

Strong PTO
Meeting Minutes
Monday, Oct 5, 2026 6pm
In-person only

The meeting was called to order by Jill Sobolewski at 6:00pm Those in attendance, include:

- Mr. David Kimball (Strong Middle School Principal)
- Sheila Riffle (Strong Middle School Assistant Principal)
- Jill Sobolewski (PTO President)
- Jenna Skinner (PTO Vice President)
- Kim Johansen (PTO Treasurer)

Tonight's meeting agenda was presented and unanimously approved.

Agenda:

1. Durham Fair Report
 - a. Tough decision to switch to the inflatable obstacle course from Sweet Booth but financially it was the right decision. Even with the Noreaster storm causing us to close down at 5:00pm on Friday we profited \$3171
 - b. Thank you was expressed to all volunteers who helped run the obstacle course. Special thanks to Emma Quick from Memorial PTC for her guidance and help running the obstacle course for the first time. She was a huge help. Also, thank you to Amanda Betty for help with creating the signs for us!
2. Fundraising
 - a. Jenna and Jill got the 501c3 on the state level approved and are awaiting approval for the Federal approval, which could take up to a year. Jill spoke with Kim Neubig, who gave approval to fundraise as long as we do not use Venmo until the federal approval is received.
 - b. Spirit Wear will be a fundraiser. Jill is awaiting the design logo and pricing from Marketing Graphics. Mrs Riffle mentioned offering staff wear for staff to purchase and wear to school.
 - c. Discussion regarding another fundraiser since the Durham fair didn't bring in as much as we had hoped. "Pledge of Support" was discussed. We understand that fundraising is very difficult, and we thought that asking families for a one-time "pledge" for the school year would cover the cost of all activities, etc. Mr Kimball and Mrs Riffle offered the suggestion of a raffle where each student who pledges gets a raffle ticket to win a "prize." Suggestions for prizes were a free yearbook or select seating for 8th grade step up. The committee agreed this fundraiser was a great way to supplement, so we will create something to send out to families. Discussion about sending via ParentSquare vs. sending something home with students was discussed. We thought possibly both options
3. Activities for this school year

- a. Socials-
 - Discussion about making 8th grade a separate event to make it special for them. We looked at the school and district calendar and possibly May 21st in the evening. We discussed it being a more dress-to-impress event, but there is concern that some students would take it overboard with very formal attire, etc so we will further discuss how to prevent that.
 - Goal to make 5th grade separate also and idea of either a movie/popcorn event or BINGO after school possibly January 29.
 - 6th and 7th grade social would be more similar to last year's, possibly March 5 or 12th. We would again offer pizza and have a DJ, but thoughts on keeping it to just the cafeteria and the gym.
 - b. Wolfpack choral evening on March 13th with Brewster and John Lyman. Strong students will sing, and the elementary students will carry the flag. The board decided to not make this a fundraiser. We will charge just the cost of the ticket.
 - c. Teacher appreciation ideas
 - Stock the lounge was done in September
 - holiday/winter theme brunch/lunch and ? raffles
 - March conferences possibly doing lunch
 - Teacher appreciation week in May- will plan as it gets closer
 - d. Mrs Killian reached out to Jill about the PTO organizing music students to get T shirts for the Memorial Day Parade and the event at Six Flags. We agreed that we can help with the logistics to get students the T shirts but families would have to cover the cost of the T shirts as they have done in the past.
 - e. 8th grade celebrations
 - Slideshow for graduation
 - T shirts were given last year, and students like them, so we agree to do that again as a gift
 - Flower at graduation ceremony
 - We gave \$10 per student for this year's 8th grade class to go to Camp Jewell, and we wish to do the same for next year's class
4. Treasure's Report
- a. Current balance. \$13,372.03
 - b. Kim discussed the need for us to be sure that we have at least \$2500.00 in the account for next year as "start up" per our bylaws. She also recommended we keep \$4000 in for the start of the year.
5. Principal's Report
- a. Beginning of the year is going well.
 - b. Jill asked about speakers for the year, and when they are decided, Mr Kimball will let us know if we can help support them financially.

The meeting was adjourned
At 7:10pm