



Merrill PTA meeting minutes

Mon, September 27, 2021

7:00pm

Merrill Library

9 attendees:

Sarah W

Christy S

Kristen E

Kate P

Shawna B

Channon T

Jen C

Megan H

Kate M

Principal's Update – Mrs. Panek

School Updates:

- Teachers and staff were very pleased with the donated face masks, popsicles on the first day of school, and support from parents for a great start to the school year.
- Jane Schumann resigned a couple of weeks ago and will be replaced by Brooke Austin as Office Manager.
- Recent TikTok trends have increased vandalism at Merrill. Staff worked with AMOS to create a "Let's Talk" conversation with students to gain understanding of the vandalism repercussions. Mrs. Panek was happy to report that this trend has slowed down and not as popular as it was the first few weeks of school.
- Lunch has been running smoothly this year! Merrill moved to six lunch periods from three. Our cafeteria holds 240 students, and each lunch has approximately 130 students making for plenty of room.

Conferences:

- Merrill will be holding targeted conferences this fall. Not all students will have a conference scheduled.
- Targeted conference notices will be sent the week of October 11th.
- If you don't receive notice of a conference and would still like to visit with your child's teacher(s) please reach out to the teacher individually to schedule a meeting.
- Discussion about teachers providing a link for parents to sign up for individual conferences should they want one was held. Mrs. Panek will look into it for the future.

Fall Break:

- No school October 28 – November 2nd Conferences & Professional Development for teachers and staff

Communication Plan:

- In response to an overwhelming request from families to decrease the number of emails families receive from the school, Merrill has moved to three modes of communication with families.
 - Daily Classwork Link: [Click here to access the link.](#)
 - Weekly Merrill Information emails on Fridays
 - Monthly Merrill Minute from Mrs. Panek

Recent PTA Accomplishments

- [\\$5 Merrill spirit yard signs](#) are available for order (Sara W, Kristen E)
- [School supply kits](#) were handed out to students in August – thank you Kate Evans!
- Face Masks were donated by the PTA to the school office for staff and students in need
- Popsicles were donated by the PTA for all students on the first day of school

PTA Discussion & Decisions

Mr. Luft brought ideas to elevate the look and feel of the school via large wall decals of positive messages last spring. These wall wraps would be placed on various currently bare walls (there's one currently in front lobby). He has found funding for several signs already but is asking for PTA's help to purchase additional signs for greater impact. The PTA will put a fundraiser ask on FB in October with the hope of making our school a little brighter.

Megan Hollinger has offered to chair the apparel committee! She will be working on getting some apparel ready for purchase before the holiday season. Stay tuned!

A school dance is being planned for this fall. Three separate dances (grade level) were proposed at the meeting. After discussing with Martin Luft (Mustang Activities) we've decided on one dance for all grade levels. PTA volunteers will be needed to help chaperone the dance. Tentatively scheduled for October 27th from 3:45 – 5:00. Tickets will be \$3. Rain date TBD. Mrs. Panek will secure a Central Campus student to DJ the dance.

In lieu of a meal for teachers during conferences, Mrs. Panek mentioned books are needed in the classrooms. She will provide an Amazon wish list for the PTA to share for donations. Another teacher appreciation option for later in the school year is to host a food truck on a Tuesday for Teachers to enjoy lunch.

Snacks in the school office are needed! Students get hungry throughout the long school day and can stop by the office for a healthy snack. If you'd like to purchase items, please deliver them to the school office.

Private Band and Orchestra lessons are on hold for now. Mr. Morgan has secured a grant that will make lessons free for ALL students starting later this year. More details to follow.

Several **PTA board and committee positions remain open** for the 2021-22 school year, including Secretary and Treasurer. Please consider lending an hour or two each month to help support Merrill students, teachers, and staff!

Housekeeping

Merrill PTA Meeting Dates for the 2021-22 school year: Oct 18, Nov 15, Jan 24, Feb 21, Mar 28, Apr 18, May 16

Merrill PTA Board 2020-21

- **President:** Sarah Witt
- **Treasurer:** TBD
- **Secretary:** TBD

Merrill PTA Committee Members 2021-22

Communications: Kristen Erickson, Jessi Goodsell

Membership & Community Relations: Jessi Goodsell

Fundraising: TBD

Apparel: Meg Hollinger

Merrill Matters: TBD

Helping Hands: Tracy Beck, Sarah Osteroff Melton, Sarah Voss

Teacher Appreciation: Katie Carlson, Shawna Boeding

Book Fairs: TBD

School Supply Kits: Kate Evans, TBD

Box Tops: TBD

Advocacy: TBD

All Merrill PTA meetings are open to families and community members interested in helping Merrill Middle School.

Contact Sarah Witt, PTA President, at [switt1509\(at\)gmail\(dot\)com](mailto:switt1509(at)gmail(dot)com)

Find more information at <https://merrillpta.wordpress.com/> including [PTA meeting archives](#)

Connect with us at <https://www.facebook.com/merrillpta/>

Visit [Mrs. Panek's "Merrill Minute" newsletter archive](#)