

BUCHER ELEMENTARY PTO MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2025

Bucher Elementary School, 450 Candlewyck Road, Lancaster, PA 17601

I. PTO Welcome – Sara Rusniak, Bucher PTO President

- Call to order: 7:05pm
- Members present: Sara Rusniak, Jen Tucker, Amy Hiltz, Libby Muelbach, Andrea Molitoris, Katy Miller, Meghan, Kate Cramer, Dr. Martin
- Minutes approved from September 17, 2025, Bucher Elementary PTO meeting. Motioned by Libby Muelbach. Seconded by Amy Hiltz.
- Approval of PTO bylaws:
 - Revisions suggested by Soraya Hintz; not received as of 11/19/25.
 - Motioned by Libby Muelbach. Seconded by Katy Miller.

II. Principal's Comments – Dr. Andy Martin, Principal, Bucher Elementary

- Book Fair: It was great getting books in kids' hands. The event ran smoothly. Thank you to all those who helped out.
- Race for Education: Moving to digital was successful. We raised \$6,000 more than anticipated. Thank you for all of the hands that were involved.
- Fall Fling: Very well done, and an awesome event for our kids.
- International Night: This has become one of my favorite events. It is so neat to see all the pride from our kids. Thank you to Rebecca Stewart and those who helped put this event together.
- Parent/Teacher Conferences: A big thank you to our teachers for being awesome. We hope to express thanks to them for all they do.
 - Sara Rusniak – We are having Silantra cater dinner for teachers, incorporating feedback to have vegan, GF, and dairy free options.

III. Teacher Representative Comments – Kate Cramer

- Kindergarten: Kindergarten had an AMAZING time at our field trip to Cherry Hill Orchards. Each student picked an apple and a pumpkin! We also peeked inside their huge refrigerator and sampled some apple cider and apple cider donuts. At the end of the trip, we played in their huge play area! Some highlights were petting and feeding goats and climbing on a huge tower of hay bays! It was the best trip we have ever had- and the students were SO well behaved!
- First grade: All first grade classes had a wonderful time walking/running laps during Bucher's Race for Education. Thank you so much to the PTO for providing prizes and tshirts for all participants! The group also had so much fun learning their song "Yankee Doodle" and performing it on stage for our Veteran's Day assembly. First grade was also the winner of the "Golden Tray Award" for the first marking period, so sometime in the near future first graders will enjoy an extra outdoor recess. They should all be proud of following rules and routines in the cafeteria consistently.
- Second grade: Our second graders have grown so much over the first marking period. In ELA, we've been exploring the patterns in nature and will begin to make connections as we study traditions throughout the world. Our students have really loved our new science curriculum, which really allows for immersive learning experiences, including a trip to the planetarium. The second graders teachers are looking forward to discussing the students' progress during conferences next week. We continue to be so grateful for the students and families in our Bucher community!
- Third grade: Third grade has been hard at work starting to learn their multiplication and division facts. We are also excited as we get to have roly polys in our classroom as part of our new science curriculum this marking period. Mrs. Cutler has hers already! Third grade is very excited that we finally got our field trip scheduled. It will be April 14, going to Lancaster – details to be finalized shortly. We are grateful the Race for Education was so successful to help fund these experiences for our students. We also look forward to meeting with parents at conferences coming up.
- Fourth grade: Thank you so much for organizing the Fall Fling and Pumpkin Decorating contest. The students also had a great morning at the Race for Education. What a great way to raise money for the school, while providing a fun time to socialize and exercise. Both were highlights of October! We were also so grateful for all the books that were donated to us from the Book Fair. We are so thankful for your continued support!

IV. Completed Events/Fundraisers

- Student Directory: Sara Rusniak – This was completed and sent out. We are receiving some requests from parents who would like access to the directory, but didn't submit their own information. It has been our policy in the past to grant access to information only to those who have shared their information with us. Right now, we ask parents to fill out a form with their information if they want to have access to the information.
- Spiritwear: Kali Matangos – The spiritwear orders have been sent home with kids who ordered. This fundraiser was not as successful as last year, earning \$161.43, but it is not a concern since we are doing so well elsewhere.
 - Andrea Molitoris suggested offering a "Bucher Bear" stuffed animal as part of a spiritwear sale. We are going to look into this.
- Book Fair (Sept 22-26): Jadie Catania – Fall fair made \$10,466 – about \$550 less than last year. Total scholastic dollar balance \$6,550 (which are rewards for us to use). We will need to use about \$500 of the balance to order more giveaway books and should set aside \$3,000 for buying the books in the staff baskets and restocking the giveaway books at the spring fair. That will leave \$3,000 for the staff to spend and Jadie will send out wish list links from teachers/staff who wish to purchase supplies for their classroom.
- Race for Education (Oct 9): Very successful Race for Education, we raised more than our goal amount. Final reward for students is an ice cream or popsicle party, to happen soon. Dr. Martin suggested each homeroom teacher picks a day/time that works best for them to reward their class.
- Fall Fling (Oct 3): Sara Rusniak – Though an extra stadium light was not utilized as in the past, I felt this helped to wrap up the event and it seems unnecessary moving forward. The date (coinciding with Homecoming) seemed to work well, attendance was still strong.
- International Night (Nov 6): Rebecca Stewart – I wanted to thank the families that participated, we are so grateful. Special thank you to the teachers and Dr. Martin who volunteered. It continues to be a really special

night, and the crafts and prizes add variety. We will continue to build on that. Next year, we plan to have small bags to carry crafts in.

- Dr. Martin mentioned that there was a 5th grade family that wanted to come back, and we would like to welcome any family who would like to come back and host a table.
- Perhaps we offer a reimbursement option for families who host a table, since they purchase a lot of food for a gym full of people.

V. Upcoming Events/Fundraisers

- Holiday Shoppe: Katy Miller – teachers have all signed up for the shop. We will send out a sign-up genius for those who want to volunteer. We plan to welcome donations again this year for those who would like to donate so that every child can shop.
- Movie Night – Date Change to 1/8: The date was changed due to the education foundation movie night aligning with our original planned date. We plan to show an older movie, and sell the tickets for a lower cost. We are not relying on this as a major fundraiser, but looking at it as a nice opportunity to gather families together.
 - Voted on showing Mr. Popper’s Penguins
 - Motioned by Libby Muehlbach, seconded by Katy Miller.
- Spring Book Fair – Date Change to 3/2 – 3/6: Dates changed to early March, because that is what works for Scholastic.

VI. New Business

- Open Chair Positions: Spring Fling and Teacher Appreciation chairs still open
- Treasurer Report: Cory Stewart – Opened Business Money Market account:
 - Used for excess cash holdings to earn interest. Based on current balance, would be about \$600 per year
 - Serves as overdraft protection for the checking account

Checking Account update:

- Switched back to Business Checking from Premier
 - Has lower monthly required balance (\$500). The trade-off is we're not able to deposit as much with teller on monthly basis, but since Race for Education is over, not likely to have much of this.
- Has the invoice for 4th grade field trip, not due until 2026; \$1,754 (includes cost of chaperones that will be paying their own way \$336).
- Mrs. Bekelja returned her discretionary fund check since she's out on maternity leave. We voted to issue a check to Mrs. Yingst:
 - Libby Muelbach motioned, Katy Miller seconded. Approved.
- PTO Website:
 - Jen Tucker – I started digging into the website and it looks like we could host a simple site on Blogger for free, and register a domain (like BucherPTO.com, which is available) via SquareSpace for about \$14/year. It doesn't look like the school district hosts any other PTO pages (I checked Reidenbaugh's, as an example) but my thought was to reach out to the IT department to see if they can add a link from the school's web page to the PTO page once we get things up and running.
 - Minutes and calendar of events will be posted on PTO website.
 - Motioned by Libby Muehlbach, seconded by Katy Miller.
- SLAC Update:
 - Super Intendant's Advisory Group on Education is the new "SLAC" name. Township website being changed to reflect new name. Minutes will be available on district website.
 - Our head of security for the district is very impressive.
 - Variations in PTO bylaws came up in our discussion in October. Dr. Pete-Hefty needs to research it, she stated that PTOs are their own nonprofit organizations, not something the district is going to dip their hands into. The district will be putting the PTO bylaws on the website.

- Dr. Pate-Hefty intends to make weather calls the night before, because she understands how this impacts families.
- High school/middle school entrance lacks signage and they are looking to improve upon that.

New Ideas and Feedback

- Thanksgiving food drive wraps up this week. The PTO made a donation for gift cards last year to add to the drive/gift baskets given to Bucher families. Motion to supplement as needed up to a certain amount (\$500). Motioned by Sara Rusniak, seconded by Jen Tucker. All in favor.
- Staff Appreciation: Students and parents wrote about 40 notes to teachers/staff. Would love to give every member a thank you note, Sara asked for volunteers to help write thank you notes for remaining staff members.
- Barnes & Noble night: Thursday, December 11. We also signed up for a Panera fundraiser for the same night where families can dine at Panera and a portion of the check will be donated back to the school. Dr. Martin will send a reminder about the Barnes & Noble event.
 - Panera event approval: Sara Rusniak motioned, seconded by Amy Hiltz.
- Openings for Junior Achievement classes:
 - Sarah Reapsome
 - Jessica Siedman

VII. Meeting adjourned

- 7:59pm, motioned by Sara Rusniak. Seconded by Amy Hiltz.