

BUCHER ELEMENTARY PTO MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2026

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

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

- Call to order: 7:32pm
- Members present: Sara Rusniak, Cory Stewart, Rebecca Stewart, Amy Hiltz, Jennifer Tucker, Kate Cramer, Kerry Parker, Megan Jay, Andy Martin, Soraya Hintz, JoAnn McMichael, Andrea Molitoris
- Thank you for accommodating the meeting time change.
- Approval of minutes from January 21, 2026: Motioned by Sara Rusniak, seconded by Amy Hiltz. November 2025 minutes approval motioned by Sara Rusniak, seconded by Rebecca Stewart.

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

- Warm Up with a Good Book Night – I love to see the appreciation of reading and our staff always shows up in a big way! Thank you to Megan for organizing.
- The Spring Book Fair – Jadie did a great job organizing. The timing worked out very well.
- The Talent Show – Such a night of pride for our friends who participated. Thank you to Sara for organizing. I will invite some of the acts back for the Marking Period 3 assembly.
- Bucher Bistro – There's always fun confusion about whether Dr. Martin is the Bucher Bear, and the kids love guessing who it is. Thank you to all of our volunteers.
- Skating Party – I was sorry to miss it!
- Spring at School – Dance workshops seem to be a great hit. I visited classrooms and the children seemed to be having a great time, laughing and dancing.
- The Landis Run Counselor and Dean of Students visited and shared a story, signifying the approaching end of the year.
- I announced the winners of Math 24, led by Kate Cramer.

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

Kindergarten

- We just wrapped up our latest Science Unit on Weather. We were able to take a field trip to the MT High School Planetarium to watch a short show on weather. The students really enjoyed watching a "movie on the ceiling!". Thank you for all the hard work the PTO, especially Jadie, put into the Book Fair. The students were so excited to shop and it was so generous of the PTO to give an extra book to each student. We are looking forward to starting our ABC Countdown in about a month!

### 1st Grade

- First graders have truly enjoyed all of the special events planned by our PTO. They were especially excited by the transformation of the cafeteria into the Bucher Bistro! Highlights were the photo booth and of course, the appearance of our Bucher Bear! It was also appreciated that every student was able to choose a book from the spring Book Fair and enter a raffle to win a poster too. In addition, first graders have been busy studying living things in science, noting how they change and grow. You can take a peek at their tower garden on display outside of the library to see how successful they have been at growing plants!

### 2nd Grade

- Thank you to everyone for completing field trip permission slips. We are looking forward to the trip to Hershey Gardens in April. Second Graders also enjoyed the book fair. We have been learning about money and graphs in math and will be doing a planting unit in Science next. We will also be doing a biography research project soon. Thanks for all your support at home.

### 3rd Grade

- Many thanks to the PTO for the Bucher Bistro, Book Fair, and Talent Show. They have all been highlights recently for the students. In 3rd grade we are looking forward to our field trip April 14th to downtown Lancaster. We will visit Central Market, do a scavenger hunt, and get a backstage tour of the Fulton Theater. This marking period we have been working hard creating Stop Motion videos on social studies to show our learning about Lancaster's historical leaders and impact with the Underground Railroad. We are also learning about similarities and differences in organisms with our science

unit on plants. We have used a light house to grow plants and observe traits that are inherited.

#### 4th Grade

- 4th Grade would like to thank PTO so much for another wonderful Book Fair! It's a great time for the kids to explore new books and encourage reading with new titles. They loved being able to pick a free book! It was also great to see many classroom parents come in to help us shop for books. We also really appreciate the books you gave us for our classroom libraries. 4th Grade is excited to be going to Harrisburg at the end of the month to see an IMax movie called Journey to Space and explore the Whitaker Science Center. Then we head over to the State Capitol Building for a tour and discussion of our government system. We will also be meeting with our very own Manheim Township native, Representative Rivera. It's sure to be a super fun day. Thank you so much for financially supporting us so we are able to go on our field trip. Finally, thank you so much for all your hard work to organize the Bucher's Got Talent Show. It's amazing how many wonderfully talented students we have at Bucher!

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

- Skating Party – 1/31: Libby (who organizes this event) is curious if anyone has feedback on timing. Usually we do it earlier in January, but availability of the rink necessitated a later date. Feedback seems to be that the event was as full as ever, and the move in date didn't affect the success.
- Bucher Bistro – 2/12: Rebecca Stewart – everyone had positive feedback and the students are so excited at every grade level. Two notes: we did start running out of candy toward the end; we realized some students did take more than the one allotted so we decided to collect the candy between grade levels to make sure we were left with enough. We will need a Bucher Bear for next year, Soraya Hintz suggested perhaps Mr. Mullen could be someone to ask for next year, and Megan Humphrey may also be interested. Soraya Hintz mentioned there was a bit of confusion with the photo taking, some children were being told no and some were being told yes as far as taking more than one photo. We will explore whether there is a way to improve the communication/process with that for next year.

Soraya Hintz suggested an extra photographer, backdrop, and light, and camera for next year.

- Talent Show – 2/27: Sara Rusniak – All-in-all a successful show; the kids had fun. Each year I get better at anticipating the needs of it. Next year, there are things I'd like to do differently: the kids get disappointed that not everyone gets to practice in the allotted rehearsal times. Moving forward I'd like to split up the rehearsals so everyone gets a chance to rehearse. I'd also like to personally get more comfortable with the AV system in the gym. We opened up ticket sales to participants' families first, and 400 of our 500 tickets went to those families. I think that for next year we will ask 4<sup>th</sup> graders to choose one: perform, stage crew, or emcee – all three is too much.
- Spring Book Fair – 3/2-3/6: The book fair went well; every student is able to choose a free book in the spring. The 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders came to help younger children which was a great help. We had total sales of \$8,306 which is similar to last year's spring fair. This earned us \$4,153 in Scholastic Dollars. We used Dollars at this fair to purchase the books from the teacher baskets, and some books for next spring's giveaway. We've also used them to purchase the books to give to incoming kindergarteners and new students over the summer. Our current balance is \$4,833 – I'll send around the wish lists again once the Dollars earned from this fair are deposited into our account and we should be able to spend around \$3,000 again. This keeps a cushion for the purchasing we will need to do at the fall fair.
- Warm Up with a Good Book – 3/5: Megan Jay – The event went well. We had enough snacks via donations for everyone. The donations are appreciated and help us cut costs. I was told that the time change was also appreciated, starting at 6:30 rather than 6pm. We also stayed in budget.
- Hersheypark Ticket Fundraiser: Val Casey – All ticket orders have been received and processed. Hershey will mail physical tickets to the office at Bucher and will be sent home toward the end of the month. We saw \$420 in profit, which is an increase from last year. Dutch Wonderland was called to see if they offer a similar fundraiser, but they do not.

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

- Yearbook Sales End 3/31: We've been trying to promote in all communication and updates. We usually have about 10-15 extra yearbooks

to hand out to those who don't order one. Soraya Hintz mentioned that she orders a couple of extra yearbooks and gives them to the class to hand out for those who might not have ordered one or forgotten.

- Pottery Night – 4/1: Orders have closed. With this event, we started using our new online ordering system called Zeffy, which seems to be working very well. So far this seems to be an easy system for both parents and the PTO to use. We have a similar expected turnout between last year and this year. We are all set with volunteers for the evening.
- Donuts with Grownups – 4/13-4/17: Katy Miller chairs. We are working with food service director, Kelly Price, to tweak our offerings, which will now be donut holes, fruit, and a drink. We are utilizing the free breakfast the kids get through the state for their meal, and the PTO will pay for the parents' portion. Cory Stewart mentioned the Zeffy platform could potentially be used for RSVPs. Sara Rusniak will email the group that put the flyer together and will add Cory to discuss potentially using Zeffy. Younger siblings are permitted to come.
- Movie Night – 4/23: Cory Stewart - Sales have been very strong. The 6pm show is sold out and only 11 tickets left for 5:30pm show. We may look to open up additional theater space to offer tickets for those who would like to attend. Soraya Hintz mentioned some flyers were sent home later and tickets were already sold out. We will try to send a reminder message in advance of tickets going on sale next time.
- Teacher Appreciation – 5/4 – 5/8: Katy Miller, Jen Tucker, and Andrea Molitoris will work on this effort. We usually cater one day's lunch and do a day of gift cards for teachers (about 7 different locations), the district sometimes gives a lunch or a treat, and there is a snack day. Typically everything we do is paid for by PTO. Dr. Martin is leaning toward Mission BBQ for the catered lunch.
- Spring Fling – 5/15: Sara Rusniak – so far I've reserved the inflatables, including a giant slide and an obstacle course. I've reserved food trucks: Greco's Ice Cream and Geo's Smoking Grill and Sweet Treats. I've been collecting donations for the raffles and cake walk. Next up is choosing a craft and making a flyer. We will be using Zeffy for this event, per Cory Stewart. This will make it easier for people to buy tickets in advance and also at the event.
- Fourth Grade Celebration – 6/4: Rebecca Stewart and Erin House are co-chairing this event – not much to report yet. All are welcome next Monday

3/23 for our first meeting. Soraya Hintz asked whether we might be able to do the 4<sup>th</sup> grade celebration during the day instead of after school, to encourage more attendance. Dr. Martin would have to check with other elementary schools to see whether other schools might consider moving it to during the day. Sara will move to increase the budget for this by \$400 for the time being so we can make it a free event. If it's during the day it would have to be a free event.

- Fourth Grade Breakfast – 6/5: Sara Rusniak mentioned that there's not much to share here yet. Parents are asked to volunteer or send in a donation, but this year the PTO will be responsible for this coordination instead of the 4<sup>th</sup> grade teachers. Soraya Hintz mentioned that she feels parents should be able to attend this event, and it should be equal across the board either way (either all parents are permitted to attend or none). Kate Cramer said it would have to start after the school's free breakfast, after announcement time (unlike donuts for grownups) OR move it to before school. Sara Rusniak suggested that maybe for future years we roll this event into the Donuts with Grownups week.

## **VI. New Business**

- Treasurer Report: Cory Stewart:
  - Filed with the PA Dept of Revenue, Sales Tax Exemption Application
    - Awaiting replies from State
  - Opened and began using Zeffy, an online platform for nonprofits
    - Free to use
    - Officers reviewed security protocols
    - Donors option to make offering to Zeffy to offset their costs (% of transaction)
    - Used first for Pottery Night, then for 3rd/4th grade chaperone costs for field trips and will make use of for Spring Fling
    - Many more capabilities; website, other types of events
    - To continue to look for opportunities
- Continue to earn interest on cash held
- Payments for 4th grade field trip captured this period, with 2nd and 3rd grade expected in April
- Pottery night sales thru Zeffy, but not related expense
- Movie night from winter sales and expense, as well as spring deposit. Sales to come through in next month
- Bucher Bistro expense, as well as skating party and talent show. All in line with budget.

- Soraya Hintz questioned why we have a surplus of money in the bank account, and expressed that she feels we should use that surplus each year to benefit the kids somehow (suggestions include covering some cost of the yearbooks, purchasing new microphones for the auditorium). Kate Cramer suggested perhaps we use some of that to provide each child a yearbook or cover some of the cost. There was discussion about how this surplus should be used and how much of a cushion should remain in the bank – several members of PTO mentioned a \$3000 cushion felt comfortable. We could solicit feedback from teachers for other ideas of how to spend surplus – Kate Cramer will do this. We could also solicit parent feedback. For May, Sara will send results of survey to discuss at next meeting.
- PTO Website:
  - Jen Tucker – We have gone back and forth a bit deciding whether a free website option or a paid website option makes the most sense, as we want our website to be long-lasting and make the most sense to continue on through future years. We believe we landed on a paid option, which would be about \$200/year. We are on track to have this website launched by the end of the year.
- SAGE Update:
  - Soraya Hintz – Didn't have our March meeting. Jennifer Davidson gave an update: "After discussion with Board leadership along with Dr. Reimann, Assistant Superintendent and Mrs. Robbins, Chief Operating Officer, it has been determined that SAGE meetings will be paused until a Superintendent or Interim Superintendent is officially named. SAGE plays an important role in fostering communication and collaboration across our district, and this pause is simply intended to ensure strong leadership alignment as we move forward. Once a Superintendent or Interim Superintendent is in place, the district will reconnect with the group regarding next steps and future meeting dates. Thank you for your continued commitment to Manheim Township Schools."
- **New Ideas and Feedback:** Skipping this out of respect for time.

## VII. Meeting adjourned

- 8:58pm meeting ended.