

Strong PTO  
Meeting Minutes  
Monday, November 3rd 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)
- Emily Khanke (member, online)
- Jenna Lombardo (member, online)
- Megan Ann (member, online)

Tonight's meeting agenda was presented and unanimously approved.

Agenda:

1. **By-laws:** The new by-laws and proposed edits were discussed. Amanda motioned to accept the bylaws as written. They were accepted.
2. **Status of incorporating Strong PTO/forming 501c3:** Per the request of Mr. Kimball, Strong Principle, the Strong PTO is pursuing this status. Strong parent, Christine Cowan, volunteered to help with the paperwork and process. There will be an \$80 fee to incorporate + \$80 annual fee. Additional funds will be required to gain 501c3 non-profit status. Using the short form was recommended as it requires less funds. With the current and expected income, Strong PTO would also fit within the monetary threshold. The benefits of pursuing this status makes the PTO more legitimate and people/businesses are more apt to donate. A motion to proceed was made and accepted.
3. **Socials:** Carrie presented the dates and options for the upcoming socials. Dates will be Jan 30 and May 15. Students will be split into two groups: 5th/6th from 2:45-4:15pm and 7th/8th from 6:30-8pm). It was determined that two hours was too long for a social so the time was cut back by 30 mins. A donation of \$5 per student will be requested. A permission slip is required for 5th grade so one will be sent home for 5th and 6th before each social, along with the note about the \$5 donation. The permission slips and money (via check or cash) can be turned into the office. Students will be required to return this to the school before each social. Pizza and water will be provided. Lays and/or Utz potato chips are a good allergy-free option for an additional snack. A building use form must be submitted. Custodial staff will be available for clean up after each social. Activities will include open gym, music and food in the cafeteria and games in the library. Jen or Emma may have large games to borrow. The Durham and Levi Coe libraries also have large games and board games to check out. Erin can help secure these. Kim will reach out to a DJ for a price quote. Mrs. Durkin also recommended "DJ Red Supreme." A photo booth will be added for the spring social and adding in the back parking lot as outdoor space.
4. **Staff Nov breakfast and Dec luncheon: (current staff - 80)**

- a. Nov 21 - Thanksgiving breakfast for teachers. Lyman Orchard is donating cider and donuts for ~35 people. Erin will ask for additional donations from other businesses.
  - b. Dec 22 - Catered luncheon. Options discussed were Olive Garden (may deliver) and Texas Roadhouse. We may ask parents for drinks to supplement the luncheon. Lunch starts at 10:38am
5. **Strong Spirit Wear:** PoP! Has the Strong store ready to use with shirts, sweatshirts and pants. We plan to open the store after the Nov 19 District fundraising meeting. Items will not arrive until after Christmas. Ice Cream Pie Fundraiser
6. **Ice Cream Pie pickup:** Scheduled for Nov 24 @ Strong parking lot from 4:30-6:30pm. The date needs to be added to the Strong calendar. Pies not picked up will need to be picked up from the store in Prospect. We sold ~100 pies. After receiving a few requests from parents, the store was reopened for 2 additional days.
7. **Treasures Report:** We deposited another \$4,000 (post fair sales). Our outstanding item is the money paid to Ms. LaRosa's class for the shirts. The Activity Fund has not cashed the check yet. Our current balance is ~\$8000. The ice cream pie payment needs paid. We are currently waiting on the final income from the PoP! Fundraiser. We have ~\$6,000 to spend the remainder of the current school year. We will have between \$6-8,000 to carry over into the 2026-2027 school year. A draft budget for 2026-2027 school year was created to include potential fundraisers, fair fees, administrative fees, staff breakfasts/luncheons, guest speakers, socials, end of year activities and 8th grade gift. *See budget attachment for more information.*
8. **8th grade gift ideas:** Class of 2030 on a keychain, shirt or water bottle. This will allow all students to enjoy the gift even if they do not attend CRHS. The PTO will research specific options and pricing.
9. **Guest Speaker:** The group discussed supporting a guest speaker during this school year. Jim "basketball" Jones comes highly recommended and spoke during the last school year at Memorial, Brewster and Lyman. The current 5th/6th graders heard him twice last year at Memorial. During the 2024-2025 school year, one assembly was held at each school for \$2700 (\$900 per school). The organization does offer a number of topics to include: character ed, anti-bullying, growth mindset, I own my own effort, etc. He is very engaging and personalizes the message to include the school mascot, school norms, core values, etc. Amanda will check with Brewster and Lyman to see if they want to go in with Strong to host him again. Mrs. Durkin will reach out to Jim Jones for availability. We can reach out to local middle schools for interest if needed.
10. **Vice Principle's report:** In honor of Veterans Day, 5/6 will host an assembly and the scouts will participate; 7/8 will walk to Town Green to attend the 11am ceremony. 1st quarter ends this week. 5th grade is still on trimesters. No school for Election Day.
11. **Additional note:** The District Fundraising meeting will be held November 19, 7pm at the High School library. Opened to PTOs, Benchwarmers, Clubs.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:43pm.