

BUCHER ELEMENTARY PTO MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2026

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

**I. PTO Welcome – Sara Rusniak, Bucher PTO President**

- Call to order: 7:00pm
- Members present: Sara Rusniak, Cory Stewart, Libby Muehlbach, Jadie Catania, Ramón Rivera, Andrea Molitoris, Soraya Hintz, Kate Cramer, Megan Jay, Scott Durling
- Approval of minutes from November 19, 2025: Motioned by Jadie Catania, seconded by Scott Durling.

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

- School Board Representative Ramón Rivera School Board welcomed.
- Children are confused Dr. Martin doesn't live in the school.
- Expressed appreciation for the thank yous done by the PTO.
- Expressed appreciation for PTO providing food for parent/teacher conferences.
- Holiday shop went great, much appreciated.
- Movie night well received.
- Excited for skating party, Dr. Martin may not be able to attend this year.

**III. Teacher Representative Comments – Kate Cramer**

Kindergarten

- Kindergartners have been enjoying the new science curriculum this marking period for science we've been learning about what plants and animals need to live and have gotten to look at caterpillars

1st Grade

- First graders have been very busy making lots of noise! That's because during marking period two, the classes have been exploring sound in science class. They got a chance to explore how different objects make a sound and even observed vibrations. Their favorite lessons involved playing kazoos and building their own "noise makers"! The children have shown lots of growth in other areas as well, and are enjoying place value in math and a fable/folktale unit in ELA.

## 2nd Grade

- We had a great time at the planetarium. Thank you to the high school for hosting us. We enjoyed our Unit 2 Science and were able to create raised relief maps out of clay. Please keep practicing math facts as we learn 3-digit addition and 3-digit subtraction.

## 3rd Grade

- Third grade sent home field trip paperwork in January. We will be doing a scavenger hunt at Central Market and downtown Lancaster as well as a backstage tour at the Fulton this year on April 14th. Many thanks to the PTO for covering the cost of the Fulton tour. Thank you to the PTO for hosting the holiday shoppe and providing money for all students to shop. Please continue to practice multiplication and division facts, we appreciate all of the parent support as we learn them.

## 4th Grade

- Thank you so much for the holiday shop. The students really enjoyed getting gifts for the family and friends. We always appreciate the extra funds that are available for students who don't bring money to shop. Fourth grade is ready to be back after the holiday break and we are setting our goals for the new year. We are setting goals, focusing on positive friendships, and monitoring and evaluating our emotions and stress. We have also shifted our content focus to Pennsylvania history in Social Studies. Thank you again for all your support.

## **IV. Completed Events/Fundraisers**

- Panera Fundraiser – 12/11: Kali Matangos – Easy fundraiser raised \$150-200. Some discussion on if we may want to do this again.
- Holiday Shoppe (mid-December): Katie Miller – Katie Miller thanked all parent volunteers and the custodial crew. This will be her last year organizing the event. Soraya Hintz inquired about the North Star Committee's (Equity, Diversity and Inclusion) involvement. Proceeds are typically used to fund gifts for children who cannot pay, usually resulting in a small profit. The North Star committee's specific involvement with the Holiday Shop was discussed.

- Movie Night – 1/8: Participation was lower than in the past, noted as not being a new release, but the kids still had fun. A suggestion was made to select a new release for the next event, as they seem to have better reception. It was also suggested that an online ticket platform could reduce effort. A motion to host an April Movie Night for *Super Mario Galaxy* was moved by Catania and seconded by Cory. The motion passed.
- Staff Appreciation: A Silantra dinner was provided on Monday night of parent-teacher conferences, along with a display board featuring blank thank-you cards.

## **V. Upcoming Events/Fundraisers**

- Skating Party – 1/31, 4:30-6:30pm: The venue was booked up, so this event is later than usual. Suggestion to remind people about no black stoppers.
- Bucher Bistro – 2/12, during school: Rebecca Stewart confirmed the event is on track. A sign-up sheet for volunteers will be coming soon. Soraya Hintz suggested a service-themed spin for the event. It was also suggested that donuts for grownups could be spinned into a service theme.
- Talent Show – 2/27, 6pm: First auditions went well, with 90 kids participating in 49 acts. It's really not an audition, just to get kids comfortable. Ticket forms will be distributed early to avoid parental disappointment over sold out tickets. Optimal capacity is 500 people.
- Spring Book Fair – 3/2 – 3/6, during school: The event is scheduled during Read Across America week. 3rd and 4th graders assist and it's very helpful.
- Warm Up with a Good Book – 3/5, 6:30-8pm: Megan explained event. Went well last year and expect for it to be a good event once again. Pajamas encouraged.
- Hersheypark Ticket Fundraiser: Val Casey is awaiting information from Hersheypark about prepaid parking cost. Not a fundraiser, very limited markup. The group also inquired whether Dutch Wonderland does something similar.

## **VI. New Business**

- Treasurer Report: Cory Stewart – The PTO is in a healthy financial position.
- PTO Website:
  - Jen Tucker – After some thought, it was determined that hosting a free website is the best choice, due to recurring annual feeds

connected to purchasing a domain. Jen has started to work on putting a free website together.

- Moved by Sara Rusniak to move ahead with website, seconded by Megan Jay.
- SAGE Update: Soraya Hintz –
  - A presentation was given on emotional support dogs in the township.
  - The district has no formal answer on an AI policy.
  - A Campus Master Plan update included new signage.
  - New school board members were introduced.
  - New information is available on the district website.
  - Topics discussed included oversight on North Star Committees and the PTO, typing back into the curriculum, and the possibility of virtual or pre-filled field trip position forms.
  - There is a suggestion that all elementary schools could be doing a single international night.
  - Cross-PTO coordination efforts were discussed.
  - The district is adding cameras to nonverbal classrooms.
  - Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) protocol: If ICE shows up at a school, they are not allowed in and are sent to the district office to review warrants, all efforts are made to limit the impact on students.
- **New Ideas and Feedback:** A motion was moved by Sara Rusniak and seconded by Megan Jay to form a subcommittee to review the PTO bylaws.
- Soraya asked about revisiting the surplus. The RACE for Education is every other year and designed to cover this.
- Questions were raised about making the 4<sup>th</sup> grade event free and creating more opportunities for visitors' events (i.e. – a Read-A-Thon)

## VII. Meeting adjourned

- 8:04pm, moved to adjourn by Sara Rusniak, seconded by Jadie Catania.