

Livonia PTSA Council Executive Board Meeting

March 18, 2026

In attendance:

Council – Mandy Gerstenbrand, Andrea Malenfant, Jon Wennstrom, Nicole Dant, Megan Moore, Kellie Dummer, Keadin Parish, Elizabeth Grayson, Andrea Oquist

Guests – Erica Cording, Stephanie Rea, Sarah Benbe, Jenna Kuhn, Danielle Pelc, Katie Simmons, Kristyn Cousino, Shayna Rackley, Sara Smith, Jessica Marwn, Alle Sanchez, Kalin Moore (student)

In attendance via Zoom: Holli Kerkhof (Council)

The meeting was called to order at 6:08 p.m. by Mandy Gerstenbrand.

Introductions around the room.

Approval of the January 21, 2026 meeting minutes motion by Andrea M., 2nd by Kellie D. Minutes unanimously approved.

Superintendent Report –Andrea Oquist

- Founders Day celebration was wonderful, loved unit awards.
- MI Department of Education visited Cleveland and district last week for Title I/II/III/IV review, went great and student achievement has risen as a result of these efforts. Thanks to staff involved with the visits.
- Excited for Transportation goodie bags, inspectors have been checking buses for four weeks and passed despite being short two mechanics.
- Two state champs: Franklin Pom and United Girls Hockey
- Testing and final trimester after spring break
- Elementary report cards out today
- Announced retirement in December
- Question from Mandy G. regarding Learning in L-Town: grant ended, may offer some kind of small program but credit recovery will always still be available

Elementary Report – Jon Wennstrom, Riley principal

- Report cards out today
- Assessments in April, 5th grade starts 4/7
- Reading Month and Battle of the Books
- Hayes got a new mascot costume
- Niji-Iro enrollment open through 3/31, passed around flyers
- Riley to host Arbor Day celebration
- Question from Holli K. regarding 6th grade camp: camp will happen in April, students who can't attend will have "Camp Riley" to do team building activities.

Secondary Report – Kristyn Cousino

- Franklin Pom and United Girls Hockey state champs
- End of marking period next Friday, check LPS website for half days/testing schedules
- Testing coming up
- Holmes to host middle school activity night, rodeo theme
- Spring sports start next week

Respectfully submitted by Megan Moore

- Holmes PBIS: students earn tickets and win snacks, socks, and pizza parties
- Citizenship program to be revisited, will evaluate how to better tie into Portrait of Graduate program.
- Acknowledged Andrea O.'s contributions throughout career.
- Washington D.C. trip 4/30-5/3
- Question from Mandy G. regarding PBIS celebrations: shortened class hours to offer activities at end of day.

NEW BUSINESS

Reflections – Megan M.

- 4 National qualifiers
- Ceremony on 3/25: gallery 6:30 pm, ceremony 7 pm at Franklin PAC
 - o Need snacks, napkins, water. Will send email for volunteers.

YMAD – Holli K.

- Two schools did school-wide projects, 2165 students total committed
 - o No response from Niji-Iro with commitment count
- Celebration 4/22: 6pm at Churchill
- Mandy to send Theresa's email address for Holli to invite Andrea O. to speak at event
- Brief discussion regarding school-wide commitment/participation, may revisit this regarding celebration/certificates for all students

Nominations – Andrea M.

- Committee members are Lynda S., Mike T., and Laura U., none in attendance
- Bylaws allow members to stay in current positions
- Current slate:
 - President: Mandy Gerstenbrand
 - Vice President 1: Keadin Parish
 - Vice President 2: Andrea Malenfant
 - Treasurer: Nicole Dant
 - Corresponding Secretary: Megan Moore
 - Recording Secretary: Laura Ulaszek

Transportation Appreciation - Mandy G.

- Delivering at 8:30 am
- Bags all packed!

MI PTA Convention - Mandy G.

- Convention is 4/17-4/19, early bird pricing extended
- Units are encouraged to have Convention line item in budget and send attendees to learn

OLD BUSINESS

Chili Cook-off - Keadin P.

- Thankful for all the help, event made \$1500 profit (a little more than last year)

Founders Day - Andrea M.

- New venue at Hellenic Cultural Center was great, **lots of ranch**, wonderful wait staff

Respectfully submitted by Megan Moore

- Will ask venue to set up food tables for lines on both sides of tables next year
- Looking for two missing school photo props
- Photos coming soon
- Event made a little over \$2000 - Carrie Budzinski sent money to Andrea M. even though she couldn't attend, Andrea to send to Nicole
- Venue offered to let us set up the night before next year

OFFICER'S REPORTS

Treasurer – Nicole D.

- All money in/out was for Founders Day and Chili Cook-off
- Current balance \$16,731.74 (\$11,907.14 in Checking, \$4,824.60 in Savings)

Corresponding Secretary – Megan M. – No report

Recording Secretary – Laura U. – No report (HAPPY BIRTHDAY from Council!)

2nd Vice President – Andrea M. – No report

1st Vice President – Keadin P. – No report

President – Mandy G.

- Attended LegCon with MI PTA (about 15 attendees from MI PTA), discussed fully funding Title I, gun safety, immigration zones, and seizure safe schools
- Officer Training: 8th grade honors night is on 5/20 (originally scheduled date), discussed 5/18 at Emerson but city track meet is that night
 - Will revisit, stay tuned
- Bylaws - no update yet, Mandy to inquire with MI PTA

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Advocacy – Mike Testa – no report

Bylaws – Andrea M. – No report

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging – OPEN

ELVs & Math APS – Keadin P.

- Described program
- Last year's turnout was awful for tutors and students, considering skipping this year
 - Also may need assistance if program does run due to family medical emergency, Elizabeth G. offered to assist
 - If Learning in L-Town is not happening, there may be more funding for APS/ELVs
 - Consider charging small deposit (~\$5) for attendees to commit, and/or offer only last two weeks of June and last two weeks of July

Founders' Day – Andrea M.

- Above

Membership - Nicole D

- 2,234 members

Respectfully submitted by Megan Moore

Newsletter – Laura U. – No report

PEP – Keadin P.

- Will send current point standing to units this week to verify

Reflections – Megan M.

- Above

STEM – OPEN

Student Engagement – Andrea M. – No report

Website – Laura U. – No report

YMAD - Holli K.

- Above

Other Business

- Kelli Dummer: Someone from a different MI district PTA warned others about scams, they sent Venmo funds and had to make an insurance claim
 - Make sure second signer is always involved on every transaction
 - Insurance deductible applies to fraudulent fund claims

Motion to Adjourn at 7:21 pm by Keadin P.