



Home & School Meeting, September 9, 2025
Multipurpose Room at Prairie, 9 a.m.

A. CALL TO ORDER

- a. T.C.9:03 am
- b. Attendance: M.E., M.B.O., K.S., D.J., D.H., M.L., A.T., P.S., C.T., W.W., A.C., M.K., M.H., N.S., M.B., D.Y., Y.A.

B. WELCOME

- a. Introductions (Presidents, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Principal, Assistant Principal)

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. [DRAFT H&S Meeting Minutes 5/13/2025](#)
- b. Approval initials
 - i. M.H.
 - ii. C.T.

D. PRESIDENT REPORT

- a. Thank Yous
 - i. 5th Grade Special Projects: Erica Bennett, Kathleen Sather, & Whitney White
 - ii. Assemblies: Nichole Schulz & Matt Wilhelm
 - iii. Birthday Books: Kat Stark & Sarah Daniluk
 - iv. Fundraising/Fun Run: Crystal Coon & Megan Hower
 - v. Garden: Noemi Diaz Herrera, Dennis Johnson, & Anne Nourallah
 - vi. Marquee: Leigh Sims & Shari Landeweer
 - vii. Picture Day Volunteers: Trisha Hyde, Liza Schramm, & Michelle Weisseg
 - viii. Prairie Fest: Ted GrosseStreuer & Brittany Piszynski
 - ix. Prairie Partners: Julie Belolli & Jillian McGrath
 - x. Room Parties: Mackenzie Henry & Katie Smreczak
 - xi. School Supply Kits: Molly Bliss, Carolyn Buckingham, Alicia Klabunde, & Anne Walker
 - xii. Social Media: Donna Heine
 - xiii. Spirit Wear: Nicole Anderson & Michele Larson
 - xiv. Staff Appreciation: Food: Courtney Celani & Mora Escarra
 - xv. Staff Appreciation: Gifts: Christine Cox & Laura Gniadek
 - xvi. Yearbook: Carolyn Buckingham, Lisa Crisup, & Allison Kellogg
- b. General H&S Board Updates
 - i. Liaisons for 2025-26 School Year
 - 1. General Home & School-Nicole Kmetz
 - 2. Board of Education-Marc Willensky
 - ii. [S.U.C.C.E.S.S. Cookout](#)

1. Sunday, 9/13, 1-3:30 p.m., Seager Park
- iii. Crosstown Classic, Saturday, October 18 (save the date)
- c. Prairie H&S Updates
 - i. [Volunteer Signup Form](#) (closes on Friday, September 12)
 - ii. [Confidentiality Agreement](#)
 - iii. H&S Meeting Schedule:
 - Tuesday, September 9, 9:00 am
 - Tuesday, October 7, 9:00 am
 - Tuesday, November 18, 9:00 am *third Tuesday due to Veteran's Day
 - Tuesday, December 9, 9:00 am
 - Tuesday, January 13, 9:00 am
 - Tuesday, February 10, 9:00 am
 - Tuesday, March 10, 9:00 am
 - Tuesday, April 14, 9:00 am
 - Tuesday, May 12, 9:00 am
- d. Upcoming H&S-Sponsored Events
 - Prairie Fest: Wednesday, September 10, 5:00-7:30 p.m.
 - Matt Wilhelm Assembly: Friday, September 12
 - Fun Run: Friday, September 26
 - Schedule:
 - Kindergarten 9:15 - 9:55am
 - 1st Grade 10:00-10:40am
 - 2nd Grade 10:45-11:25am
 - 3rd Grade 8:30-9:10am
 - 4th Grade 12:15-1:00pm
 - 5th Grade 1:30-2:15pm (color run)
 - National Walk, Bike and Roll to School Day: Wednesday, October 1
 - Prairie Book Fair: Monday, October 6 - Wednesday, October 8
- e. Contact the board with any questions or suggestions:
 - i. Tia Claffy, prairiehs@gmail.com
Melissa Fox, prairiecopresident@gmail.com
 - ii. Carolyn Buckingham, prairieschoolvp@gmail.com
 - iii. Alicia Klabunde, prairiesecondary@gmail.com
 - iv. Nicole Anderson, prairietreas@gmail.com

E. VICE PRESIDENT REPORT

- a. Week at a Glance
 - i. Submissions are due by noon on Wednesday for the following week.
 - ii. Email to Carolyn Buckingham at prairieschoolvp@gmail.com.
 - iii. Links to flyers need to be marked as shareable. Can attach PDFs or google doc links (preferred).
 - iv. Please note if you want to run for multiple weeks.
 - v. If you have a submission, review the draft on Thursday and give your approval.

F. TREASURER REPORT

- a. Review current year account reconciliations, P/L reports and transaction detail reports.
 - i. [August Reports](#)
 - 1. Approval
 - a. K.S.
 - b. K.L.
 - ii. [July Reports](#)
 - 1. Approval
 - a. K.S.
 - b. M.K.
 - iii. [June Reports](#)
 - 1. Approval
 - a. M.B.
 - b. K.S.
 - iv. [May Reports](#)
 - 1. Approval
 - a. K.S.
 - b. M.H.
 - v. Savings Account - \$7,574.68
 - vi. Checking Account - Bank - \$37,215.73; Book - \$33,803.01
- b. [2025-2026 Budget](#)
- c. Forms
 - i. Deposit form is available in the Prairie office - cash needs 2 signatures
 - ii. Check Request Forms
 - 1. [Printable form](#)
 - 2. [Google form](#)
- d. All deposits need to go through Prairie office with 4-part deposit form
- e. Cannot reimburse tax - [Tax exemption certificate](#)
 - i. Good until October 1st
 - ii. Will provide updated certificate as soon as we receive it

G. SECRETARY REPORT

- a. Correspondence
 - i. Staff
 - 1. [2025-26 Staff Favorites](#) Things Survey now available in the Prairie Documents and Forms folders
 - ii. Thank-yous
 - 1. Barb (Executive Secretary) - Dear Home & School, Thank you for the Amazon gift card for secretaries day. It will be put to good use.
 - 2. "Mrs. D." Ilona Didzbalis (Para Professional) - Dear Home & School, Thank you SO MUCH for contributing to my end-of-year gift card. That was such a nice surprise! And thank you for all that you do throughout the year to fill our souls with joy and our bellies with goodies! You are the absolute BEST!
 - 3. Lisa Dalton (Learning Support Coach) - Home & School, Thank you so much for all you do at Prairie. From snacks in the lounge, lunches and an amazing teacher appreciation week, your efforts do not go

unnoticed. After interviewing various teacher candidates, Brian will ask if they have any questions. Often we are asked what makes Prairie so special. I always talk about our amazing parent community - so willing to help out and wanting what is best for their students. My passion is teaching, including all the adults that make up Prairie. Thanks - especially for the gift cards. Enjoy your summer break.

4. "Mrs. D." Ilona Didzbalis (Para Professional) - Dear Home & School, What a terrific and unexpected surprise that was on the first day of school! The lunch you provided in the lounge was so delicious and so appreciated! I am so grateful for such a supportive and wonderful team of parents like you! Thank you, thank you!!
 5. Emily Kozlowski (School Secretary) - Dear Home & School, Two weeks into the school year and already so much to say thank you for. The new Prairie shirt is very appreciated, my green ones are all so old. The back to school lunch was great - always nice to not have to bring lunch. The snack cart cleared out in less than 48 hours! It was so nice to be able to grab a snack to eat at my desk. Thank you for all that you do. I so appreciate you!
- b. Attendance raffle - Prairie T-Shirt
- i. Winner P.S.

H. PRINCIPAL REPORT

- a. Thank You - Thank you for a smooth start to the school year and for your attendance at Meet the Teacher as well as Curriculum Night. Students and staff are transitioning back into the routines of school and we are excited about the year ahead.
- b. Parent Teacher Conferences - Thursday, October 9th and Friday, October 10th are parent teacher conferences. There is no school on both of these days. Thursday's conferences are 5-8 p.m. Friday's conferences are from 8-12. Conferences are via Zoom. Sign up will go out on 9/17.
- c. Safety Reminders
 - i. Accessing the Building During School
 1. Must use Door 1 and be buzzed into the main office
 2. Driver's License or State ID will be run through our Raptor System. The system was purged this summer so all parents planning to support at school should have their ID rerun.
 - a. If you plan to be at this school this year and haven't already come in and had your ID scanned, you are encouraged to do so.
 3. Issued a Temporary Badge that must be worn the entire time you are visiting the building
 - ii. Supervision Before and After School
 1. Students should not be unsupervised in the morning before we open the doors at 8 am.
 2. Students playing on the playground or in the fields after school must have adult supervision.
- d. Staff Email Response - Please allow 24 hours for staff to respond to email during the school week. On the weekends, there is no expectation that staff is checking emails so the response time will be longer.

- i. If there is a change to after school pickup late in the day, parents are encouraged to call the office to notify instead of emailing the teacher.
- e. Talk 203 - Do not respond directly to Talk 203 messages. If you have a question, please email the staff member directly using their school email address.
- f. MAP Growth - Students in K-5 recently completed their fall MAP Growth assessment in reading and math. Scores will be coming home Friday, September 12th. This assessment is just one data point that provides valuable insights into a student's growth and learning. However, it is important to remember that it is not the sole indicator of a student's progress. Teachers at Prairie use multiple measures to monitor and plan for each student's success, including classroom assessments, observations, daily work, and other formative tools. This comprehensive approach ensures a well-rounded understanding of each student's needs and strengths.
- g. Drop off procedures
 - i. Parents are encouraged to review the drop off procedure.
 - ii. Parents should not park in the drop off line.
 - iii. Please only use designated cross walks. The option exists for police to issue tickets to parents who are not using crosswalks, but this is not what the school is wanting to do.

I. TEACHER REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

- a. From Heather Callaghan - Staff want to say a big thank you for an amazing start to our school year! We appreciate the work that was put into making sure we had student supplies to start the year and ensuring popsicles were ready for them after our Meet and Greet. We also had a delicious lunch that first week which was a perfect day to be treated.

J. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Verbal
 - i. Fun Run - M.H. (written report attached).
 - 1. Goal is \$30,000
 - 2. T.C. states the reason we went away from Booster to parent run is that parent volunteers were willing to step up and approximately 25% of funds previously raised was going to the Booster.
 - 3. New Prairie Arch is available to use this year for the event
 - 4. Volunteer sign up for set up and tear down will be issued
 - 5. Prairie Staff have been contacted to help M.C. the event
 - 6. 5th graders will be able to do a color run during the event
 - 7. Parents are asked to keep the event shirts as they will be used for additional events within the year
 - a. W.W. states 5th grade shirts will be used for tye dying
- b. Fundraising - M.H. (written report attached)
- c. Book Fair - A.C.
 - i. Coming up
 - ii. Watch for sign up sheet coming out
 - iii. Theme is Camp Prairie Book Fair - Adventure awaits
- d. Garden Club - D.J.
 - i. Rebuilding beds in the back
 - ii. Getting kids started at a young age is very beneficial

- 1. Additional signup sheet will go out in the spring
 - iii. More volunteers are always welcome for the spring
 - iv. Age restricted to 3-5 graders
- e. Room Parents - K.S.
 - i. Room parents will need to sign up with a sign up link coming out. Will be open for 9/16-9/23. Once signup is closed changes will be discouraged. No siblings or grandparents are allowed to help. Limited to parents only.
- f. Written reports attached.

K. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Garden - donation check from end of last year move to 25-26 budget
 - i. Gift of \$750
 - ii. Approval to add to budget for this year
 - 1. K.S.
 - 2. D.J.
- b. RSVP for meeting attendance coming
 - i. This will assist office secretary in efficiently getting name tags made ahead of time and assist
 - ii. Advanced sign up will not be required, just suggested
- c. Prairie Fest
 - i. Still needs volunteers for inflatables for tomorrow
 - ii. Food trucks will be fee based. Confirming payment methods, but parents encouraged to have cash on hand.
- d. Guest Speakers
 - i. Suggestions for future guest speakers at meetings are welcome

L. UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, September 12: Matt Wilhelm Assembly
 Tuesday, September 16: Room Parent Sign Up Opens (9:00AM)
 Thursday, September 18: Fun Run Kickoff
 Friday, September 26: Fun Run
 Wednesday, October 1: National Walk and Bike to School Day
 Thursday, October 2: National Custodian's Day
 Monday, October 6 - Wednesday, October 8: Prairie Book Fair
 Tuesday, October 7: Home & School Meeting - MPR (9:00AM)
 Thursday, October 9: No School - Institute Day
 Thursday, October 9: Parent/Teacher Conferences (5:00PM - 8:30PM)
 Friday, October 10: No School - Institute Day
 Friday, October 10: Parent/Teacher Conferences (8:00AM - 12:00PM)
 Monday, October 13: No School - Columbus/Indigenous People Day
 Tuesday, October 14: 4th Grade Lyric Opera Trip - NCC (10:00AM)
 Wednesday, October 15: School Picture Retake Day
 Saturday, October 18: Crosstown Classic @ Jefferson Junior High School

M. Meeting Adjournment

- a. 9:48 am
- b. Approval
 - i. C.T.

H&S Committee Reports Month: September 2025

1. Staff Gifts

- a. We have made our cheddar up list and have made our budget sheet. We are ready for volunteers

2. Fun Run

- a. Pre-registration is open!
- b. Overview Page with total school goal: <https://app.99pledges.com/fund/prairiefunrun2025>
- c. Adding your Student: <https://app.99pledges.com/fund/prairiefunrun2025/addme>
- d. This year's Fun Run is entirely organized and led by our amazing Prairie H&S Fun Run Committee! We're excited to use **99 Pledges**, a student fundraising platform already trusted by many local schools. Best of all—there's **no platform fee** (we only cover standard credit card processing).
- e. As of **9/3, we've already raised \$1,335**—just from flyers handed out at Curriculum Night and the pre-registration link in the 9/7 WAAG! Watch for more details and links coming soon in the WAAG and via Talk203 messages. Please help us spread the word—this is our **biggest fundraiser of the year**, and every share makes a difference!

3. Fundraising

- a. Our annual sponsorship program is already off to a great start! This year, rather than requesting support for individual events, we're simplifying the process by offering one annual sponsorship opportunity. This approach helps ease the workload for our event committees while giving sponsors meaningful recognition and appreciation all year long.
- b. To learn more, please contact **prairie203fundraising@gmail.com** for a copy of our sponsorship options letter
- c. Other ideas discussed to promote/recognize sponsors: yard signs to be used at different events, have a table at events to showcase sponsor names, having sponsor names on Prairie website?

4. Yearbook

- a. Committee meeting will be on 9/18
- b. 5th grade yearbook cover contest starts 9/5 (5th grade teachers will present information to their classes)

5. Prairie Garden Club

- a. Fifteen 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders signed up and are attending on Tuesdays from 2:30-3:15. The fall club sessions traditionally lose members to graduation/competing sports, etc. and the count is down by about 10-15 from spring. A survey of the student and adult attendees was conducted at the first session. Future club activity will focus on identified key interests and appetites. We are harvesting crops planted in the Spring session and planting crops for late fall harvest. We now have 8 beautiful new Vego garden beds on hand to replace the wooden beds that are falling apart. Two more and replacement will be complete. These will be installed as we idle existing beds for the winter. Scheduling the winter shut down with assistance from others is in process. Boy

Scouts, Cub Scouts, and Girl Scouts have either helped in the past or expressed interest in helping. Hopefully this will also include filling the new beds. We are aiming for a mid-late October garden shut down/overwinter day.