



## Merrill PTA meeting minutes

Mon, May 17, 2021

7:00pm

Zoom online meeting

### 13 attendees:

Sarah W	Holly KO	Kristen E	Yasmina M	Tracy B
Kate P	Shawna B	Jen C	Jessi G	Marty L
Theresa C	Sara A	Kate E		

### Principal's Update – Mrs. Panek

Teachers and staff enjoyed the treats provided throughout Teacher Appreciation Week. And the new recess equipment has been put to great use as well.

#### For year-end:

- Last day of school is June 3 with 12:25 dismissal (traditionally, 8<sup>th</sup> graders don't attend the last day).
- All technology (computers, chargers, hotspots) must be returned to the building by year-end. Drop off dates include May 28 for in-person students, June 2 for virtual.
- 8<sup>th</sup> grade celebration will be Weds June 2 at 1-3:25pm.
- Mrs. Panek and other Merrill representatives will visit 5<sup>th</sup> graders (incoming 6<sup>th</sup> graders) in-person or virtually at their respective elementary schools May 25-26.

#### Over the summer:

- Summer school is invite-only. Enrollment currently includes ~60 students who will attend classes at Brody.
- Merrill (and other DMPS middle schools) will not offer "Success for 6<sup>th</sup> Grade" due to facility availability and because the 6<sup>th</sup> grade age group will not be vaccinated. Instead, similar events will be provided for 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> after school starts.
- New restrooms will be installed.

#### For next Fall/2021-22 school year:

- Covid mitigation options are TBD. Social distancing will not be possible with everyone returning in-person. Mask requirements are unknown but will align with CDC guidance (as DMPS has all year).
- All students will be assigned a computer again next year so they'll have flexibility to do asynchronous learning as needed (e.g. on sick days). Teachers will conduct only in-class learning (not dual modality).
- 6 lunch periods will be available (instead of 3) so the cafeteria will be less crowded. Will be helpful to have parent volunteers help supervise – more details TBD.

### Recent PTA Accomplishments

- [\\$5 Merrill spirit yard signs](#) are available for order (Sara W, Kristen E)
- [School supply kits](#) are available for order. Deadline is June 21. (Kate E)
- Teacher Appreciation Week included Bruegger's coffee and bagels, the Outside Scoop ice cream truck, and plenty of sweet/salty snacks (Shawna B, Katie C)
- Raised donations to provide a year-end BBQ for teachers and staff (Shawna B, Katie C)
- Nearly all the items from the [Merrill teachers' Amazon Wish List](#) have been provided (Sara W, Kristen E)

## PTA Discussion & Decisions

Mr. Luft brought ideas to **elevate the look and feel of the school via large wall decals of positive messages**. These wall wraps would be placed on various currently bare walls (there's one currently in front lobby). He has found funding for several already, but is asking for PTA's help to purchase additional signs for greater impact.

- Outcome: No funding decision yet. Mr. Luft will prioritize needs and return with a specific amount for consideration.

Mr. Luft asked for the PTA to sponsor Merrill's yearbook going forward. Due to budget cuts, the stipends available to teachers who serve as club advisors was significantly reduced. Clubs are an important way for students to get involved outside of their classwork (clubs have historically included Yearbook, M Club, Drama, Unified Sports, Show Choir, Mustang TV, and Journalism.)

- Outcome: **PTA approved funding of one \$2,000 "wild card" stipend for the Yearbook Club** for the 2021-22 school year.

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

## Housekeeping

Merrill PTA will resume for the 2021-22 school year. Details TBD.

### Merrill PTA Board 2020-21

- **President:** Sarah Witt
- **Treasurer:** Theresa Chivers
- **Secretary:** Holly Kilborn O'Neall

### Merrill PTA Committee Members 2020-21

**Communications:** Kristen Erickson, Jessi Goodsell

**Membership & Community Relations:** Jessi Goodsell

**Fundraising:** TBD

**Apparel:** Jessi Goodsell, Sarah Witt

**Merrill Matters:** TBD

**Helping Hands:** Julie Hahn, Tracy Beck, Sarah Osteroff Melton

**Teacher Appreciation:** Katie Carlson, Shawna Boeding

**Book Fairs:** TBD

**School Supply Kits:** Kate Evans

**Box Tops:** TBD

**Advocacy:** Holly Kilborn O'Neall

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](#)