

Livonia PTSA Council Executive Board Meeting

August 20, 2025

In attendance:

Council – Mandy Gerstenbrand, Laura Ulaszek, Nicole Dant, Jon Wennstrom, Megan Moore, Keadin Parish, Kellie Dummer, Lynda Scheel, Andrea Oquist, Kevin Etue, Mike Testa, April Adams, Andrea Malenfant

Guests – Jenna Kuhn, Jennifer Hill, Jeff Backus, Sara Smith, Stephanie Rea

In attendance via Zoom: Holli Kerkhof (Council), Erica Cording (guest)

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by Mandy Gerstenbrand.

Introductions around the room.

Approval of the June 11, 2025 meeting minutes motion by Lynda S, 2nd by Kellie D. Minutes, unanimously approved.

Superintendent Report – Andrea Oquist

- August 4 – welcomed leaders back and hit the ground running (ALT – 75 leaders)
- New staff orientation was on Aug. 14 – over 70 new staff members and 1/3 are LPS alums
- Staff started Monday with building based PD; Tuesday at FHS and SHS
 - o Academic Services and Student Services planned PD
 - o Wed./Thurs. – teacher work days
- Bond work done at CHS, Grant, Johnson, Buchanan this summer
 - o CHS still under construction, library – late October
 - o Other schools done and passed inspections
- Idea Factories in all K-4s
- Fall sports have kicked off
- New lights and sound at HS stadiums
- New admins:
 - o Emerson – Brian Jensen, principal, and Eoghann Stephens, assistant principal
 - o Frost – Jennifer Katts, assistant principal
 - o Student Services – Bill Parrinello
 - o LECC – Amy Nichols, assistant principal (new position)
 - o Cooper – Rachel Banks Dzikowski, assistant principal
 - o Churchill – Bruce Rivera, assistant principal, attendance
- New roles in Cabinet:
 - o Phil Francis – Deputy Superintendent, HR
 - o Bill Green – Assistant Superintendent of Operations & District Services
 - o Jen Keatts – Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Programs & Instructional Services
- Bus issues discussion
 - o 19 requests for appeal, six or seven are from people who have never received transportation but think they should
 - o With new system, routing will be more efficient

Respectfully submitted by Laura Ulaszek

Elementary Report – Jon Wennstrom, Riley principal

- Amazing Bounce Back to School event put on by the LPS Education Foundation. Riley loves serving as the site
- August 14 – building tours, record number at Riley
- Teacher assignments available tomorrow
- Open Houses – the next few weeks

Secondary Report – Kevin Etue

- Tomorrow – Welcome Walks from 10 am-2 pm, canceled at Churchill due to construction
- Schedules came out today on parent/student connect
- 1st day – 7th and 9th grade only in the morning, 8th, 10th-12th arrive on four hour delay
- Encouraging parents to utilize Parent Connect more, will be reporting absences via PC
- Discussion on schedules being shown on Clever

NEW BUSINESS

Budget presentation – Nicole D.

- Budget approval – motion – Keadin P., seconded – Laura U., all in favor

Audit

- All now done (one school needed time after, three schools had audits that were said to be completed but were wrong)
- Add Council treasurer sign off on audit form
- Discussion on number of auditors needed for audit based on what bylaws say

Corn Roast – September 7

- Laura and Kellie will be with Foundation. Mandy and Megan can work LPTSAC
- Discussion on slideshow playing
- Do we want to do a giveaway? Floss, check dentists

IEP Binder

- Andrea talked to Maegan Sprow about setting date. MS wants to get Livonia PAC more involved.

Niji-Iro would like to host a Council event

Costume Closet

- Hopefully the first week in October at Franklin
- Laura will check sports schedules
- Sort costumes in September
- Andrea M. explained what Costume Closet is to our guests

OLD BUSINESS

MI PTA Summer Leadership – Andrea M. attended

- Breakout sessions: officers, parliamentary procedures, council

Respectfully submitted by Laura Ulaszek

- Seems like we are the only council who keeps tabs on units SOAs
- Detroit wants audit support
- Next MI PTA Convention in East Lansing in April

APS/ELVs – Keadin P.

- Very low volunteers, attendees. Might just be off year
- Ended a week early – 68% parents said it was okay
- Sending out feedback forms
- Very disappointed because last year was very busy

OFFICER'S REPORTS

Treasurer – Nicole D.

- above

Corresponding Secretary – Megan M. – No report

Recording Secretary – Laura U.

- Read thank you card from Kellie D. re: gifts for mother's passing

2nd Vice President – Andrea M.

- Will start on Founders' Day (Kellie will check date when she checks date for Foundation)

1st Vice President – Keadin P.

- Will meet with Kellie for Chili Cook Off help

President – Mandy G.

- New bylaws template coming out in September
- SOA letters should be in Givebacks, if not, reach out.
 - o Communications ➡ Files ➡ SOA
- Council members, reach out to liaison schools
- Add to PEP - update officers by June 30, 500 points

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Advocacy – Mike Testa

- No school board election this year
- City Council Candidates forum
- Discussion on voter turn out for primary
 - o Want to engage people under 60
 - o 60% of primary voters were over 60
- Discussion on topics, forum questionnaire
 - o Holli K. suggested collaboration with Chamber
 - o Maybe videos of each candidates answering questions and post on Facebook and website

Bylaws – Andrea M. – no report

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging – OPEN

ELVs & Math APS – Keadin P.

- Above
-

Founders' Day – Andrea M. - Report above

Membership - Nicole D

- 373 members
 - o Coolidge has 113 members already

Newsletter - Laura

- Will figure out date to turn in articles soon

PEP – Keadin P. – no report

Reflections – Megan M.

- Will work on a flyer
- April A. will work with Megan
- Theme is “I Belong”
- Projects due mid-November

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.

- Talked to Debbie P.

Other Business

None

Motion to Adjourn at 7:41 p.m. by Laura U.