

Livonia PTSA Council Executive Board Meeting

November 19, 2025

In attendance:

Council – Mandy Gerstenbrand, Laura Ulaszek, Andrea Malenfant, Jon Wennstrom, Megan Moore, Keadin Parish, Kellie Dummer, Holli Kerkhof, Mike Testa, April Adams, Andrea Quist, Andrew Pesci

Guests – Jenna Kuhn, Christen Lesko-Brown, Erica Cording, Rebecca Schilling, Stephanie Rea, Andrea Cutchins, Lyndsey Grodzicki, Alexis Suleiman, Sarah Benbe, Cassie Walczyk, Kirstie Jonckheere, Jenny Morgan, Katie Simmons, Danielle Pelc, Heather Poisson, Sarah Erickson, Christina Engler, Janet Staebler, Brittany Loney, Dawn Buerkle

In attendance via Zoom: none

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by Mandy Gerstenbrand.

Introductions around the room.

Approval of the September 17, 2025 meeting minutes motion by Kellie D., 2nd by Keadin P. Minutes, unanimously approved.

Superintendent Report –Andrea Oquist (presented after elementary and secondary reports)

- Thanked everyone for work with goodie bags – makes them feel seen
- Educators of the Year were presented at the 11-17-25 Board of Education meeting
 - o Leah Gagnon – Secondary, LCTC
 - o Jessica Thimm – Elementary, Cooper 6th grade
 - o Melissa Bater – Support Staff, Franklin
- Points of Pride at BOE meetings
 - o September – Robotics
 - o October – HS student peer groups
 - o November – Educators of the Year
 - o December will be music programs
- LPS Education Foundation awarded \$50,000 in grants
 - o All staff donations go to grant program
- Franklin's Culinary Arts Program had a fantastic Thanksgiving feast on November 14.
 - o Hosted in Front Room this year so there was more room.
- Board of Education – truly selfless individuals who do a lot of outside training; high functioning group.; were asked to present at a conference.
- At BOE meeting, highlighted how our students give back to the community
- Brought a list of who does what at CO. Mandy will scan and send to Council members
- Honored a 47-year with the district custodian at LCTC who is retiring

Elementary Report – Jon Wennstrom, Riley principal

- At the beginning of December, there will be the next round of iReady testing and then a data dive for staff to evaluate on 12/12
- Trimester ends at the beginning of December
- PBIS celebrations on the half day on December 5
- Niji Holiday Gala at Holmes on 11/20
- Riley doing a special breakfast 11/20 – grateful for staff
- Many K-6 buildings doing Santa Shops

Respectfully submitted by Laura Ulaszek

Secondary Report – Andrew Pesci, principal at Franklin

- November parent/teacher conference went well
 - o 55% in-person, 45% virtual
- Fall sports are done except swim and winter sports are starting soon
- Thankful for the LPSEF grants, Franklin was honored to get four grants
- Churchill is doing a canned food drive; Franklin has a food pantry
- Romeo and Juliet at Stevenson December 5 and 6
- Dec 12 is the Garfield Craft Show from 8:30 am to 1:30 pm
- MS character trait this month is Empathy
- Franklin is doing shoutouts tomorrow to staff; Tuesday – pies for staff and free movie night; also a Wall of Gratitude between the cafeterias
-

NEW BUSINESS

Food Service and Custodian Appreciation – Mandy G.

- 215 bags to pack tonight and units will deliver tomorrow

Chili Cook-Off – Keadin P.

- Soliciting donations
- Kiwanians will donate \$500 as prize
- Still \$10 entry fee
- More info out soon

Reflections – Megan M.

- 160 entries (a little less than last year); collected projects today before meeting

Founders' Day – Andrea M.

- Looking at Hellenic Cultural Center as a new location – nicely updated
 - o Price is a little more but they will price as St. Mary's has for us in the past and will donate a balloon arch
 - o 10 to a table (with room)
 - o Info about submitting honorees going out this weekend and due before break. If not turned in on time, won't be in program
 - o Honorees must be PTA/PTSA members and remember, they need to be actively helping PTA not just school. Try to avoid it being a board member
 - o Check with Andrea about past honorees

YMAD – Holli Kerkhof

- 4/22/26 at Churchill at 6 pm
 - o Crazy Craig will perform
 - o Need participants by March 1
 - o Units please add chair to Givebacks

OLD BUSINESS

IEP Binder Event – Andrea M.

- Full house at Grant. Lots of great conversation and positive feedback

Costume Closet – Andrea M.

- Bin drop off tonight, hopefully all elementaries brought their bins
- Discussion on how we could donate some costumes to organizations, group homes

OFFICER'S REPORTS

Treasurer – Nicole D. not present but gave report to Mandy

- Report and budget were handed out.
- All Council dues paid by units
- Three schools need to update their 990s
- Multiple schools have not submitted audit or budget
- Nicole has reached out to all the above schools

Corresponding Secretary – Megan M. – No report

Recording Secretary – Laura U. – No report

2nd Vice President – Andrea M. – No report

1st Vice President – Keadin P. – No report

President – Mandy G.

- December 6 is the Michigan PTA Open House and Meet and Greet

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Advocacy – Mike Testa – no report

Bylaws – Andrea M.

- Still waiting on new template from MIPTA

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging – OPEN

ELVs & Math APS – Keadin P. – No report

Founders' Day – Andrea M.

- above

Membership - Nicole D not present but gave report to Mandy

- 2,129 members

Newsletter - Laura

- Email sent today to officers about turning in articles

PEP – Keadin P.

- Coolidge in first, Buchanan and Emerson tied for second, then Cleveland

Reflections – Megan M.

- Above

STEM – OPEN

Student Engagement – Andrea M. – No report

Website – Laura U.

- Check your pages on the website and send any changes to Laura.

YMAD - Holli K.

- above

Other Business

Kellie D. mentioned to guest to join the Facebook group if they weren't already in it

Cleveland needs HS volunteers for event in January

Motion to Adjourn at 6:56 p.m. by Christina Engler

Packed bags after the meeting