PTO General Body Meeting #2 | October 8, 2026 | Notes

- **Start Time**: 6:10 PM; **End Time**: 7:10 PM

- **Welcome & Introductions**

  There were around 40 meeting participants (in-person and virtual). All meeting attendees introduced themselves and answered the ice breaker question: Team Candy Corn? Yes or no? Three minutes to share why you love or hate this Halloween treat.

  The PTO Executive Board includes:
  - President: Vacant
  - Vice President: Nicole Didyk Wells
  - Secretary: Sofia Resnick
  - Treasurer: Amelia Whitman Weisbuch
  - Membership and Engagement Chair: Megan Brooks Asanansi
  - Communications Co-Chairs: Tasha Ammons & Lauren Latchford
  - Fundraising Chair: Heather Clark
  - Events Chair: Lauren Showalter
  - Equity Co-Chairs: Michelle Fruitwala & Aliesha Maye & Gynnie Robnett

  Attendance, in person (34):
  - Anthony Miller, PK3SB, 1S, no candy corn
  - Isabel Lorenzo, PK3SB, 1S, no candy corn
  - William Nichols, PK3SA, 1S, yes candy corn
  - Lauren Showalter, PK3SA, 1S, yes candy corn
  - Daniel Rodriguez, PK4SA, ambivalent on candy corn
  - Annelle Sheline, PK4SA, no candy corn
  - Katie Bean, KS, yes candy corn
  - Ana Maria Donado, parent engagement coordinator, what is candy corn?
  - Josh Cardenzana, 5F, ambivalent on candy corn
  - Amy Cervantes, 5F, yes candy corn
  - Titus Payne, KF, no candy corn
  - Dubois Ford, KF, no candy corn
  - Sharon Malachi, KF, no candy corn
  - Daria-Ann Martineau, 1S, no candy corn
  - Ryan Butler, 1S, no candy corn
  - Fernando Porter, PK3SA, KS, no candy corn
  - DeShaun Wise Porter, PKSA, KS, parent rep of Stokes board, yes candy corn
  - John Engelbert, KS, no candy corn
  - Stacy Cammarano, KS, yes candy corn (their first week)
  - Alex Angert, 1S, yes candy corn
  - Zimberlyn Bolton, PK3SA, no candy corn
  - Gretchen O' Sullivan, 5S, yes candy corn
  - Rebecca Courouble, staff, pyp coordinator, never tasted candy corn
  - Megan Brooks Asanansi, PK4SA, 3S
  - Kasaan Holmes, KS, 3S, no candy corn
  - Carla Fernandez de Castro, PK4FA, 1F, no candy corn
  - Amelia Whitman Weisbuch, PKSB, no candy corn,

- Lauren Latchford, PK4FB, 2F, yes candy corn
- Kevin Burke, PK3SB, KS, no candy corn,
- Frank Wells, KS, yes candy corn
- Nicole Didyk Wells, KS, no candy corn
- Danielle Glover, 2F, 4F, no candy corn
- Sofia Resnick, 1F, 5F, no candy corn
- Delisa Purchase, PK3SA

Attendance, Zoom (more than 5):

- Heather Clark, KS, neutral on candy corn
- Elizabeth Brown, 5S, yes candy corn (new to Stokes, in D.C. every other week, happy to fundraise when I can)
- Aliesha Maye, 1S, 3S, loathes candy corn
- Esther Paul, PK4FB
- Heidy
- Michelle Fruitwala, PK4SB, tried but unable to get in the Zoom
- MORE

- **Afterschool clubs – Ms. Jacqueline Walker**
  - It's hard to find clubs for PK, especially free clubs
  - Encourage scholars to stay in the same club longer to give it more of a try
  - No formal signup sheet; during afterschool, she sets up cones and names of clubs and the kids sign up
  - Perler Beads is the most popular club, on Thursdays, 25 scholars. Try to have scholars stagger to give more students an opportunity.
  - Issue with DC Way – some kids not enjoying the program
  - Waiting to hear from World Folk Dance (maybe misheard?)
  - Looking to coordinate with Mme Sonia about soccer
  - Caregivers have until 3:40pm to pick up scholars until they are charged. Ms. Jackie says she wants staff to only bring scholars to aftercare after 3:40pm. They are not yet checked in to aftercare if they're still outside at 3:45pm.
  - Invoices are generated on a Sunday; she has proposed doing autopay but not her call
    - Email her about double balances, bcafterschool@ewstokes.org
    - There were some "failed attempts" to send invoices to parents – parents can access them in ParentSquare

- **IB Coordinator – Mme. Rebecca Courouble**
  - She wants to come more to PTO meetings to connect with parents
  - PYP from International Bac, works with teacher, units of inquiry
  - Celebration of learning are important opportunities to see what scholars are learning, once per trimester, push students to take charge and take agency even in second grade
  - Always looking for experts for units of inquiry and field trip ideas – good for them to participate communicate skills, gathering information

- **Committee Updates**

  - **Events – Lauren Showalter**
    - Soccer game postponed due to weather for Sunday, Nov. 8, 1pm, Turkey Thicket

- There will be a food truck, 50/50 raffle, and possibly some other items for raffle
- Need more donors for raffles
- Still looking for coaches and refs
- Look at the form again to see if you can or can't do the soccer game
    - Fifth graders will be selling concessions to raise money for their fifth grade trip
    - Elizabeth Brown asks for Lauren Showalter's email: lmshowalter3@gmail.com

- **Class Spotlights – Megan Brooks Asanansi**
    - Pre-K
        - Parent: Annelle Sheline, PK4SA
            - From Mr. Davenport, we learned teachers would like Amazon wish lists to be a PTO sanctioned or organized thing.
            - Teachers say they are thrilled with support from room parents and feel supported
        - Parent: Carla Fernandez de Castro, PK4FA
            - Echoed the Amazon wishlist request
            - She says parents are pleased with the warmth and communication from teachers
            - Classrooms want a Hepa filter, purchased by PTO?
            - Some parents wanted more structured activities after school like chess, but that's really difficult for this age group
            - Fundraising idea: Partner with restaurants to fund food for teacher appreciation week, maybe. Collecting money as a room parent can be touch.
                - Nicole says Nando's has offered to do that with Stokes

        - **PreK Committee– Amelia Whitman Weisbuch presents, but is not chairing**
        - The goal of the committee is to focus on unique challenges for PK
        - Still looking for a chair – Annelle Sheline (PK4SA) is interested in chairing

- **Fundraising – Heather Clark**
    - No updates from last month
    - Please support the committee, don't have to have prior fundraising experience
    - Goal to create more big fundraisers like the Readathon
    - Ryan Butler (1S) expresses interest in participating on the committee

- **Communications – Lauren Latchford**
    - Let us know about lice in classrooms so we can communicate with school

- **Membership & Engagement – Amelia Whitman Weisbuch presents, but is not chairing**
    - Upcoming Secret Readers program

- **Afterschool**
    - Thekla Hansen-Young is the chair, but not present
    - She's been meeting with Ms. Jackie

- **5th grade fundraising** – No updates
- **Equity** – No updates
- **Garden** – No updates
- **Staff Appreciation** – No updates
- **Traffic** – No updates
- **Yearbook**
  - Still looking for a chair
  - Marlana Purcell is interested in working on it but not chairing it

- **Further discussion**
  - Playground safety
    - Sra. Ana Maria Donado said they put up safety strips on the playground
    - Leveling the playground will need more funding
  - Teacher needs
    - Mr. Marcus needs net balls during recess
    - Second grade needs French books – PTO will work with the school
    - Parents to speak on expert topics
    - After school science club – parents taking a day or partial week

- **Reminders**
  - Scholastic Book Fair, Oct. 19-23
  - Taste of Stokes, Oct. 24
  - Picture Day, Oct. 28-29
  - Soccer game, Nov. 8

- **Action items for next meeting**
  - Get an ASL translator
  - Next time Sofia could manage the Zoom or make sure we make the settings so everyone can get in; Michelle Fruitwala couldn't get in.
  - Reconsider the food budget and food selection
  - Question for Membership & Engagement: How and where to sign up for tiers
  - Interest for fundraising participation
    - Elizabeth Brown (5S, ebdc123@icloud.com), also interested in connecting with Lauren Showalter (lmshowalter3@gmail.com)
    - Ryan Butler (1S, ryan@coalitionpg.com) about the soccer game:
  - Interest for PK Committee: Annelle Sheline (PK4SA, annelle.sheline@gmail.com)

https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/1tckxaoJ6nWyx4S00wKyqhdmTXbBOPCNT