

Strong PTO
Meeting Minutes
Monday, October 6th 2025 6pm
In Person and Virtual

The meeting was called to order by Amanda Betty at 6:03pm. Those in attendance, include:

- Mr. David Kimball (Strong Principle, in person)
- Amanda Betty (PTO President, in person)
- Erin Gratton (PTO Vice President, online)
- Kim Johansen (PTO Treasurer, in person)
- Carrie Kessler (member, in person)
- Emily Khanke (member, online)
- Trisha Foell (member, online)

The meeting agenda was proposed and unanimously approved.

The following officers were nominated and officially elected by a unanimous vote:

- President: Amanda Betty
- Vice President: Erin Gratton
- Treasurer: Kim Johansen
- Secretary: Carrie Kessler

New Business: Social, fundraisers, spirit wear, luncheons

1. Strong Socials

- Carrie was nominated and approved as Social Chair.
- Amanda proposed holding two socials this school year (Jan/Feb and May). We will offer pizza and water (from a cooler with cups.) We will charge \$5/student.
- Mr. Kimball will check requirement for teacher participation.
- We will split the socials into two groups (5th/6th and 7th/8th). The younger group social will be held after school with the older one being held in the evening.
- Carrie will follow-up with specific dates and plan.

2. PoP! 'Best day Ever'

- Future fundraiser proposal: 'Best Day Ever!' with PoP! Power of Purpose.
- Amanda and Mr. Kimball met with Scott Katz. Kick off assembly will be Oct 22.
- No funds due up front. PoP! Takes a percentage of the funds raised via pledges. Students receive prizes along the way for spreading the word about the fundraiser. Other items are available via PoP! Fundraiser. Strong would receive a percentage of all sales. "Best Day Ever" event will be held at the end of the school year (May/June) with inflatables, shaved ice, etc.)

3. Ice Cream Pie fundraiser

- Pies from Big Dipper, no money required upfront, pay for pies ordered.
- Amanda will lead this fundraiser; set up Google Doc for orders, payment through Square.
- Big Dipper charges \$8 or \$9/pie. We would sell for ~\$15 each
- Dip Dipper will deliver to Strong on Nov 21.

4. Spirit Wear
 - Sold via PoP!. Strong would receive 10% of the sales. PoP! sets up the design and store at no charge. We will sell spirit wear twice per year.
5. Luncheons
 - We will host breakfast for Nov 21. Items will be purchased from the store. March will be restock the lounge for parent/teacher conferences. Future discussion on ways to support during May's Teacher Appreciation Week.
6. Mr. Kimball shared his thoughts on ways to support the students throughout the year: guest speaker, field day, core ethical bracelets, Spartan Award. This will be a point of discussion at the next monthly meeting to determine the budget amount the PTO has to support.

Durham Fair wrap up

- The Strong Fair Booth was an overall success. Families really stepped up to help monetarily, with donations to repair the booth, product donations and volunteering. Total sales profit (all sales minus annual fees and minimal product purchases) was \$2391. This year a majority of the items sold were donated. If during future years, no donations were received and taking into account the building cost and health department fee, the booth would make only \$1400. During a future PTO meeting, the booth items and plan will be assessed before paperwork is due for 2026.
- After 2026, we expect that the Memorial, Lyman and Brewsters booth will be reassessed as well once the new K-5 school is operating. This may impact the future Strong booth.

Book swap

- Erin volunteered at the Strong book fair and was asked by the librarian to discuss doing a book swap in December. Students bring in books they no longer want and can trade with other students. The PTO agreed to help with this book swap. Erin will get more details and discuss at a future meeting.

Treasurers Report

- Starting balance this month was \$2668. Total income was \$3272, total expenses was \$452, ending with a balance of \$5488. We are in a much better place than last year at this time (\$3700).
- Of the donated money used for Fair booth repairs, we have \$610 remaining, which will be used to repair the electrical and purchase a replacement refrigerator.
- Amanda will verify all Square deposits from the Fair were made.

Principals Report

- *So far so good! It usually takes until around Christmas to learn personalities. It takes the full year to learn the ebb and flow. This staff has a ton of institutional knowledge and it's super helpful. The kids have been awesome and responding well to a new principle. This is my first role with 5th grade and they are a blast. They are not afraid to say or ask anything that comes to mind. Camp Jewel went well. We completed baseline testing and will now analyze everything. We have new staff on board. The book fair is ongoing. And Mrs. Kean retired Friday (Oct 3).*

Additional Business:

- Camp Jewel. We will need to discuss if we can support future years monetarily.

- Halloween. Some asked if we are doing anything for Halloween. Mr. Kimball will talk to his team leads about whether they will offer something for Halloween. The PTO determined it was too last minute to add Boo Grams or any other service or fundraiser for Halloween.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.