and security measures
        a. Safety week starts 10/19 to test our systems and communications to ensure safety for all of our buildings
        b. Question: Stoneleigh path concern- very slippery in the winter. School will work on coordinating salting for icy conditions

e. Boarding Pass
    i. Scan the QR code to join us on our journey
f. Questions
    i. Why are Birmingham and Bloomfield Hills Schools' schedules so different?

1. Teacher Unions negotiate with the school boards to create the calendars together every 4 years (next contracts expire in 2029)
2. Emphasize in Bloomfield Hills Schools- religious holidays take priority for days off

3. **Board Reports**
    a. **Principal's Update - Jenny Rossi**
        i. Curriculum- Arts and Letters and 95 Core
            1. Switching over is going well
        ii. Fall Assessments complete
        iii. Creating student advisory team- plan to partner with PTO to get students involved with community outreach
        iv. Digital citizenship- student bullying in group chats- please routinely monitor what your students are engaging in. If something takes place out of school hours, the school can't take any administrative actions.
    b. **Treasurer's Report - Yana Krefman**
        i. Treasurer Report PDF
    c. **Room Parent Report- Secretary Lauren Bruss**
        i. Room Parents were assigned 2 weeks ago, please reach out to us by email if there are any issues. wayptobh@gmail.com
        ii. FAQ's for Room Parent:
            1. Please consider randomizing party volunteering slots to give everyone an equal chance. Create a signup for

parents who want to be considered for the random lottery to volunteer

2. Four volunteers maximum per class party. (Room Parents are not required to attend every party- you can plan and coordinate the party and have parent volunteers)

Event Feedback

1. **Welcome Back Social**
    a. Thanks to all of our wonderful volunteers for making this event possible!
    b. Email us any event feedback or ideas for next year's Welcome Back Social at Wayptobh@gmail.com
2. **Family Movie Night**
    a. Thank you volunteers! Special thanks to Vanessa Fantich for the amazing balloon arch.
    b. Wonderful night of fun for the entire family. And a surprise appearance from our Wildcat Mascot!

Other Business

1. **Website Updating**
    a. We are diligently working to update the PTO website so it is a great resource to stay connected and volunteer at Way
    b. Email Wayptobh@gmail.com if there are any website issues so we can fix them.

New Business

1. **Approvals Needed**
    a. Sarah Schantz is asking for our support in updating the art room shelving as the current storage options are falling apart Modern, sturdy shelving will withstand daily heavy use from hundreds of students handling art supplies and bins for years to come.
    b. Total cost $504
    c. Motion to approve Jenna Klar. Seconded. Approved.
2. **Upcoming Events:**
    a. Fun Run-10/14 Half Day
        i. Goal $28,000 this year
        ii. Currently at $24,250.00!
        iii. Volunteer for the Fun Run
        iv. Warmups this year to prevent running down the hill pile-up
    b. Make a Difference Day (MADD)- 10/24
        i. Kids Empowered on the Move
            1. Organization that supports children and families experiencing homelessness. Serves over 500 families per year in Oakland County
            2. Volunteers will be helping a food-themed box filling donation project
        ii. Make a Difference Day initiative: Building Boxes of Hope
            1. Packed with essentials to support families who are struggling to stay in their homes, and families experiencing homelessness.
        iii. How you can help:

1. Donate items- see flyer at bottom of page
2. Volunteer on Make a Difference Day 10/24
    a. 9:30-11:30 AM at South Hills Middle School. Door 33
    b. Sort donations and pack Boxes of Hope
    c. Sign up to Volunteer
3. Donate financially to the cause

c. HalloweenFest-10/30 Half Day
    i. Sign up for Candy Crawl Table Here!
    ii. Students will rotate through stations:
        1. 9:20 All School Costume Parade
            a. Outdoors if weather permits
            b. All parents invited to watch
        2. Mad Science presentation
        3. Candy Crawl (trick-or-treating in the gym) Bring enough for 470 students
            a. Looking into getting small bags for the kids
        4. Classroom Party

3. PTOC Member At Large position - connect with us after the meeting or email at wayptobh@gmail.com with any questions or interest.
4. PAC Update: The Bloomfield Hills Parent Advisory Committee holds its first meeting of the year virtually on Nov. 17th. All parents are welcome to join.
    a. IEP and 504, special education and resource room support throughout the district

5. Yearbook Photos- Google Drive for each album will be sent out, please send in your photos. We will put this in the newsletter (can only share one album at a time)
6. **Volunteer Opportunities**
    a. Lunch volunteers
        i. Sign up here: October Lunch Volunteers

Meeting Adjourned: 10:15

Members in attendance:

Sarah Dougherty Co-President

Jen Jovanis Co-President

Lauren Bruss Secretary

Yana Krefman Treasurer

Anna Williams

Jasmine Hartfield

Jenna Klar

Tracy Rumpz

Chandler Yatooma

Danielle Kroll

Kim Kerwin

Vanessa Fantich

Kate Hicks

Kristy Mandel

Samantha Auricchio

MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY
NATIONAL DAY OF DOING GOOD

Bloomfield Hills Schools

Kids Empowered On The Move

Make a Difference Day 2026

Boxes of Hope

Sat, October 24
9:30 – 11:30 AM

South Hills Middle School
All ages welcome!



Please Donate

Boxes will go to neighbors living outside, in cars, tents, hotels or apartments this winter.

Canned Food

- Marinara or meat sauce
- SpaghettiOs
- Soup
- Canned meals (spaghetti & meatballs)

Complete Meals

- Shelf-stable microwavable meals
- Single-serve soups
- Boxed rice dishes



Dry Goods

- Peanut butter
- Pasta
- Crackers
- Fruit cups
- Fruit / fig bars
- Beef sticks
- Shelf-stable milk
- Small cereal boxes (single serve/ <18oz)



Drinks

- Gatorade
- Flavored water packets

Other Supplies

- Hand sanitizer wipes (singles or pouches)
- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste
- Dish soap (18 oz or smaller)
- Dish towels
- Sponges
- Can openers
- Laundry detergent sheets

Clothing

- Gently used winter gear
- New packs of kids' underwear



Small sizes, more quantity: small/regular size items go further than a few large ones.