

BUCHER ELEMENTARY PTO MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2025

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

I. PTO Welcome – Sara Rusniak, Bucher PTO President

- Call to order: 7:02pm
- Members present: Sara Rusniak, Amy Hiltz, Rebecca Stewart, Jen Tucker, Kate Cramer, Joann McMichael, Jadie Catania, Haley Crumley, Soraya Hintz, Eric Hintz, Libby Muehlbach, Yisel Henriquez, Katy Miller, Zoila Cu Pop, Fatima Hamdan
- Minutes approved from May 14, 2025, Bucher Elementary PTO meeting. Motioned by Amy Hiltz. Seconded by Jadie Catania.
- Approval of PTO bylaws:
 - Revisions suggested to be made by Soraya Hintz. Will email a list of those suggestions to Sara Rusniak, to be addressed at the next meeting.
- Budget approval needed. There are big changes to field trip expenses, as the district is covering transportation and nursing costs this year. We took those expenses out of the budget. The proposed budget for this year would start with \$8500 in the bank, and end the year with \$9000 in the bank. Motioned by Katie Miller. Rebecca Stewart seconded.

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

- Thank you for being here tonight for our first PTO meeting.
- From the summer, we expanded our kindergarten doorstep visits for the third year to include new students. We gave out books to our incoming kindergarteners as well as 1st through 4th graders who are new to the school. We were excited to do that.
- It's been an awesome start to the year. I've scheduled a read aloud and visit to each classroom, with each visit lasting around 25 minutes. I got all of my

visits in this year in the first couple of weeks of school. We are in a good place as a building!

- The ice cream social was well attended by students, parents, and staff. Thank you to all the hands that helped make that possible. Kids were very excited to see friends there. As always, I appreciate the partnership from the PTO and parents.

III. Teacher Representative Comments – Kate Cramer

- Kindergarten: In K, we are spending the first couple weeks learning how to be a learner. Our crew is off to a GREAT start! We are looking forward to starting our new Science curriculum in October. We will also be taking a field trip to Cherry Hill Orchard in October. This trip will tie into a mini Science lesson about pumpkins! Also, thank you for the PTO money - which is so generous - and for the snacks in the IPC rooms!
- First grade: First grade appreciates all of the parents who attended back to school night. The students have been working on being respectful, responsible, and safe as they learn the new procedures. We appreciate the parents' support!
- Second grade: The start of the school year has been going well and we are growing our connections! We have been enjoying our new science curriculum as we focus on the properties of solids and liquids. Thank you to everyone who donated recycled materials!
- Third grade: Third grade would like to thank the PTO for the back to school snacks, the generous discretionary funds, and all of the parents who were able to attend back to school night. In third grade we have been working hard learning our new routines and showing how responsible and respectful we are now that we are upstairs role models. Our students are looking forward to the book fair next week!
- Fourth grade: Fourth grade is off to a great start! Thank you so much for your generous beginning of the year funds...much appreciated! We are looking forward to the Book Fair next week and are excitedly planning our Field Trip to Harrisburg in March. We are always grateful for your support and effort to help us have a successful year! Thanks so much for all you do.

IV. Completed Events/Fundraisers

- Spring Fling – May 16: This was a successful fundraiser event. To describe for new-to-the-school parents: spring fling is similar to fall fling, and is a carnival-like event that we do twice a year with games, prizes, popcorn, a cake walk, raffles, and more. It's a fun night that kids look forward to.
- Spring Movie Night – May 29: This was hosted later in the year last spring. I think we had a little bit lighter of attendance, likely due to the timing. This year we are looking to try to hold the event in April for better attendance.
- Fourth Grade Celebration – June 5: Jadie Catania – The kids had a lot of fun. We did an aloha theme. We needed more candy and less pizza. The photo booth and gaga pit were the biggest hits. The only snag was the kids would come without knowing if they rsvp'ed because they were coming straight from school. Rebecca Stewart and Erin Houser will co-chair this event this year.
 - Soraya Hintz provided feedback related to parent access to/inclusion in the 4th grade celebration and breakfast events for all interested parents and PTO members. Will provide suggestions for improvement in an email.
- Back to School Ice Cream Social – August 21: Allie Wise ran this event and said “the ice cream social was an amazing time, it was so nice to get the Bucher family together. A special shout out to the amazing custodial staff for all of their help.” The event was very well attended, and the kids seemed to have a great time.

V. Upcoming Events/Fundraisers

- Student Directory: Jess Semanek is our new chair, and she has connected with Kali Matangos. Working on the flyer to be sent home in student folders. The flyer will have a QR code, which will collect parents' info and capture that for a student directory. We will send a copy of that out to all families who submit information for the directory. We are trying to emphasize submissions this year. Please share this information with parents, neighbors, and friends to submit this information electronically.

- Spiritwear: Chaired by Kali Matangos. Our long time contact at B&T sportswear recently retired (vendor that we use to produce all of our spiritwear). Kali is working with the successor but also exploring other vendor options to make sure we're getting the best deal, etc. Flyers were sent home in student folders, and copies will be available at family night at the book fair. Will also be promoted in email updates and posted on social media.
 - Soraya Hintz noted that we have a new Manheim Township gear store, which is year round and would be nice to promote. We could promote that store after this spiritwear sale ends.
- Book Fair – September 22-26: Family night is on Tuesday evening, kids are coming for preview on Monday and Tuesday. Kids shop Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. Third and fourth graders are helping. We can always use more parent volunteers!
- Race for Education – October 9: Race for Education is a fundraiser we do for the PTO every other year and raises enough money to fund our budget for two years (in addition to our other events). Our goal is to raise \$20,000.
 - This year we're using a new platform that's more technology heavy. We have raised \$9,000 as of tonight (9/17/25).
 - Sara Runsiak notes: I anticipate we will have less fees this year, in the past we paid a 10% commission to the company that we use and this year it allows donors to cover the commission fee. We are only paying 3.7% of the fees right now. So far, most people seem to be covering the commission fee which has been nice.
 - We have 8 confirmed sponsors, and more to get into the system. If anyone knows a business that would like to sponsor the race, send them to the PTO.
 - This event is open to the public to watch, which will be communicated in emails and on social media. There will be volunteer opportunities for water handout and spraying lines for the track, etc.
 - Soraya Hintz asked when we'll know how much money we raised. We will keep the fundraiser open through the following Friday for a "final

push” and will then let everyone know how much we’ve raised. Can discuss at November meeting how to use any excess funds.

- Fall Fling – October 3:
 - We are still looking for volunteers for the following opportunities:
 - Cake walk coordinator
 - Raffle prize coordinator (Kate Cramer has coordinated experiences with teachers as prizes so far, almost 20 experiences so far)
 - Ticket sellers (for those who didn’t buy tickets in advance)
 - Cleanup helpers
 - We have donations already from SkyZone, Bounce Kraze, Honeygrow, Shake Shack and will make up product gift baskets for the raffle prizes.
 - There was feedback that the night chosen conflicts with Homecoming night for parents with older children. Sara said this is chosen on purpose so that older kids don’t crash the event, as has happened in the past.
- International Night – November 6: Rebecca Stewart says, “We have our first meeting next Monday to discuss this event. This will be our third year chairing this event. I will have more information in coming weeks!”

VI. New Business

- Open Chair Positions:
 - Fall Fling
 - Spring Fling
- Current Chair (Filled) Positions:
 - Bucher bistro – Erin Houser and Rebecca Stewart
 - Bucher garden – Amy Hiltz and Meghan Dinardi
 - Box Tops – Diana Kelleher
 - Communications/Social Media – Jen Tucker
 - 4th Grade Celebration – Erin Houser and Rebecca Stewart
 - Hersheypark Tickets – Valerie Casey

- Holiday Shop – Katy Miller
- Ice Cream Social – Allie Wise
- International Night – Rebecca Stewart and Joann McMichael
- Little Pantry – Megan Jay
- Movie Nights – Nicole Smoker
- Donuts with Grownups – Katy Miller
- Pottery Night – Amy Hiltz
- Scholastic Book Fair – Jadie Catania
- Skating Party – Elizabeth Muehlbach
- Spirit wear – Kali Matangos
- Staff Appreciation – Pam Zook
- Student Directory – Jess Semanek
- Talent Show – Sara Rusniak
- Warm Up with a Good Book – Megan Jay
- Yearbook – Diana Kelleher

*Co-chair opportunities a great way to get involved/learn.

- Treasurer Report (Rebecca Stewart on behalf of Cory Stewart) -
 - August 1 – September 15:
 - Race for Education: As of the time of the meeting (9/17) we had raised ~\$9000
 - A few more expenses to be accounted for at beginning of the school year include: Bear Paw winners, ice cream social, deposit for skating party.
 - There is an option to provide a card reader at school events, which would allow us to accept credit cards. However, there is a \$50 fee for one time purchase, and a 2.6% credit card fee per charge. Will consider this, but thinking best not to encourage credit card use.
- PTO Website:

- Website brainstorming is underway. Jen Tucker will check with MT IT department to see whether they can host the website, as well as research other ways to build/host the website.
- SLAC Update – Soraya Hintz: We had three adults nominated to be the SLAC membership: Soraya Hintz, Libby Muehlbach, Katy Miller. It's a meeting about every other month, first meeting in October. We will meet through the year, five times. At each meeting a different department does a presentation about what they are doing that is exciting. We take this info to the PTOs and at meetings adults will bring unresolved issues from their school building or districtwide issues. We also discuss with the departments any suggestions based on their presentation. It's a collaborative effort to show transparency and communication.
- New Ideas and Feedback:
 - Fall Movie timing: Zootopia 2 was suggested as this year's fall movie, and December 4th (Thursday night) was suggested as the date. This year, we plan to allow everyone to purchase their tickets online (via the Penn Cinema ticketing platform) as opposed to forms/money collected in office. There will be an option to purchase a ticket with a snack bag and without. Tickets may be slightly more expensive at around \$9.75/ticket due to the switch to online purchasing.
 - Dr. Martin has a certificate for Lorrie Moyer for appreciation for all she's done in the garden. Dr. Martin will be in touch with those who said they will help with the garden this year.

VII. Meeting adjourned

- 7:59pm, Libby Muehlbach motioned. Seconded by Eric Hintz.