

October Agenda 2025 (with notes)

PTO Monthly Meeting

October 8, 2025

Location: Countryside Library & Google Meet

7:05pm - 8:15pm

Welcome and Introductions: Tera, Steve & Melissa

Principal's Updates: Principal Herlihy

- Back to School Night Recap
- Upcoming Teacher Conferences
- Misc / reminders / anything else

Notes:

- ✓ Safety day was a success but pivoted due to weather. Fire safety will be done at a later time
- ✓ School wide assembly to talk through collaboration. This will happen 1x a month
- ✓ Beth presented what the new playground would look like - playground will be installed next summer
- ✓ New building update: FFE for equipment for school will be happening next week
- ✓ Still on schedule for January start

Co-Presidents Update – Tera, Steve, Melissa

- School Committee / PTOC Updates
- Teacher Reps Feedback

Notes:

- ✓ Dr. Nolan is considering a pre-labor day start (Tuesday after labor day) - 2 more rounds to see if they would approve earlier start date
- ✓ SEPAC - Meet the candidates night - October 22 - 23 meeting. Topic will be around the SEPAC community. Questions ask Sahar.
- ✓ Room Parents: teachers are happy with the process this year. Room parents chairs held a zoom. Mostly joined by new parents, but it was helpful for those that showed up.
 - Room parents slots are filled - 2 per room.
- ✓ Field trips: PTO distributes a certain amount per grade to subsidize costs. 3rd grade is booked! PTO discussed costs and fees and how payment for field trips need to go through SchoolBucks.

- ✓ ½ day teacher conferences - snack cart will go around to allow teachers to grab a drink/ apple. Staff social committee will pick the snacks, but need volunteers (teacher appreciation committee will organize this)
- ✓ November 12th lunch for teacher
- ✓ Discussion on Countryside Cares - Eye glasses - is there a way for PTO funds for that. Local Costco was given as an option. Maybe Countryside Cares. PTO discussed several options including: NWH, Children's hospital has aid opportunities, New England eye, BU Campus, 20/20 truck that goes to different companies. PTO will coordinate through Beth Herlihy and Social Worker.

Discussion Topics

- Sharepoint Access - Rohit
- Annual Fund Kick Off/ Update – Stephanie/ Amye
- Auction Items Pick Up Committee- Amye
- Fifth Grade Experience Update – Jill/Sue/Katie
- Accessibility Committee Update – Janet

Notes:

- ✓ Sharepoint access: (Rohit) Background - Access to online retention for documents. Goal was to create a repository for work done and transition plan - access is granted through Rohit Anand and the Co-Presidents. Benefits to organize and collaborate. PTO - email countryside treasurer (csidetreasurer@gmail.com) and PTO Presidents (copresident@countrysidepto.org) for access. Access to certain folders will be limited due to sensitive information.
- ✓ Annual Fund: (Stephanie): Kicked off and the brochures went out - emails will go out and blurbs will come out through Beth. No coffee due to construction/ chaos. We are at 47% of our goals - some of the brochures have not gone out, so Beth will remind the teachers to distribute to the kids. Coffee options- maybe inside but challenging due to rules around fundraising during school day. Discussed lawn signs and put it at the entrances, social coffee might be good. Room parents will be sending out an email in October.
 - Other options discussed. Email and text program. Challenges behind a texting program, a person needs to opt into communication, you have to opt in specifically into that program and it seems intrusive.
- ✓ Auction: (Amye) Fund raising auction has kicked off. Text group - need volunteers. Names collected by Casey, but looking for help. If you have any ideas for – items, please send names and ideas to Amye
- ✓ 5th Grade Experience: (Erin) \$980 collected to date – yay 5th Grade!
 - All committees are formed and there is a parent only night to committee and opportunities. Fund raising is gearing up

- o Bake Sale - November 4th (when that date is confirmed - 5th grade wants to know)
- ✓ Accessibility: (Janet)
 - o Fall picnic - great sensory space -thank you Melissa! (~30-50 kids)
 - o Social story are being created for events to make it more accessible
 - o Adam B. did a great article about accessibility for field trips (thank you Adam!)
 - o Halloween party - team is identifying a craft that kids can work on and take home. Volunteers will be needed.

Community Events – Coming Up

- Halloween Party (10/25) – Denitsa/ Janet
- Pumpkin Contest (10/25): Volunteer Need – Denitsa
- Green Team Update – Julie

Notes:

- ✓ Halloween Party (Janet)
 - o Early access from 4:30 - 5 (sensory) - light up/ sound down
 - o 5 – 6:30 – younger kids (K – 2)
 - o 6:30 - 8 - older kids (3 – 5)
 - o Looking for volunteers for decorating, during Halloween Party and clean up
- ✓ Pumpkin contest - students will bring it to the party and voting will happen that night and that can happen for a week, but take them before they decay (or the green team will take them). Will need to identify someone to watch the pumpkins during the Halloween contest.
- ✓ Green Team (Julie W): Kick off this week will work with Ms. Pritchett

Additional Topics/Recap of Past Events

- Fall Picnic Recap – Melissa M./ Janet
- Picture Day Recap – Tera
- Spirit Wear Recap – Steve
- BOKS Kick Off – Nanda C.

Notes:

- ✓ Fall Picnic: Success at the new space, unsure if we were in budget. 428 in snack sales - so we would net at 1300 (maybe 100\$ in cash). Snacks will get moved to the Halloween party. Magician was a winner.
- ✓ Picture Day:
 - o Still trying to figure out 5th grade photo in front of the school

- If we want an additional one for the 5th grade outside - we can ask but only 2 – 3 kids are missing. Suggestion: is there someone who has a drone who would be able to help. Melissa M. may know.
 - o Retake has not been set (November 12th is 1st open date). Ayca will coordinate with Beth Herlihy.
 - o Feedback. Easier inside, great volunteer turn around. Easier for kids with glasses. Lesson learned for next year - notify the after care.
 - o Next step - Ayca to work with co-presidents and beth to identify date.
- ✓ Spirit Wear - Orders will be sent to Countryside. New kids to the school will get a new teacher
 - ✓ BOKS kick off – Exercise program before school run by volunteers. Still open, so if other kids are interested, please sign up and join.
 - ✓ Library Volunteers - this is being reorganized, but we will look for a volunteer until the sign up is sent out.
 - ✓ Art Contest (for directory and annual fund brochure): It did not happen last year but we'll revisit for this year. If the 5th grade can do a design for this year and the 4th grade for next year. Julie to connect with Jill to figure this out.

Misc Items, Discussion, Input/Ideas, final thoughts