



# MIZE ELEMENTARY PTO MINUTES

April 14, 2025

7301 Mize Road | Shawnee, KS 66227 | 913.441.0880 | [www.mizepto.com](http://www.mizepto.com)

Attendees: Amanda Philhour, Kellie Lawton, Deanne Engstrom, Erika Kokoruda, Amy Welborn, Katrina Billinger, Megan Passman, Gerri Balthazor, Shelly Souders

1. President's Report: Amanda Philhour

- Attendance with Secretary: Kellie Lawton
- Spring Grants/Funds Summary
  - *All grants requested were awarded in the Fall. We surpassed our fundraising goals and were able to award additional grants for each specials staff as they reach the entire student body.*
  - *Technology: robots in Fall*
  - *Art: new mural currently being completed*
  - *Music: 3 new drumheads, songs for programs, props for 5<sup>th</sup> grade*
  - *Counselor: soft seating, stand up desk*
  - *PE: gym mats, 9 square, dodgeballs*
  - *Library: wall board for books/learning*
  - *Garden: Spring and Summer items including a new butterfly garden, trash can in collaboration with 5th graders*
  - *Janet Miniham working with PTO to order plaques for murals and trash cans*
  - *Pavilion: to receive gutters to help in the mud issues around concrete perimeter*
  - *PTO was able to sponsor all green gathering supplies for teacher stations during the upcoming Mizeapalooze family event*
  - *2 Mad Science assemblies were hosted for Kinder-2nd and 3rd-5th*
  - *1st grade received travel week supplies for social studies cultural experiences around the world*
  - *3rd grade supplies for hands on activity*
  - *Kindergarten TBD*
  - *PTO to provide dye free popsicles for field day*
- Recruitment for 2025-26 Committee Nominations/Recruitment
  - There are positions open. If you have interest in learning more or volunteering, contact Amanda Philhour, Kim Schieber or Megan Passman.
  - The 2025-26 current board nominations were approved Kim Schieber for President, Megan Passman for Vice President, Katrina Billinger for Treasurer, Julie Suttles for Secretary.
- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Yard signs [available for purchase](#) \$15 each, \$4/sign goes back to the 5<sup>th</sup> graders for their farewell end of the year

- 2025-2026 Planning underway
  - Goals
    1. cash reserve minimum for next year's expenses
    2. continue to support the Mize staff and students with opportunities, activities and supplies that provide enrichment for all
    3. work with Gerri to identify key initiatives for the next school year
  - Budget
    1. Hawk Walk goal
    2. PNO was successful in 2024, proposed to repeat in 2025
  - Activities/Initiatives
    1. Maintain movie night, HW, carnival, 2 family event nights
    2. Possibly 1 additional family event (i.e., Bingo)
- 2. Treasurer's Report: Deanne Engstrom
- 3. Committee Updates: Kim Schieber
  - Game Night recap: Jenn McKechnie, Jen Templeton
    - look at new ideas for 2026 year
  - Mizeapalooza Carnival + the Green Gathering: Amy Welborn
    - We need volunteers to make the event successful. Please [sign up](#)
- 4. Fundraising
  - Birthday Board: Jenny McCord
    - Summer birthday announcement in HEV
  - Fundraising: Erika Kokoruda
    - Goodcents in March made \$240 but rounded up to \$400 to show community support
    - Culvers 4/21
      1. "Scoopy" to greet the students from 8:25-8:45 am by Steve
      2. They requested parent volunteers to help with greeting and bussing tables for a portion of time during the 5-8 pm event contact Erika [ekokoruda@hotmail.com](mailto:ekokoruda@hotmail.com)
      3. They will have tip jars at the store that evening (K - 5th). This money comes back to Mize. The group that receives the most tips will win a custard party for the entire grade.
  - School Supplies: Megan Passman
    - [Order now](#) until May 30th with account #85714
    - 8 weeks for shipping with delivery by July 28th
  - Passive Income: Jes Simecka
- 5. Staff Appreciation: Bridgid Driscoll
  - Staff Appreciation Week: Erika Kokoruda has an amazing week in store
    - Alice in Wonderland theme: Mize Staff is Wonderful
    - Lawn Greetings yard sign confirmed
    - Kim Leeper to organize archway balloons for TA week to be on display the following week during 5th grade farewell party and Mize alumni walk.

1. *Daily small gifts with custom tags (cookies from Goodcents, popcorn, candy, office supplies, etc)*
2. *Monday: Welcome to Wonderland breakfast with donuts, fruit, coffee and more*
3. *Tuesday: Down the Rabbit Hole break room snacks, gift drawing (free pizza certificate, donated Home Depot items, ROKC passes, Starbucks coffee/mug, etc), Fuzed with Kate permanent jewelry vendor 4-6 pm*
4. *Wednesday: Mad Hatter Tea Party with Mobile Coffee Cart 11 am -1 pm*
5. *Thursday: Student thank you cards, Gift card Mizeapalooza for all staff (so many great gift cards to Texas Roadhouse, Hereford House, Johnny's Tavern, Nick and Jakes, Olive Garden, etc), thank you notes from students*
6. *Friday: Royal Queen catered lunch Olive Garden with gluten free options*
  - Last Day Catering: Lindsay Billinger organizing for 80 staff at 12:30
6. Website: Lauren Cunningham
7. Principal's Report: Gerri Balthazor
8. Teacher Liaisons: Shelly Souders, Mimi Leuszler

*Thank you to everyone who has helped in any way this year! You are very much appreciated.  
We could not have accomplished what we did without you!*