

ORCHARD HILL ELEMENTARY POWWER MINUTES

Date: September 14, 2026

Time: 6:00 PM

Meeting called to order by: Libby Leuth

IN ATTENDANCE

Libby Leuth, Megan and Nick Gambell, Ashley Welter, Andrea Christopher, Cassidy Hayworth, Ryan Fortney, Gabbi Copper, Katherine Brown, Jesse Messerli, Lexi Brown, Brittany Blair-Broeker

UPDATES

- Libby Leuth - President and Mark lehl - Treasurer
 - Voted in for 2026-2027 officers replacing Nicole Bolthouse and Andrew Bolthouse who have stepped down, no objections
- POWWER meetings will be 2nd Monday of each month at 6pm in library except for October which will be on the 19th
- Big fundraising goal for the year is sunshades for playground
 - Need new quotes as previous quotes are outdated
- Need someone/staff member to take over putting yearbook together, graphic design, assisting student group. Can be very student-oriented job.
 - Art teacher may be interested in helping?
- Cookies will be provided again by POWWER at music concerts
- Wanting to do fun fair this year but need several volunteers to lead various "teams"
 - Work needs to begin now through fun fair (Usually held in April). We need to decide now if there will be enough volunteers to hold fun fair. Email will be sent out to express interest.
 - Libby is willing to lead fun fair
 - Leaning towards doing raffle online this year - more efficient
 - This fundraiser generates at least \$20,000
- Other smaller fundraisers throughout year
 - Blue Bin in parking lot, shirts, Butterbraids
 - New ideas? Color fun run, Scrip gift cards, Edgewood meat locker, dance-a-thon, Chad's Pizza

- Check to see if anyone is helping with annual 1st grade tree planting this year
- Upcoming dates
 - Fall FAST testing - September 9th-18th
 - 6th Grade School of the Wild - September 21st-25th
 - Popcorn Day - September 25th
 - 4th grade Orchestra kick-off 9am at CFHS - Saturday, September 26th
 - No school – Professional Development October 8th
 - POWWER meeting -October 19th
 - 5th grade Des Moines field trip – October 15th
 - Noon Dismissal – October 23rd

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

- 6th grade highlighted tonight
 - New this year – 6th grade is departmentalized
 - Currently ELA is with Messerli, math with Hillebrand and vocab, science and social studies with Brown. Students have class with all 3 teachers each day. There are three 75 minute blocks. Will rotate teachers during the year. All teachers are doing authentic learning.
 - School of the wild next week at Hartman Reserve
- New staff
 - Olivia Gearhart – art, Autumn Bray – special ed, mostly with 4th, Alexis Kraayenbrink – orchestra (multiple buildings), Spencer marsh- band director (multiple buildings)
- Lighthouse School – Leader in Me
 - Mindset that every child is a leader. Lots of student jobs, students driving their own learning, 8 Habits
 - POWWER will split cost of the membership. Lots of national leadership, training and material included.
- Orchard Hill is piloting a three year old preschool section and there are only 2 sections of kinder this year
- September attendance goal: stay above 95% daily attendance. Currently exceeding that.
- Drills throughout the year
 - 2 fire, 2 tornado, 2 dangerous intruder
 - Email with more details coming soon

TREASURER'S REPORT

- Mark not able to attend tonight. More information on budget and finances will be shared next meeting (October 19th)

HOSPITALITY

- Need someone leading as hospitality chair this year
 - Teacher meals, teacher appreciation days, etc.
 - Can be split among a group of people if needed
 - Many times food is donated (Sign Up Genius) or could be potentially be catered

PURPOSE STATEMENT "...to promote the welfare and educational values of children and youth

Minutes taken and submitted by Ashley Welter