

# MINUTES

## Merrill Middle School PTO Minutes

*Date | time* 10/15/2015 6:30 PM | *Meeting called to order by* Catherine Collier

### In Attendance

Catherine Collier, Amy Homburger, Joe Welch, Laura Mauck, Melissa Snow, Tina Braesch, Krista Quicke, Jodi Rossi, Jamie Wasinger, Erica Spoor, Amy Bringedahl, Diane Reiner, Gina McGrail, Jane Morrissey, Annelyn Aficial, Becky Wiggins

### Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the September meeting were approved.

### Principal's Report – Amy Bringedahl

- 13 new teachers this year
- Morgan Welch is leading student government
- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Open House on 10/14 was a huge success!
- Merrill is booked for student shadowing through December
- Discussed why so many teachers left last year. Many were for personal reasons - we are currently fully staffed.
- Starting 10/26/15, 6<sup>th</sup> grade will shift from 7 sections to 6. Mr. Thomas will now teach 8<sup>th</sup> grade.
- Parent Teacher Conferences are on October 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> from 4:30-8:30pm. There are no signups. Simply show up and wait your turn to speak with each teacher. Sessions are quick (5 min.) in order to accommodate all parents, so come prepared with questions. If you require more time, please reach out to each teacher to schedule additional meetings.

### Treasurer's Report – Joe Welch

- Joe discussed current balances and contributions.
- The PTO approved a request from the Student Council for \$100 for decorations for the Fall Social on 10/23/15. Additionally, the PTO agreed to pay for pizza and lemonade. To sign up to help with the Fall Social, [sign in here](#).
- Joe is checking with admin to see about the cost of the All-In VIP tshirts
- November 20<sup>th</sup> is the Merrill International Fashion Show. Heba requested \$100 from PTO to help pay for decorations and it was approved.

### Upcoming Events – Catherine Collier

- Ideas for Teacher Appreciation on 12/17 included coffee and Santiago breakfast burritos. Still considering a coffee cart.
- Bookies Night – need to advertise the event better this year in order to get a bigger turnout. Scheduled for 12/10/15.
- 5<sup>th</sup> grade Open House 10/14/15 was a success!

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## PTO vs. PTA

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This item was tabled for a future meeting. Need direction from administration on what is needed financially. It was mentioned that one way to contribute to the school would be to donate requested items rather than money. Need direction from administration on what items are needed.

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## Ongoing Activities

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- Becky Wiggins is organizing restaurant nights. She will schedule 2 per month. Next one is October 20<sup>th</sup> at [Garlic Knot](#) at 282 S. Logan St. November 11<sup>th</sup> is [Smash Burger](#) at 1120 S. Colorado Blvd. These events will be shared on Facebook and added to the calendar.
- Jodi Rossi volunteered to handle Grocery Cards
- Michael Rossi (via Jodi) researched 3 different Sprit Wear companies. Brett Stringer communicated that he should pick one company and they will roll out the Spirit Wear options at Parent Teacher Conferences.
- Parents Got Talent is looking for 2 more parents and then the show will be scheduled by Heba Nabhan.

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## Open Discussion

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- If possible, the PTO would like to start a storage closet at the school in order to reuse decorations and store supplies.
- Some parents would like the opportunity to help out in classrooms. Catherine Collier will check with admin to see about starting a volunteer pool, whereby teachers list help needed and parents fill the requests.
- A facilities maintenance worker at Merrill recently experienced a catastrophic loss when his apartment complex burned down. Catherine Collier will check with Brett & Amy to see what he needs. (Note: Jodi Rossi manages a 650 complex near Merrill and offered to help find housing).

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## Next Meeting

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November 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:15 in the Merrill Library. The December meeting is cancelled.