



LAWRENCE SCHOOL PTO Meeting Minutes

September 17, 6pm

In the conference room near Room 106, Lawrence School

This meeting will be held in person. If you would like to join by Zoom please ask for a link by email: lawrencepto@falmouth.k12.ma.us

Welcome and introductions of all present. Gather email addresses and names from attendees.

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Attendees

- Chelle Bradley, President
- Leanne Augusta, Treasurer
- Diana Ganju, Secretary
- Principal Tom Bushy
- Kim Lefkowitz, parent
- Cherie Duarte, parent

Secretary's Report (Diana Ganju)

- Chelle motioned, Diana seconded to approve June minutes
- Minutes approved as written

President's Report (Chelle Bradley)

Old Buildness

- Thank you to those who volunteered for the Falmouth Road Race on behalf of LAW PTO - PTO secured \$1,000.
- Thank you to Mr. Porto for donating his time and effort along with PTO funding to build the new planters out front of LAW.

New Business

Fall Fundraiser Letter and social media post

Revised letter from last year presented. Previously the letter focused on field trips (FT). FT information has been left the same but PTO funds other things as well. General agreement to add teacher half day lunches. Leanne suggested that the picnic table purchased last year be added along with the staff lunches. Chelle stated should also include info in the paragraph from the [open house flyer](#) generally stating what the PTO funds. **This letter is expected to be out digitally by the first week in October 2025. Diana will post a summary of the letter and link to Social Media.**

Fundraising Initiatives

Discussion regarding Raise Craze <https://raisecraze.com/>

Comparison made to Boosterahtan (used at MP) LAW PTO has used the fundraising platform Raise Craze because the program only keeps 6% of the amount raised, leaving 94% for LAW. Parents/Guardians are invited to make an account and provide a financial donation(s). Students are encouraged to spread acts of kindness. Last year the LAW Raise Craze brought in \$13,896. Advisories with high success rates won bagels/donuts brought in by parents and donated by local businesses. Participating students are entered into a drawing for additional prizes, also donated from the community. 231 students participated out of 479 (current student body 462).

Discussion regarding participation rate and students needing parental support to sign up online. Ideas shared for adding small prizes for all students to support the feeling of inclusion in a school-wide event (**bracelets, Leanne will get cost**). Last year students in winning homerooms received mechanical pencils and gummy bears.

School/staff role is to host a kick off assembly (last year Mr. Z was the lead but is now in a different position). **Mr. Bushy offered to look into staff for the event as well as a date (a Friday in late January 2026 was suggested)**. Continued discussion on making the fundraiser more inclusive and getting more kids involved such as a school wide act of kindness. Chelle shared that last year students made cards for a local nursing home. **Parents also suggested thank you cards to service providers (police, for example). A closing rally was also suggested.**

Mr. Bushy reported that staff liked Raise Craze but would also be open to something else if LAW PTO wanted to change. It was reported that staff felt the act of kindness was a positive aspect of the fundraiser. It was clarified that students can participate by financial donation (family/friends) and/or acts of kindness. **Diana suggested a google form that students could use to track acts of kindness without having to have a parent sign up online.** Mr. Bushy stated this could be posted online and students could track acts of kindness during advisory.

Treasurer's Report (Leanne Augusta)

- No outstanding bills
- Deposited \$1000 from Road Race
- Venmo set up and working, successfully tested at meeting
- Payments over the summer included: Steamship \$786.50 and Stop and Shop \$23.96
- An accountant is working on taxes, Leanne has been in contact.

Principal's Remarks (Tom Bushy)

Team Trips

Mr. Bushy shared that teams have been working to bring back many of the FT and out of school activities stalled by COVID. There is an effort and progress towards equitable out-of-the-door experiences for students. The scheduling of this continues to be a challenge. A request was made for LAW PTO to consider funding travel FTs in the Fall (not only in the Spring). Current LAW PTO fundraising happens in the winter to fund Spring trips. Money would have to be held over to fund Fall trips in 26-27. It was understood that this process may take a few years to provide enough funding. There was general acceptance of the idea of Fall FT and agreement that it is a good time of year for teambuilding and for students to get to know each other. **Chelle and Leanne stated they would look**

at the budget and spending and if we can pull back on expenses in other areas to help support this idea.

Mr. Bushy reviewed the focus on safety at LAW in response to recent communication from the superintendent. He stated that he carries a radio with direct police connection and is outside when students are out at lunch time. Admin has visual access to the grounds through cameras when in the building. He reiterated that all doors are locked, teachers use fobs, and custodian check doors. Additional safety focused work continues including a health and safety team, response training, and reunification drills. Kim (parent) reported that other parents are saying that LAW is “on top of it”.

Mr. Bushy reported that the new 7th grade class is very kind. They are holding doors and saying thank you! Counselors have been assigned by team this year and the school is looking forward to the positive effects of this change.

Other Business

- Art Shows
 - No dates listed on the school website yet. **Chelle will email Van Mooy to get dates**

- Staff Luncheons
 - Two sponsored last year, Dec and May, budget was \$4,500
 - **Plan to reduce \$ amount budgeted by half (last year covered all staff, paras and custodians and was \$700 each)**
 - Mr. Bushy’s assistance was requested to help select dates when all teachers are in the building for professional development.
 - **March was recommended.**
 - Will continue to plan for 80 people and provide lunch for all staff

January 7, 2026 LAW PTO meeting may be rescheduled to 5:00 PM in order to not conflict with district level meeting expected that evening. To be confirmed.

Parent question

What is the first activity the LAW PTO is involved in? Chelle stated that the Art show cookie donation is in November. The Raise Craze fundraiser is in early February. The PTO also does the decorations and breakdown at the last dance. There was a follow up question about spirit wear. It was suggested that families consider spirit wear through FHS, LAW sports and clubs, and generic Falmouth gear from Soft as a Grape.

Adjournment

- Chelle motioned to adjourn meeting
- Meeting adjourned 6:58

Next meeting

October 1, 6pm, Room 106 Conference Room

Future Meetings

(Meeting dates/times are subject to change. Please confirm with the school calendar)

November 12, 6:45pm

December 3, 6pm

January 7, 6pm May need to shift to 5pm to accommodate the Finance Director & Superintendent's budget presentation

February 4, 6pm

March 4, 6pm

April 1, 6pm

May 6, 6pm

June 3, 4:30 in Room 105

Other notes

Pictures of planters