



Merrill PTA meeting minutes

Mon, March 22, 2021
7:00pm
Zoom online meeting

11 attendees:

Sarah W	Holly KO	Kristen E	Sara A	Jessi G
Kate P	Shawna B	Kate E	Patty N	David
Theresa C				

Principal’s Update – Mrs. Panek

Teachers continue to explore ways to improve the teaching/learning experience, recently experimenting with HDMI splitters to accommodate an extra monitor. This helps teachers better manage their lesson display while staying engaged with both in-person and virtual students.

DMPS summer programming information will be available soon.

Thoughtful planning is underway to (hopefully) welcome students back onsite for:

- Spring 8th grade promotion
- Fall “Success For 6th Grade” orientation
- Fall orientation for 7th grade students who stayed virtual

Recent PTA Accomplishments

- Provided PI 515 food truck for teachers/staff on Fri 3/26 (Shawna B, Katie C)
- Encouraged parents to provide items from the [Merrill teachers’ Amazon Wish List](#) via the PTA Facebook page (Sara W, Kristen E)

PTA Discussion & Decisions

PTA will sell 18x24 spirit yard signs for the spring fundraiser. Yard signs can help celebrate Merrill students, teachers, and staff plus share our school spirit throughout the community! More details to come. (Sarah W)

PTA will support the Merrill Culinary Club’s year-end event with a recipe book, certificate, and cupcakes. This online club, led by Kimber Foshe, has been a popular success through this difficult year – it’s grown from 30 to 70 students! (Sarah W)

Planning for ordering 2021-22 school supplies online is in the works (Kate E)



PTA Events & Opportunities to help

Make your voice heard!

Please continue to call or email state legislators about bills that put Iowa public schools at risk, including [HF813](#) which expands charter schools as part of a series of “school choice” proposals being pushed by Republicans and Gov. Reynolds. These bills could continue to erode much-needed funding to Merrill, DMPS, and public schools across the state. The Iowa House passed HF813 and it now goes to the Iowa Senate for consideration.

- [Please call Senate Republicans ASAP at \(515\) 281-3371](#) to tell them 1) public funds should be used for public schools, and 2) any school that receives public funds should require the same oversight, accountability, and transparency as public schools. Be sure to share your stories about how public school has impacted you, your families, and your community and highlight the risks of under-funded public schools.
- Call or email Senate Majority Leadership as well:
 - Jake Chapman jake.chapman@legis.iowa.gov
 - Brad Zaun brad.zaun@legis.iowa.gov,
 - Jack Whitver jack.whitver@legis.iowa.gov
 - Amy Sinclair amy.sinclair@legis.iowa.gov

Please continue to support Merrill teachers by:

- Staying in contact
- Providing feedback – they’re especially interested in improvements and new ideas
- Writing a positive note of encouragement

More ways to help:

- Consider purchasing needed supplies via the [Merrill teachers’ Amazon Wish List](#)
- Box Tops – [Download the mobile app](#) to scan receipts
- No volunteer opportunities at this time

Housekeeping

The last PTA meeting of the 2020-21 school year will be on Mon, May 17, at 7:00pm via Zoom.

The Merrill PTA generally meets on the third or fourth Monday of each month at 7pm. Upcoming 2020-21 schedule:

- No April meeting
- May 17, 2021

Merrill PTA Board 2020-21

- **President:** Sarah Witt
- **Treasurer:** Theresa Chivers
- **Secretary:** Holly Kilborn O’Neill

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’Neill

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](#)