a note from your delia bolden PTA

September 2026 Meeting

Next Step	Owner
Join PTA on MTK website (+ pay nominal membership fee)	All
Review and sign up for upcoming volunteer opportunities **NOTE - We currently have no volunteers signed up to support BTSN childcare registration on 9/23. Please consider signing up for one session (6-7:15pm or 7:15-8:15pm) to help support a smooth registration process for parents and kids! QR code is below:*	All
Join main Bolden WhatsApp group, and join any committee groups you're interested in	All
"Financial Review" Volunteer Opportunity: As part of PTA compliance, we need 3 PTA members to conduct an internal audit ("financial review") of last year's final budget. The Treasurers will equip you with a checklist, and you will review the budget against this. You don't need to be a budget expert to do this. 🙂 If you are interested, please email treasurer@bolden-pta.org.	All
Use Merch Request Form here to request any new merchandise for the year, this will help us to streamline orders and budget	All
Let Sam Sachs and Eliza Posner know if you volunteer for merch support so you can set up MTK payment on your phone in advance	Merch Volunteers
Join the Bobcat Volunteer WhatsApp group to be the Bobcat at some point this year 🙂	All

Introductions

Bolden PTA: Mission & Goals

President's Report

- President's Council Report *(fyi, All PTA Presidents/VPs in district meet monthly with the Superintendent)*
    - Recess/Lunch Monitor Update
        - Bolden school administrators are actively advocating for more recess aides. We are hoping to get more recess aides soon.
        - Looking into parents volunteering at lunch (will also support Green Team/composting initiative) - hoping for more information soon.
        - Volunteers at the library are also getting rolled out (reshelving books, helping during library class). More info soon.
        - Everyone (admin, teachers, PTA) aligned on getting kids outside for recess as much as possible. 🙂

- Board Logistics
    - Exec Board (President, VPs, Treasurers, Secretary)
    - Meeting schedule: third Tues of every month, 8-9:15pm, virtual (except Sep, Dec, Jun)
    - Must be a PTA member to be on Board and to vote in elections, etc. – please officially join!
    - Membership Toolkit (MTK) for general info; PTA email; WhatsApp; Google Drive
    - PTA closet, inventory, etc.

- Get Involved! 🙂

Role Type	Description
Volunteer at-large	Critically important, step in at their convenience to support
Committee member	Helps plan and execute targeted events/initiatives related to their committee (full committee list below)
Committee Chairs	Functions as committee member, leading the committee as needed; joins monthly PTA meetings and shares updates
Exec Board	Leadership team that manages the day-to-day business, events, and goals of the PTA between general membership meetings

- Upcoming Events
    - 9/18: Pizza & Ice Cream Social
    - 9/23: Back to School Night (PTA funds free on-site childcare provided by YMCA); parent night out at Perch 7-10p
    - 9/25: Picture Day
    - 9/26: Bobkittens Picnic
    - 10/3: Gardening Planting Day
    - 10/22: Walkathon (during school)
        - Biggest fundraiser of the year for the PTA.
        - Will be a volunteer opportunity!
    - Thursday 10/29: Harvestfest (during school)

- Will be a volunteer opportunity!

Principal's Report

- Principal Hutchinson or Mr. Calissi will attend virtual meetings.

Teacher Liaison's Report

- PTA Teacher liaisons are Mrs. Fahey, Ms. Hanie, and Mr. Stewart.
- Teachers expressed gratitude for all of the amazing snack donations to the teacher's lounge! 🙂

Treasurer's Report

- **Start of year balance: $35,000**
- **Current balance: $21,705**
- **September spending:**
  - Teacher Grants: $655
  - New Merchandise: $6,310
  - First Day Coffee: $554 (Including coffee with new AP)
  - Teacher's Lounge: $438
  - Communications, printed: $385
  - Teachers, back to school Stipend: $3,500
- **September income:**
  - PTA membership dues: $73
  - Merchandise Sales: $1,114
- To note, there are a handful of months throughout the year that are higher spend months. This includes September, December, May to June (for teacher's appreciation and year end).
- Will share the draft budget with all committee leads/VPs for input/comment in the next week; plan to vote at the Oct meeting.
- "**Financial Review" Volunteer Opportunity:** As part of PTA compliance, we need 2 (along with Steph Sabol) PTA members to conduct an internal audit ("financial review") of last year's final budget. The Treasurers will equip you with a checklist, and you will review the budget against this. You don't need to be a budget expert to do this. 🙂 If you are interested, please email treasurer@bolden-pta.org.
- Please make sure all treasurer requests go to treasurer@bolden-pta.org

Notes: Treasurer Report – Aug/Sept is a high spend month. PTA typically raises $80k per year and we cover most things happening outside of school that is not curriculum based (in school assemblies, teachers grants, ice cream socials, community building, etc)

Committee Reports

Note: We always welcome additional committee members! If any committees below catch your eye, fill out the interest form (QR code below) or email rsilverstein@bolden-pta.org.

- **Equity & Inclusion**, *Fauzia Shaikh, Kelly Wueste*
  - Co-Chairs attend monthly meetings with DEI reps from all District schools and DEI rep on President's Council; will report back once those start.

- **Fundraising**, *Kimberly Smith, Katie Nojima*
    - Walk-A-Thon scheduled for Thurs Oct 22! (rain date Fri 10/23)
    - Biggest fundraising moment of the year: $40K goal / $45K stretch
    - Communications will launch next week

- **Events**, *Rachel Salem, Kate Heller*
    - Thank you to Perch for hosting our first PTA meeting of the year!
    - Ice Cream Social on Friday - please volunteer to help out! Sign up on MTK (link below).
    - BTSN Parent Happy Hour at Perch on Wednesday, September 23rd. Drinks, and light bites provided by the PTA.
    - Trivia Night on Friday, February 19
    - Parents 90s Night planned for Spring
    - Move and Groove family event/fundraiser on Friday, May 14

- **Technology**, *Veronica Kolstad, Hugh Cushing*
    - Thanks to everyone engaging families with MTK! It helps us reach more people sooner with mailing lists, as users opt-in to the system and keep their information up to date, and it drives more traffic to the site, which increases awareness of events, bulletins, etc.
    - As mentioned below, users can see all Signups volunteering opportunities here, and logged in users can view their volunteering registrations here.
    - We automated adding families to the mailing list as they join MTK - no more manual updates or waiting for the “district dump” to get new families engaged.
    - Shoutout to Hugh for getting the site updated to keep our emails in good standing, and getting access to the Google Analytics suite!

- **Special Ed/SEPAC Liaison**, *Sadie Atkinson, Kate Athens*
    - Will attend District wide SEPAC meetings and report back.

- **Volunteers**, *Maggie Keenan, Mikaela Rigo*
    - Class Captains mostly set and up and running. All information to spread will be shared via email & CC whats app group
    - **Please email volunteers committee at least 3 weeks before event with all the details about what you need, timing, how many volunteers, roles, etc.**

- **Cultural Arts/Assemblies**, *Carla Barry-Austin*
    - Meeting with Mr. Calissi this week to start planning events for this SY.

- **Communications**, *Jacke Zatek, Christine Votta, Alicia Pignataro, Jayna Damania, Bethany*
    - Newsletters/bulletin; bi-weekly emails

- **Social Media**, *Alicia Pignataro*

- **5th Grade**, *Sumi Raghavan*
    - Griggstown Pie Fundraiser delivery and pick up date set for 11/20. Targeting end of Sept/early Oct for flyers and emails promoting.

- BTSN concessions and book sale fundraiser will be our first fundraiser. If any gently used books to donate, please contact Ali Prato or the 5th grade committee.
- Cocoa Clues scheduled for 10/23 with rain date 10/30. Megan Stubbendeck leading. Will need volunteers and will coordinate.
- Roller skating booked for 1/30
- Yearbook, planning beginning in the next 2-3 weeks. Ali Prato and Alex Petrone leading.

- **Bobkittens (K-2nd),** *Alison Bowin, Christine Newman, Eden Wall*
  - Bobkittens picnic planned for 9/26 from 11am-1pm in the Bolden Backyard. BYO lunch but plan to provide light snacks (likely oranges). Exploring face painter.
  - Planning K-2 parents night out for November; date and exact details to be finalized but likely looking at November and Pallet as the location.

- **SOMA Community Liaison,** *Jess Hammerman, Greta Rosen*
  - We've connected with Rose Sala, our SOMA Shares Liaison and have also connected with Bolden's social worker, Ms. Frances. The current need for some Bolden families is water bottles and SOMA Shares has a supply of those to fill that need.
  - We are brainstorming other ways to support SOMSD students in need and considering organizing a few drives over the year (ie: graphic novels, water bottles).
  - We are also hoping to raise awareness across the Bolden community about how to access Ms. Frances and support more broadly if ever needed.

- **Happiness Committee,** *Liz Macey, Kaitlyn Wittleder*
  - Teacher appreciation, breakfasts, lunches, gifts for teachers, crossing guards, paraprofessionals, staff, etc

- **SOMA Swish Liaison,** *Ben Altarescu*
  - Note: district-wide elementary school basketball fundraiser

- **Special Projects,** *Felicity Crew, Steph Ockay*
  - On-site childcare for BTSN; School Supply Kits; Teacher Grants; 5th grade Datebooks; Lost & Found; Art Show collaboration w/ Ms. Mac

- **Book Fair,** *Meghan Palabrica, Jenn Carter*
  - **Book Fair Dates**: Monday, December 7 through Friday, December 11 (will align with Parent/Teacher Conferences again this year)
  - We will be using the **Equitable Book Fair Model** again this year.
    - *Parents fund a school account and each student receives $25 to spend at the Book Fair regardless of a family's specific donation. Any extra is provided to teachers to help fill their classroom libraries, any difference (there usually isn't any) will be funded by the PTA.*
  - Immediate next steps include engaging school staff and teachers to help curate the books and materials featured at the Book Fair

- **Merch,** *Sam Sachs and Eliza Posner*
    - Lots of new merch will be available at this Friday's ice cream social.
    - Let Sam and Eliza know if you volunteer for merch support so you can set up MTK payment on your phone in advance.
    - Please use Merch Request Form here to request any new merchandise for the year, this will help us to streamline orders and budget https://forms.gle/sGWGw4bfbPB1Btjx8
    - **Ice cream social & BTSN - please sign up to volunteer at booth (and setup Membership Toolkit in advance)**

- **Green Team,** *Anna Borgman, Jonathan Bookbinder, Susan Malsbury, Gretchen Chern*
    - Garden Clean Up Day - Oct. 3, rain date Oct. 4
    - Interior Courtyard update, 9/15 meeting with admin
    - Last year started as Gardening Team, expanded to "Green Team", taking on district's goals around sustainability

- **Variety Show Liaison***, Emily MacGuire, Rachel Metka*
    - February 2027, annual Talent show

- **Harvest Fest,** *Rebecca Silverstein, Yeji Cha-Beach*
    - Planned for 10/29 (changed from 10/30); meeting with admin this week and then the team will start planning!

Next Steps

- **Formally join the PTA via Membership Toolkit (code below)** if you haven't already - you will fill out some basic info and pay a small membership fee. Officially joining the PTA allows you to vote on the PTA budget and leadership. It also ensures you stay in the loop with PTA news and events.

- **Join a Committee!** Scan this QR code to take our interest survey or email rsilverstein@bolden-pta.org to sign up for a committee.

- **Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities** (sign up via QR code below):
    - 9/18:- Pizza + Ice Cream Social (setup, during, clean-up)
    - 9/23: Back to School Night (during)
    - Ongoing - sign up to bring in snacks for teachers' lounge

- **Join us for the next meeting** on Tues. Oct 20th, 8:00-9:15pm (virtual)

Motion to Adjourn

WHAT IS THE delia bolden PTA?

Our Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) is a 100% volunteer-run **501(c)(3) nonprofit**.
We operate under the **NJPTA charter** & must follow its **Bylaws & Standing Rules**.
We are an **independent nonprofit, separate** from school & district operations.
Reach out anytime at ***president@bolden-pta.org***

What We Do

- Create a welcoming, **inclusive** environment for all students and caregivers.
- Organize & sponsor **programs** that enhance the school experience.
- **Support** opportunities that **strengthen** school-family partnerships.
- **Share** school & district **communications** to help families & caregivers navigate the school & district process.
- **Raise & steward funds** that benefit ALL students.
- **Support** our **teachers** with supplies to enrich their classrooms.
- Show **appreciation** to our staff & teachers with luncheons, breakfasts, gifts & events.

What We Don't Do

- Get involved in school operations, building or district administration, curriculum, or educational policies.
- Mediate disagreements between caregivers & the school/district.
- Participate in, influence, or advocate around personnel matters, including advocating for or against specific staff members.
- Evaluate, supervise, or direct principals, teachers, or staff.
- Engage in investigations, HIB matters, discipline, or confidential student issues.
- Use PTA funds to hire or pay staff, purchase curriculum, or fund capital improvements These are public obligations.

What to Expect at a Bolden PTA Meeting

PTA Board Meetings are focused on **PTA business.** This includes:

- **PTA Updates:** President's update, committee reports, program updates, budget updates & volunteer opportunities.
- **Building leadership and/or teacher liaisons updates:** Upcoming school & grade events, big picture district initiative & reminders.
- **General questions if time allows.**

Want to propose a topic for the agenda? Email president@bolden-pta.org

Inappropriate Topics for PTA Meetings

- **Individual/classroom issues:** placements, negative experiences with staff or other students.
- **Staffing/personnel matters:** staff performance, assignments, complaints, or discipline.
- **HIB accusations or incidents:** reporting, requesting updates, & inquires on investigations.
- **Confidential or sensitive student situations:** IEP/504 matters, special education disputes, discipline, financial need, immigration status, etc.

Have one of these issues & need help? Go to https://tinyurl.com/SOMSDComms