



## Merrill PTA meeting minutes

Mon, March 9, 2020

6:30pm

Merrill Middle School library

### 10 attending:

Rose G

Kate P

Heather C

Sara A

Holly KO

Stephanie M

Channon T

Sarah R

Sara V

Kate E

### Principal's Update – Mrs. Panek

New hires are underway for the 2020-21 school year:

- Additional counselor (so Merrill will have 2 total)
- New behavioral interventionist
- Additional reading, math, science, and social studies teachers

Students are focused on best practices for virus protection including washing hands and doorknobs frequently.

Recently met with district leaders RE: Merrill's overcrowding challenges. Received commitment to minimize in-district transfers and open enrollments.

Merrill staff remain outside after school until all buses depart. Someone is in the office until 6pm.

Merrill continues to struggle with recruiting and retaining Spanish teachers This is a district-wide problem. Due to both growing enrollment/class size and fewer endorsed Spanish teachers in Iowa, Merrill will be reducing world language class to every other day.

➔ *The PTA encourages parents to raise concerns with the [school board](#). Recommend using the public comment time available at the beginning of each school board meeting to ask "How do we attract and retain world language teachers to DMPS?" (public comments get added to the public record... and tend to get more focus).*

Important upcoming dates:

- Spring break March 16-20, students return Thurs, March 26.
- Spring conferences on March 24 (open conferences) and March 25 (targeted/invitation only)
- Incoming 6<sup>th</sup> grade orientation on April 30
- 8<sup>th</sup> grade promotion & dance on May 27

### Recent PTA Accomplishments

- **Financed the 4/29 band solo festival** – Funding for band/orchestra solo festivals was cut from the district budget. The PTA will be sponsoring these important music events. (Rose G)
- **Teacher appreciation events** – Thanks to the generosity of Merrill parents, teachers and staff enjoyed breakfast and snacks during the 2/25 Teacher Development day, plus supplemented tissues and disinfectant wipes. (Sarah R)

## Upcoming/Ongoing PTA Events + Opportunities to help

- 1. Parents' Night Out fundraiser** (Rose G)
  - Sat, March 28 at [RDG](#) downtown
  - Auction items, raffle, food, drinks, and fun!
  - Thank you to the many wonderful donors who are helping make our event a success!
  - NOTE: All donations needs to be finalized and in-hand by Mon 3/23. Contact Rose with donation details.
- 2. Teacher Appreciation events** (Sarah R)
  - 3/24-25 Spring conference meals
  - May 4-8 teacher appreciation week & [Amazon wish list](#)
- 3. Book Fair** (Karina C)
  - April 30, during incoming 6<sup>th</sup> grade orientation night

More ways to help:

- [Donations & Giving ideas](#) including [teachers' Amazon Wish List](#)
- [Short-term volunteer opportunities](#) including Spring Parents Night Out fundraising event planner
- [Ongoing volunteer opportunities](#) including 2020-21 PTA president/board positions
- Box Tops (Amy D) – [Download the new mobile app](#) to scan receipts
- 8<sup>th</sup> grade promotion – **HELP NEEDED**
  - Mid-May promotion celebration at Roosevelt, dance at Merrill
- Science Fair needs coordinator (Rose G) – **TRANSITION OPPORTUNITY**
- PTA president (Rose G) – **HELP NEEDED, TRANSITION OPPORTUNITY**

## PTA Decisions/Motions

2/26/20 via email – decision made to **pay \$500 to sponsor Merrill Orchestra's Solo and Ensemble performance on April 4** (as of 2020, this annual event was cut from DMPS funding).

## Housekeeping

**The last PTA meeting of the 2019-20 school year will be on Mon, April 20, at 6:30pm in the Merrill library.**

### Merrill PTA board 2019-20

**President:** Rose Green

**Treasurer:** Theresa Chivers

**Secretary:** Holly Kilborn O'Neall

**Communications:** Kristen Erickson, Holly Kilborn O'Neall

**Membership & Community Relations:** Sarah Witt

**Apparel:** Megan Tempero

**Helping Hands:** Julie Hahn

**Teacher Appreciation:** Sarah Ramsey

**Book Fairs:** Karina Casini

**School Supply Kits:** Emily Cataldi/Kate Evans

**Box Tops:** Amy Dagitz

**IB Liaison:** Marquis Ellis

All Merrill PTA meetings are open to families and community members interested in helping students.

Contact Rose at: [rose.green\(AT\)cbdsm\(DOT\)com](mailto:rose.green@cbdsm.com) or 773.844.1782

Find more information at <https://merrillpta.wordpress.com/> including [PTA meeting archives](#)

Connect with us at <https://www.facebook.com/merrillpta/>

Read Mrs. Panek's "Merrill Minute" monthly newsletter for more PTA information