

March Prelim Agenda 2026

PTO Monthly Meeting

March 11th, 2026

Location: Countryside Library/ Google Meet Online

7:00pm - 8:30pm

Welcome and Introductions: Tera, Steve & Melissa

Principal's Updates: Principal Herlihy

- Building Project Updates
 - Beth got a walk through in her new building - it's beautiful with lots of space. Lots to look forward to
 - Mural: Zara Woodhead is working with the kids on the mural and every child will be helping to make the mural to make a beautiful image - sense of home, belonging. It will be in the lobby across from the main office.
 - There will be a community day to help with the mural (a thank you to the neighbors!)
 - Colors are finalized and colors in the library
 - Flexible seating and the architects are very collaborative
 - The playground is started - they are working to get it done over the summer, but the summer is broadly defined
- School wide assembly topics
 - March - perseverance
 - Teaching the kids that some things are hard. Try your best and that's all we ask
 - Next week is a buddy activity and then assembly
 - When we work together as a community, we can do hard things!
- March Madness/ Mathness Update
 - Each class is assigned a women's basketball team
- Midyear Assessments/ Parent-Teacher Meeting
 - Teachers are started to share how they prepare - how are they performing and prepare goals for the rest of the year
 - In-person or virtual options - reach out with any questions
 - Midyear assessments are out - please take a look and ask the teachers any questions.
 - Math - if you see that your child scored a certain
 - Question - do you have a report from Anna Nolin's report

- 3 how's my child doing workshop - they talked about the different touchpoints to learn more about progress report
- iReady - its creating a lot of anxiety around the report
 - They are going to trickle down
 - They are piloting 1st and 3rd grade and they are giving feedback and they are very willing to do, CS will be an early adopter for several grade levels
 - This affects middle years most
- Tonight's school committee meeting - special education
 - Public hearing on March 19th
 - YouTV all the school committee meetings are posted there, so encourage everyone to listen - this is important!
- Additional Summary - **FIG City news** - 3 adult writers and 2 teenage writers that cover it
- To be provided
 - How is my child doing?
 - School Committee meeting

Co-Presidents Update – Tera, Steve, Melissa

- School Committee / PTOC Updates
 - School Committee - everything is in flux (budget season)
 - CALL TO ACTION FOR FAMILIES - PLEASE COMPLETE YOUR CENSUS!
 - Mayor Lorado are working together to make tough decisions and they are working their best to collaborate
- PTOC -
 - She had an ask that the Memorial Day parade and they are looking for families - stay tuned
 - Disability curriculum was pilot at Anger - how is that coming to CS?
 - different units and books that people can find on the website
 - Met with the CAS rep that is trying to get the new process organized, more to come
 - Budget will be shared through the PTOC - there is a 1M gap that she will be able to fill (making tough choices). Waiting to get feedback from Mark Lorado.

- He has indicated that there is no more money coming, so the school committee is going to provide recommendations
 - She refers to 5 of the "high need" schools - CS is one of them to provide interventions
 - The data is showing wonderful gains when we can do intervention early
 - MTSS - we have additional support staff
 - Our funding mini-grants for the literacy and math specialist and the projects sound great!
 - Next meeting a report on all the mini-grants
 - Enrollment is going down across the district, CS will be stable, but unclear how that will impact at this point
- Teacher Reps Feedback
 - Invoice coming in shortly for CS Care glasses
- No more mail chimp and moving toward membership tool kit
- Got rid of Wix - thanks to Ian
 - We are on a google site, so we are on 1 or 2 platforms to save on money and consolidate
- Started Surveys - we want to hear from you. Please send them back and appreciate the feedback that has been sent to date.
- Election coming up for new board members
 - Need to get this posted in the next month
 - Current bi-laws and now it's a simple vote to make that swap
 - Add an amendment to a certain role that is officer level and sunset it
 - Recommendation to change the bi-laws (timeline) - we do not need to amend, this is just a board of director item and there is no need for an additional vote.
- 2026 - 2027 Budget update - Rohit

Discussion Topics

- Creative Arts & Sciences update – Melissa M. / Heidi
 - 2 more this week and 1 more today
 - 5 more left for the year - and Heidi wants to connect with Rohit regarding payment and signing

- Rohit is proposing a checklist - if we have the dates and a checklist so Rohit can make sure that everyone gets paid timely
 - Rohit would like to do this for all future events to make sure timely payment - if Rohit knows in advance then he can leave it in the treasurer box
- Green Team Update – Julie
 - Canceled this meeting this month - this will be back in April and watch the garden after this tough Winter.
 - Garden will be planted in late April
- Welcoming Committee – Beth H.
 - New Kindergarteners coming in
 - New K screenings on May 13/ Kids visit May 27
 - Welcoming committee will be there to talk about PTO
 - Have a flier for new parents - a connection to the website and a checklist
 - They cannot be added to the parent toolkit before they know their teachers
 - Beth H. would like a way to communicate and send them to - so they have a check sheet to welcome to CS
 - Suggestion - where do you go to for the different sites (a cheat sheets)
 - Aspen
 - Parentsquare
 - Membership toolkit
 - There is an app and a website - a way for each classroom and class parents to send out messages
 - We can add photos and documents
 - This can also track who is opening - unsure if we can see it through the community
 - But the Parent leaders can see who is sending things
 - Procare - aftercare
- Accessibility Committee – Sahar / Janet
 - Everything is going great - this is really helping - early access, quiet space, social story and some additional changes
 - Thank you Melissa and Amye for coordinating with Jasmin and Janet for the upcoming MCF event
 - Reminder - 1st year, but we are working towards consistency and early access

- This has been shared with the PTOC and providing guidance here.
 - So happy to see all the adoption and the support for our entire community
- Room Parents Update – Beth H./ Erin
 - New Room Parents communications
 - New Room Parent gift collections - (December/ Year End Gifts) - this is more about cash gifts to the teachers
 - Shifting away from classroom gifts to be more compliant with PTOC guidelines
 - District policy on the 150/ year for staff and collecting by classroom and for above and beyond families classrooms were getting lots of gifts, so that is against the equity policy.
 - So we are working towards flattening that and maxing the amount of the separate gift
 - Pooled funds - but if we have a situation where there is a work down rug - why can't we encourage parents
 - The focus is on all classrooms - and how do we balance the payment and appreciation across all levels
 - New Room Parent Coordinators needed for fall
 - If there are any positions that will be vacating, so 2 positions
- Adam brought up equity policy - that was discussed with Dr. Nolin
 - This was a quick conversation, requesting that the PTO presidents keep this on the radar with the PTOC
 - Beth Herlihy brought up Intent v. Practice - so this is a look at intent v. practice
 - Raising the headcount per student
 - Bus
 - Technology

Community Events - Coming Up

- Multi-Cultural Festival – Jenny / Sue / Nada, Janet (March 28th)
 - Idea - there is a projector in the cafeteria and Beth would be in place with a laptop

- When we do a sign up - we need a "Principal helper"
- Middle school and high school volunteers - we have the schedule of the tables
- Auction Items Update – Amye
 - We need to determine when we are going to have it
 - Amye to follow up on when we should have it - suggest May
 - It usually spans like 2 weeks
 - 32k of items! Great job Amye!
 - What are the top 3 items or places that you go and pass that along
 - Suggestion Newton Public Library
 - For example - \$700 Capital Grill
 - Thank you to the pick up committee!
 - FMV - 15 - 16k as of now
- 5th Grade Experience (Yearbook/ Upcoming events) – Jill / Sue / Katie
 - Yearbook is doing well and it will be mostly done by the end of the month
 - Community service - Lauren Larson allowed the students to vote on what they wanted to work with
 - They were presented with 3 organization
 - They are doing something called welcome home to do baskets for family
 - T-shirt design came back yesterday - looks very cool and more to come
 - Field day was booked June 11th at the Cove
 - Party - Friday, June 12th
 - Graduation - date TBD, but it will be confirmed in the next couple of weeks
 - All done fundraising - fully funded - way to go!!!
 - Reminder: Meeting next Monday (3/16)
 - 4th Grade art contest
- Newton Serves - if we are interested in doing Newton Serves - May 3rd
 - As we transition to the new school, it may be limited
 - Suggestion (Beth Herlihy) - we are going to need help to move, so maybe a community moving day (?)
 - Or maybe with the new mural

- Beth H will have an idea in the next couple of weeks
- Parents do help the teachers to sort what teachers need over the next couple of weeks
- Volunteers may have a sneak peek day
- BOKS is kicking off -
 - Please feel free to join
 - Need to confirm days with Beth H.

Additional Updates/Recap on Past Events

- Parent Party (February 7th) – Melissa M. / Adam B. / Steve
 - Great event - lots of community involvement (65 people)
 - Good location
 - Brought in 2200 and under budget
 - Hope/ potential might be in the new building - they get a 1 night liquor license - mark it for a PTO item for next year
- Teachers & Staff Appreciation Recap – Hot Chocolate and Cookies (Yum!) – Maegan / Tera / Beth H
 - Teacher feedback was positive
 - Thank you to all who provided the treats
 - Great job all around
- BINGO Night – Amye / Melissa M. (March 7th)
 - BINGO was awesome
 - Going to do a flyer in the backpacks for next year
 - It's fun and free and we should have had more
 - Consider doing it on a Sunday - in between the sports season and last weekend to travel before sports started

Misc Items, Discussion

Rohit/ Treasurer Update

- Tax filings are done - and the tax accountant did it!
- Rohit did some of the work and the filings and saved \$650 just because it was easy to do
- BINGO - expense costs and what was brought in - break even
- Has anyone seen the bins - there is only 1 left
 - Amanda did it last year...anyone want to volunteer
- Annual Fund- 29,950 - \$50 short!

