

PTO COUNCIL MEETING

2/27/2025

1. Introductions
 - a. Attendees: Jenny Abeles, Madeline Akins , Shelby Brett, Joanna Dinsmore, Abby Goldstein, Jessica Graetz, Allyson Lavender, Betsy Meyland-Smith, Dianna Palagallo, Nisha Patel, Meredith Reese, Lilly Scharff, Laura Seelbach Clair Higgins Siegel, , Stacy Siwak, Ashley Slater, Gina Tarte, and Tahney Jackson Whitlock.
2. Superintendent's Update (provided by Superintendent Nisha Patel)
 - a. Legislative Advocacy. There are two main bills that could affect our district currently being discussed in Jefferson City. These include a taxation bill that would limit taxes for our senior citizens and one regarding open enrollment. This district is monitoring the situation. While the district cannot take any particular stance on the legislation, they plan to provide information to parents and interested stakeholders about the impacts these bills would have on our district if passed. Dr. Patel encouraged everyone to stay on top of things that are happening so that they can be informed.
 - b. Clayton will not be changing anything around DEI based on executive orders from the President or Governor. Executive Orders are not required to be followed until they have been passed into law. Dr. Patel stated that they believe our district should be inclusive of everyone and stand by the work they are currently doing.
 - c. Long Range Facilities Master Plan. The Long Range Facilities Master Plan findings were presented at the last board meeting. There is a board retreat tomorrow (2/28) where the Superintendent will sit down with board to discuss the plan and options that make sense for the district moving forward.
3. Board Of Education Update (provided by Board of Education President Stacy Siwak)
 - a. Legislation is moving very quickly now, and we need to be paying attention. Parents can organize and lobby as well. Mayoral candidates should be informed by the district of how the proposed legislation affects our district. The Board of Education's role is to provide the relevant information and will determine the best ways to share.
 - b. Long Range Facilities Master Plan. Thank you everyone for your time, whether it was serving on committees and/or providing community feedback. Paragon presented findings at the last board meeting with research, feedback and high-level options. All of the facilities need improvement, some more than others. The Board needs to prioritize what the next steps are. They are currently exploring options. These include bond issues and acquiring land. If we want to be leading district in the nation, our buildings need to reflect that. We cannot offer certain programs because our buildings cannot accommodate them. We need to change so that we can meet the needs of our students. Our priority is to get it right, not to rush it. We need to think collectively as a community about what is best for the district as whole. The Board is in constant communication with the city so that the city and district can be intentional and work together. Our school district being successful ultimately helps the city as well.
 - c. School Board Elections are uncontested. One thing to consider when you're looking at mayoral candidates is to think about how they will work with the district.
4. Treasurer's Report
 - a. Everyone has paid their dues. Tax information has been sent. Insurance is renewed.
5. New Business

- a. Bylaw Revision – This is a bylaw for PTO council. There has been a difficulty finding people to fill the position of treasurer and many people do not have a finance background. In order to fill this position the PTO Council is proposing an amendment that would allow the treasurer position to be filled by a parent without a PTO background. Section 2.1 General is what is currently in the bylaws and remains unchanged. The only change is the added language creating an exception for the treasurer requirements. The proposed amendment to the bylaws reads as follows:

- i. **ARTICLE II- MEMBERS**

- Section 2.1 General**

- Each parent of a child who is attending one of the six public schools (the “Clayton Schools”) in the School District of Clayton located in Missouri (the “District”) shall be a member of the Corporation.

- Section 3.3 Selection of Directors**

- (c) Eligibility of Officers/Ex-Officio Directors. Each of the six (6) Officers/ex-officio Directors shall have served as a Director of a School PTO for at least two (2) years, except for the role of Treasurer, which may be filled by a non-Director with a background in finance.

Allyson Lavender made a motion to approve the revised bylaw, seconded by Madeline Akins. The motion was passed unanimously by all voting members in attendance.

- b. Check-Ins with your exec team – You should be checking in on a regular basis to make sure there isn't something going on that you are not aware of. We are trying to get ahead of issues before they arise.

6. Group Discussion

- a. Back to School Bash – Continuing this event was discussed and has overwhelming support from the Council to continue.
 - b. Share your school's PTO calendar for the upcoming school year with PTO Council to compare with other schools to ensure there is minimal overlap. The sooner you can create calendars with your school, the better.
 - c. Food and Essentials Drive- PTO will no longer coordinate for the district. Individual schools can determine whether or not they want to share with their schools.
 - d. 2025/2026 PTO Slates/Recruitment/On Boarding – If you have not started working on your slates for next year now is the time. There are position descriptions in the bylaws, and you are welcome to modify them to work for your individual PTOs.
 - e. Best Practices- High School does a postcard that's been very helpful and informative. Captain uses the newsletter every first Monday of the month before the Thursday meeting.
 - f. There is a zoom account for PTO Council. Jenny will send out login information. Be aware when setting calendar for next year that there is only one account. Please let the PTO Council know when your meetings are so that there is no overlap with the zoom. When you login first time you will need to make sure you have the one-time use code, so be sure to schedule chance to login before.

Meeting adjourned at: 1:08PM