

PTA Meeting

March 12, 2025 at 7:00pm

Corrections and approval by PTA membership will be done at the May 2025 meeting



Welcome & Sign-In - Caryn Neumann

- Welcome everyone!

Principal Update - Mr. Shermak

- This is Mr. Shermak's 3rd year as Assistant Principal. He supports scheduling and special education resource teachers and provides legal representation during student meetings for IEPs or 504s. He also helps with evaluations for all staff as well as supports lunch and recess supervisors.
- He stressed the importance of IAR testing and for students to be in attendance as well as having a good breakfast and well rested. The goal is to have all IAR testing complete before spring break.
- The Building Leadership Team (BLT) is focused on learning and smart test taking strategies in March.
- The staff thanks the PTA for all of the efforts going into High Interest Day. The whole building is excited about the day!
- 2025-2026 School Supply Lists can be found [HERE](#).

District 41 Board Member - Julie Hill

- The Committee of the Whole meeting was last week. There was a lively discussion around personal technology devices with some healthy agreement and disagreement. The goal is to update the policy so it is the same for K-8. Dr. McHugh is collecting feedback and will come back with a recommendation.
- The District website is up to date with the latest information on the new Kindergarten Center. 234 families have registered for full day KG and 88 KGs have been registered for ½ day across 3 schools.
- There are concerns that Churchill feels discounted with having the construction but not having a ½ day KG option. Julie is passing along notes to Dr. McHugh to see what the options are for those who would like a half day option.
- There was discussion around the traffic study and the new entrance to the KG Center off of Bloomingdale Rd and if there will be a crosswalk or crossing guard. Julie is raising this with Dr. McHugh.
- A question was asked around Churchill losing the Title I status once the new KG Center is open. This is a big concern for the school as they rely on funds for students. Julie is looking into this with Dr. McHugh and team.

- The search has kicked off for hiring a new Principal for Churchill. There will be updates on the timing and parent involvement in April.
- **** See below addendum for the latest responses from Dr. McHugh ****

Churchill Teacher Representatives - Dee Dee Aldrich & Kristin Travers

- Kristin Travers thanked the PTA for all of the nominations for Illinois PTA Teacher of the Year!
- Thank you to the PTA for the LEGO kits for the reading program as well as the grade level budget for additional classroom supplies.
- Dee Dee to announce the Mini March Madness winner at the all school assembly.

Guest Speaker: Mrs. Carol Van Gorp, Literacy Coach

- Carol's role is to Implement tier 2 and tier 3 literacy resources. She and her team follow progress monitoring and meets with teachers to help facilitate additional training. She is passionate about instructional coaching.
- Churchill school celebrates that "we are readers." Programs such as Mini March Madness, Camp Out with a Good Book and the LEGO program supports this celebration.
- The school celebrates literacy every Thursday by reading poems and excerpts from books over the morning announcements.
- Carol shared why she is so passionate about reading by sharing a quote from *The Last Bookshop in London* - "It's going somewhere without ever taking a train or ship, an unveiling of new, incredible worlds. It's living a life you weren't born into and a chance to see everything colored by someone else's perspective. It's learning without having to face consequences of failures, and how best to succeed."
- Camp Out with a Good Book is coming up on 5/16. They are adding two elements to the event including a readers theatre tent and adding in sign language. Thank you to the PTA for the hot dogs and popcorn machine.

Executive Board Reports

President – Caryn Neumann

- The results are in from the PTA Mid-Year Survey. Favorite PTA Programs are: HID, Roller Skating, School Dance, Trampoline Park and International Night.
 - Everyone feels well informed.
 - Primarily ratings of 5, with the exception of 1, 3 star review.
- The Illinois PTA Convention is 4/4 & 4/5: <https://illinoispta.org/convention-schedule/>. The PTA can send up to 2 delegates.
- GBW Scholarship - Mrs. Kanter & staff have 6 applicants and will choose the winner by 3/21. The ceremony is 5/13.
- The Spring Spirit Wear Store opens soon for 2 weeks. The store will not open again until the fall.
- Volunteers are gathering on 3/20 to clean out the PTA closet at school.
- All students will be participating in a field trip funded by the PTA! Here is the latest plan:
 - 5/1/25 5th Grade to Adler Planetarium

- 5/8/25 1st Grade to Brookfield Zoo
- 5/15/25 3rd Grade to Morton Arboretum
- 5/19/25 4th Grade to Science and Industry
- 4/29/25 Kindergarten visit from DuPage Forest Preserve
- 4/15/25 4th Grade to Hadley for Instrument Tutorials (School sponsored)
- 5/27/25 5th Grade to Hadley for Step Up morning (School sponsored)
- 5/23/25 5th Grade Bonus Field Trip
- 5/30/25 5th Grade to Churchill Woods for picnic morning
- 5/30/25 2nd Grade to Morton Arboretum

President-Elect - Kaci Snyder

- The Nominating Committee is actively recruiting for open PTA positions and chairs for next school year. The executive officers will be elected at the May PTA meeting. Open positions include President Elect, VP of Programming and Treasurer.
- Rebecca Taylor made a motion to approve the Nominating Committee. Kate Marsh seconded the motion. The Nominating Committee is approved and consists of Kaci Snyder, Megan Cox Pedota, Emily Sugimoto, Ashley, Lucy Pask, Rebecca Taylor and Abby Woenker.
- The annual Roller Skating event went great on Sunday! Around 150 people attended this free event funded by the PTA.
- The Date and Dance Night was also a success with 350 attendees.

1st Co-VP's: Programming - Aline Cox & Stephanie La Camera

- The Churchill Chess Wolves club has started and is meeting on Mondays at 6:30pm.
- There is a new Cleaning Club Association that will begin on Tuesday, 3/18. See the newsletter for details on how to join.
- Girls on the Run is also underway. The club will run until May 8. There are 36 girls in the club, up from 12 last year. Girls are from grades 3rd - 5th and are led by Coach Kelly Thielbar and other parent volunteers. They will be running a 5K in May near the Chicago lakefront!
- All other details are covered under Committee Chair reports.

2nd VP: Ways & Means – Anne Young

- The Parent Social and Fundraiser was held on 2/22. The goal was to raise 20k and the event raised 28k! Attendance was down from last year but the amount raised is a record.
- The Cooks Night Out with Do-Rite Donuts raised \$250. There are plans to bring it back for the fall and spring for next year.

3rd Co-VP's: Communications – Carrie Mariot & Jackie MacMillan

- Thank you for sending information to be included in the newsletter by the Thursday before each newsletter. If there are any graphics needed they can make them or senders can include a graphic.
- There are 888 subscribers to the newsletter.

4th VP: Language & Cultural Diversity – Emnie Staley

- The Bilingual Parent Advisory Committee (BPAC) meeting is on 3/18 from 6-7pm at the District Office. The Committee will discuss what it means for parents to be involved in their child's education and encourage participation in school events.

Treasurer – Michelle Trush

- Current cash on hand in bank accounts: \$78,996
- Need to keep \$20,000 in reserves
- Remaining cash: \$58,996
- Profit & Loss:
 - Revenue: \$76k compared to budget of \$77k (revenue still expected from FGGB).
 - Expense: \$47k compared to budget of \$81k (upcoming expenses for Student Enrichment (Field Trips, HID) and Special Events.
- Forecast for June 30, 2025:
 - Revenue: \$80k compared to budget of \$77k.
 - Expense: \$85k compared to budget of \$81k.
- When making purchases, please remember to use the tax-exempt certificate. Accounts at Amazon, Party City and Walmart can also be used.
- The PTA has a Venmo account that can be leveraged for accepting payments.

Secretary – Beth Tiltges - Approve January Meeting Minutes

- There are 179 members PTA - need 10 more to achieve Platinum Status with the Illinois PTA.
- A reminder that all meeting minutes are now posted on the PTA website.
- Anne Young motioned to approve the January meeting minutes, Michelle Trush seconded the motion. The January meeting minutes have been approved.

Committee Chair Reports

PTA Council - Carrie Mariot

- The PTA Council is discussing a Joint storage option for Drama props and costumes for all buildings for drama.
- The D41 Foundation's summer musical is *Seussical*. Registration is open for K-8 students and this is a no cut performance and no experience is needed. Practice will be 3 days a week starting on 6/4 and the performance will be at the end of July.
- The Council is also discussing areas of concern for students' safety such as down Kenilworth when crossing Elm and Oak streets. Follow-up to come.

High Interest Day - 3/14 -Jennifer Sostek, Abby Coran, Viktoria Himsel, Katie Gonzalez

- The event is Friday 3/14 from 8:30-11:30 followed by an all school assembly.

International Night - 4/11 - Rebecca Taylor & Lucy Pask

- International Night is Friday, 4/11. This special evening will have 25 countries represented by families and staff and will be held in the school gym. There will be 3 live performances and a flag

procession. The event will be very full, overflow parking at the Cornerstone Church will be available.

Talent Show - 4/17 - Aline Cox & Kaci Snyder

- The Talent Show will be on Thursday, 4/17. Auditions to be held 3/19 and 3/20. The theme is High Five to Churchill in honor of National High Five day!

Teacher Appreciation Week - Week of May 5 - Stephanie La Camera & Amy Mueller

- Planning is underway, be on the lookout for more information and signups.

Field Day - 5/28 - Susie White & Purvi Shah

- Field Day will be held on 5/28. There will be additional enhancements this year. The goal is to have students participate for 2 hours of activities.

After School Enrichment - Nicole Zedrow

- The Kane County Cougars Reading program is underway, with the game scheduled for 5/30.
- Bricks 4 Kids started this week and is a 5 week program.
- Young Rembrandts begins on Tuesday, 4/10 and will meet for 8 weeks on Thursdays.

Fifth Grade Gives Back (FGGB) - Jessica Powell

- The 5th Grade Mixer will be on 5/2. Tickets are available for sale through the PTA website.
- The 5th Grade Picnic will be held on 5/30. More details to come.

New/Old Business and Discussion Items

PTA Website & Web Store - Lucy Pask

- There is an initiative to streamline some of the transactions through the website. The team is evaluating new software. Come next year, there might be some changes to the web store and purchases related to the PTA.

2025 Save The Dates

- Upcoming events listed below - all events posted on the PTA website.
 - High Interest Day - 3/14
 - International Night - 4/11
 - Talent Show - 4/17
 - Fifth Grade Mixer - 5/2
 - Family Fun Fitness Event - 5/4
 - Teacher Appreciation Week - 5/5
 - Camp Out with a Good Book - 5/16
 - Field Day - 5/28
 - Fifth Grade Picnic - 5/30
 - Kane County Cougars Game - 5/30

Questions/Concerns & Wrap

- Next meeting date is Wednesday, May 7th at 7pm

Adjourned at 8:46pm

Remote Attendees:

- Julie Hill

In Person:

- Caryn Neumann
- Michelle Trush
- Carrie Mariot
- Kate Marsh
- Stephanie La Camera
- Anne Young
- Aline Cox
- Elizabeth Solak
- Rebecca Taylor
- Lucy Pask
- Kristin Travers
- Carol Van Gorp
- Joyce Meza
- Beth Tiltges
- Emnie Staley
- Jackie MacMillan

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March 12, 2025 at 7:00pm

ADDENDUM



The following are responses to questions raised at the meeting to D41 Board Member, Julie Hill. The responses are from Superintendent, Dr. Jeff McHugh and members of his team.

Concern about lack of Half Day K (HDK below) at Churchill.

- Why isn't it offered at CH like other 3 schools?
 - We currently don't have enough Churchill students registered for half-day to form a section at Churchill. If we don't get enough students for a half-day section, we will work with the individual families to discuss their options.
- Can parents who want HDK leave at lunch time during the FDK session? ○ We talked about this option, but ultimately, half a day of full-day K doesn't provide the full half-day academic experience. We want all of our half-day programming to be consistent so that all of our half-day students get the same opportunities.
- Can they attend HDK at a different school?
 - Yes - likely Forest Glen
- Can you make thresholds public so folks understand how many kids are needed to necessitate a HDK option?
 - We start to consider a half day section when enrollment is at least half of a section.
- If more kids ask for HDK at CH later this spring/summer, can a section be added? ○ Yes

Traffic study

- Will there be/can there be a crosswalk on Bloomingdale into the CH FDK entrance? ○ Based on the traffic study that we had prepared, the DuPage Dept. of Transportation determined that a stoplight could not be installed. Due to the traffic on Bloomingdale, we don't believe a crosswalk without a stoplight would be safe. Walkers will need to proceed to the existing stoplight at Geneva and Bloomingdale.
- What about a crossing guard?
 - See above.

Busing

- Will folks outside CH boundaries qualify for busing? (This answer seems obvious to me so I think I missed something in transcribing my notes. Caryn might have to fill in some blanks for me here.)

- Busing eligibility will be determined in the same manner as it currently does. Our policy states if you are 1.5 miles away or more or have a hazardous crossing you would qualify for busing.

New Principal

- What can you tell us about the timing of a new hire, and about parent involvement in the process?
 - David Bruno communicated with Caryn about this matter. Churchill parents will play a crucial role in providing feedback to me as we work through the process of selecting the next principal. The first step was the parent survey sent out a few weeks ago, and the next step involves conducting interviews with both staff and parents on April 8. Caryn is providing David with names of 7-10 parents, ensuring representation from both monolingual and dual-language classes. Candidates will also interview with the administrative team. We anticipate having a recommendation to the Board at the April 21 meeting.

Relatedly, at the Exec Council meeting, someone reiterated a potential need of another admin at CH, given the size of the school and the high rate of turnover that has been a problem for years. Some people wonder if they are getting the support they need, if the job is too big for one person.

- Thanks for the feedback. We are monitoring the amount of admin support needed at Churchill.

The following question was asked by a teacher that is missing from Julie's original list. - Will Churchill lose its title 1 status with the addition of the new Kindergarten center school being attached? There is concern around this as the staff relies on the funding from Title 1. **The Kindergarten Center will function as its own school, so Churchill's status as a Title I school won't be impacted.**

I can clarify the busing question. We have some families that are in the dual language program at Churchill but live outside of the Churchill boundaries (technically they are BF but got into the dual program.) Will they qualify for a bus to Churchill for their incoming Kindergarten who will be in dual and if so can their older student who goes to Churchill also take this bus? They are wondering this since buses from their neighborhood will now be going to the Churchill campus. **While this is currently not our practice, we are exploring the possibility of offering busing for dual students (and maybe their siblings) for next year. More information will be forthcoming once we've landed on a decision.**

A follow up to that question is, will dual language Kindergartners at Churchill start at 8:15 like the other FDK students at the center? **All of the dual language classrooms, including kindergarten, fall under the Churchill umbrella and are located within Churchill), so the K dual language classes will start at 8:30 with the rest of Churchill.**