



Veterans Memorial Elementary PTO

August 27, 2025

Agenda – 1st Quarter PTO Meeting

In Attendance: Natasha Bledsoe, Becky Allard, Chaz Bickwell, Jimena Rivara Baker, Jacqueline Campbell, Olena Okrepka, Ngoc Phan, Shara Goulter, Brandi Marino, Marcia Martinez Reyes, Yoselyn Cesaroni Faneite, Jessica Burnett, Nelisel Martinez, Maite Martinez, Bianca Caputo, Daniela DePietto, Victoria Bouchard, Ilana Katz, Hayden Kobert, Nicole Geraghty, Kelly McCann, Elina Wolf, Caitlin Whittington, Ms. Viera, Mrs. Roberts

Call to Order :@8:41am

1. Welcome & Introductions (Nicole)

- Welcome attendees
 - Hopeful that committees will form and can meet during hours and days that work for each committee
 - Switched to quarterly General PTO Meetings from last year's monthly.
 - Follow our social media
 - Facebook (Veterans Memorial PTO), Instagram (vmepatriots_pto), website (VMEPTO.org)
 - Thank you to Ilana for putting it all together and continued support
- PTO board member introductions
- Attendee introductions
- Approve May meeting minutes
 - Motion to approve: Nicole Geraghty
 - Second: Kelly McCann
 - Approved

2. Principal's / Asst. Principal Address (Ms. Vieira/Mrs. Roberts)

- Share school updates and express what support is most needed from families.
 - Excited for new school year and all upcoming PTO events
 - All good news for campus/school, great start to the year
 - Thankful for PTO fund for class field trips
 - PE thankful to PTO for new fans in pavilions
 - Will send teacher grant requests as they come in

3. Overview of the PTO – Mission & Goals (Elina)

- Share the PTO's mission statement
 - Non profit 501C3

- *See bylaws*
- Highlight last year's accomplishments briefly
 - Campus improvement, picnic umbrellas, mini grants, SSYRA books, student planners, educational subscriptions in class, field trips, 5th grade celebrations, water day treats, etc.
 - Fall fest, holiday house, movie days, sons plus 1, daughters and a date, kinder round up, teacher appreciation, back to school lunch, etc.
- Highlight our \$30K in 30 Days Fundraiser
 - Family banners, business banners, and general donations
 - \$21,000 (approximately) raised currently and not even halfway through!
 - Today is school wide popsicle party
 - Highest earning classes in each grade will have pizza party next week
 - Added another price: highest participation class in each grade: donut party!
- Outline key goals (increasing parent involvement, quarterly meetings, committees/committee meetings, enhancing communication)
 - Increase parent involvement
 - Quarterly meetings
 - Committees
 - Choose what interests you most!
 - Monthly newsletters
 - Instagram, Facebook, website
 - Thank you Ilana!

4. Budget Review & Treasurer's Report (Hayden and Kelly)

- Present the current budget: income, expected expenses, and year-end goal
- Discuss any major expenditures or upcoming financial needs
 - Transparent with budget please ask questions if interested
 - \$21,230 (aprox) raised by fundraiser so far and we will be selling tickets to daughters and a date and sons plus 1 events
 - \$77,600 is budget for this school year
 - Student planners, meet the teacher, tears and cheer, welcome back lunch have already been purchased/paid for
 - Under budget with all them so far
 - \$900 under budget so far for this year
 - \$27,788 in account currently - however will have some upcoming withdrawals and deposits
 - Any connections for donations please reach out to PTO board
 - We plan to have outings for meetings to make it fun and change it up!
- Recap Chuck E Cheese Spirit Night (Inaugural event)
 - 30ish families attended
 - \$884 raised
- Review of new partnership with Minted
 - Online stationary, invitations, gifts
 - 10% back from purchases

- Discuss possible Panera spirit night in September
 - Try to do more throughout the year
- The PTO just purchased 4 new fans for the PE pavilions!
- PTO Box Tops program
 - Download app, and upload receipt
- Flocabulary
 - Educational subscription
 - Waiting to pay invoice \$3700
- Allow for questions

5. Upcoming Events & Volunteer Opportunities (Caitlin)

- Provide spirit wear update
 - Love seeing the students around campus with new spirit wear!
 - Online store is open all year long
 - Still need to sell \$500ish more to break even in sales so hoping for some sweatshirts (both adult and youth) sales
 - Not a main fundraiser for PTO because we want the spirit wear to be accessible to everyone!
- Present PTO calendar
- Explain each event's purpose, typical volunteer roles, and committee/planning timeline.
 - 3 volunteer 'category' options
 - in person working with teachers and/or students
 - Thanksgiving Lunch (serve teachers)
 - Holiday House (help students shop)
 - Winter Appreciation for Teachers (teacher treat)
 - Tile Painting in April (VME family night)
 - Teacher Appreciation Week (week of teacher treats)
 - Make sure you complete volunteer application and then email Mrs. Reyes (reyesxi@collierschools.com)
 - in person setting up/cleaning up
 - Holiday House
 - Movie Night in January (on campus)
 - Daughters and a Date Dance in February (on campus)
 - donations of items/food/monetary amounts
 - Thanksgiving Lunch
 - Teacher Appreciation Week
 - Giving Tree (donate from wishlist)
 - Annual Fundraiser (fuels everything!)
 - We need help in all 3 categories for our events to thrive
- Rollout Fall Fest
 - Oct. 21 5:30-7:30pm
 - Off-site this year at Farmer Mikes in Bonita Springs
 - Still a FREE event our VME family (\$15-20 value)

- Includes hayrides, corn maze (normally extra), bounce house/kid activities, pumpkin craft, limited number of free snacks and water.
 - For additional cost you can access to U Pick sunflower field, preorder of pumpkins and mums and pick up on site, food trucks: BBQ, Cuban, Farmer Mikes and Icecream.
 - Our budget is \$3600 plus profit from pumpkins/mums
- Holiday House volunteers
 - Shopping will be Dec. 1-5 with set up Nov. 20 and 21st
 - Sign up genius to come
 - Make sure you are an approved volunteer!
- Parent/volunteer encouragement

6. Misc. (Nicole)

- 9/20 is National Queso Day:
 - Small celebration in teacher's mail room
 - We will solicit donations first
- 10/2 is School Custodial Workers Appreciation Day:
 - Table this so we can ask Ms. Viera and Mrs. Roberts
 - Confirm hours to determine if they are present during school hours
 - Recognize staff with snack/treat

7. Open Discussion / Parent Questions & Ideas (All)

- Suggestions, questions or concerns
 - Nov 19th PTO Q2 General Meeting- switch date to nov 18th because of class concert
 - Days before teacher potluck, meet in room where we decorate at same time as meeting
 - Parent info form – please scan QR so PTO can email with updates/committees
 - Parent Question: does the school remember 9/11?
 - Teachers touch on it but there isn't an assembly like there is on Veterans Day
 - No Charleston wrap fundraiser this year
 - Feedback-can always go back if missed by VME family

8. Closing Remarks & Next Steps (Nicole)

- Our next meeting is being changed from November 19 to November 18
- Remind parents of any follow-ups (volunteer forms, committee signups, etc.)

Meeting Adjournment: @ 9:21

Next Meeting: Q2 VME General PTO Meeting November 18th 8:30am