

Strong PTO
Meeting Minutes
Monday, December 1st 2025 6pm
In Person and Virtual

The meeting was called to order by Amanda Betty at 6pm. Those in attendance, include:

- Mrs. Noelle Durkin (Strong Vice Principle, in person)
- Amanda Betty (PTO President, in person)
- Erin Gratton (PTO Vice President, online)
- Kim Johansen (PTO Treasurer, in person)
- Carrie Kessler (PTO Secretary, in person)
- Jenna Lombardo (member, online)

Tonight's meeting agenda was presented and unanimously approved.

Agenda:

1. Socials

- a. Discussed the date and potential DJs. John at Sound Spectrum will cost ~\$225. It was not known if that was for both socials. It was for music only. Austin from Red Supreme will cost \$750 for Jan 29 and \$850 for Jan 30. Includes both socials, extra lighting, an interactive experience with prizes and no cost for dead time between Socials. Decision was made to stay with Jan 30 due to basketball practices and the late night on a Thursday and hire Austin due to the interactive nature of the service.
- b. Amanda is asking Emma from Middlefield Memorial PTC about helping with DJ cost
- c. Mrs. Durkin will send the building use form; approved the permission slip for 5th/6th grade
- d. Carrie will pick up yard games from the Durham Library.
- e. Post Social pick up car flow will remain the same as previous Socials. Cars enter behind back of school and flow around the front. All kids will go to the gym and remain there until called. Staff with a communication system is needed (cell phones or walkie talkies).
- f. Times: 5th/6th from 2:45-4:15pm and 7th/8th from 6-7:30pm

2. Staff Lunch

- a. Dec 22; All food will arrive by 10:30am; Mondo (will donate a tray of pasta); Texas Roadhouse (will donate pulled pork, salad and rolls)
- b. Trisha from Memorial PTC - Lyman Orchards donating bakery items, Wolfpack tickets and gift card to RJ Julia
- c. Tacos (from Jen Rubino)
- d. Checking on additional items - Olive Garden (Amanda), sandwiches from Track Side (Erin), Kim pick up desserts; Other items: soup, fruit tray, veggie tray? For drinks and snacks, Amanda will create a wishlist and share with parents.

3. Possible assemblies

- a. Jenn Tomer talked to Jim Basketball Jones and he is available Feb 6.
- b. Amanda was told Mr. Tom Ford (Lyman principle) is coordinating this with the other principles. Amanda will follow up. Mrs. Durkin emailed leadership to see if they have an update. Four total

assemblies: x2 at Strong, x1 at Lyman, x1 at Brewster (\$2700 for 3 assemblies) - need updated price for 4

- c. Future assemblies: Mrs. Durkin will inquire with the staff; received an email from a potential speaker
4. Update on incorporating the PTO
 - a. Amanda filled out the forms for the state of CT and sent in the check.
 - b. Amanda needs to fill out the 1023 with the IRS.
5. Treasurer's Report
 - a. Received check from Best Day Ever - \$10K; Fair shirt check was cashed; pies were paid (profit was ~\$500); We still have a few shirts remaining. Amanda will send sizes to Noelle as some people have asked her for availability
 - b. Current account balance \$16,943
6. Spirit wear went live today - Lynn will send link out on Parent Square. PTO gets 10% of sales.
7. Principles Report
 - a. Dave is starting a Principle Advisory Committee. About a dozen kids are interested. We discussed idea of supporting positive behavior at school with drawings/gift cards. Noelle will check with Dave for how this might be incorporated. Enrichment teams do Core Ethical Values each month.
 - b. This week starts benchmark assessments. Will help target areas for improvement.
 - c. Nov breakfast was great. Thank you! Everyone was excited. Erin noted the feedback we received that some staff did not get any breakfast or it would have been nice to know there would be breakfast that day. Mrs. Durkain stated an announcement was made and it was on the daily calendar. She will schedule a reminder email for Dec luncheon to go out to the staff.
8. Additional Business: Book swap - Erin had reached out to the librarian but never heard back. Librarian is only here part time and may not have time. Idea was tabled.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:12