

## PTA Meeting Notes – September 8, 2025

Attendees: Allison Halsey, Amanda Rines, Abbie Vashaw, Meagan Carr, Sara Brass, Angie Beaulieu, Casey Wilkins, Mr. Smith

- Meeting called to order: 2:47 PM (Allison)
- Minutes approved: 2:48 PM

### Updates & Discussions

- Social Media:
  - PTA social media gaining traction.
  - Some concerns raised → holding off on expanding use until everyone is comfortable.
  - School social media is increasing activity; PTA will avoid adding to concerns for now.
- New PTA Email:
  - Up and running, school-related but PTA-based.
  - Only accessible by Allison but that is fine for now.
- Donations:
  - Angie (Place Above the Notch) offered to donate coffee for future events. We will be sure to add her to the mix for the future
- Student Government:
  - Each class (older grades) will hold elections soon
  - Mrs. Miscio assisting along with Mr. Shapiro
  - Younger grades not participating.
  - Logo design for apparel underway soon
  - Discussion of separating playground areas for younger students - Brainstorming on that.
  - Back steps need repairs—someone has expressed interest in fixing them.

### Principal's Report (Mr. Smith)

- Staffing:
  - 7 new teachers, 2 new paraprofessionals.
  - Training for new paras scheduled October 16 (Professional Development).
- Building Updates:
  - Exterior trim completed.
  - New fire alarms & smoke detectors installed.
  - Foyer roof replaced.
  - EMC evaluated building → detailed report will be sent to Board for budgeting.
- Wellness Room:

- Moved to former Special Education room - Old Wellness Room converted into a classroom for new students.
- First Friday Explorations:
  - Chaotic but improved as the day went on.
  - Overall positive experience—lots of happy kids.

## Treasury & Fundraising

- Dues: Need to follow up with Erin about October dues. Will know for next meeting
- Ice Cream Social:
  - Successful - food truck popular.
  - Hard for PTA to socialize while running event.
  - 50/50 raffle was unsuccessful (\$52 unclaimed) not alot of parents brought money.
  - Suggestion: single-item raffle - BES store gift card for next year
- Leftover Ice Cream/Popsicles:
  - Motion to give to teachers as appreciation.
  - Motion by Allison, seconded by Sara → all in favor.
- Venmo/Online Donations:
  - PTA needs an online payment option (Venmo/PayPal).
  - Goal: set up before spring play concessions (by April).
  - Need to appoint a person to look into this
- Future Fundraising Ideas:
  - Thanksgiving or Christmas cupcake sale (Jack & Fin's partnership).
    - Allison will look into and reach out for more details on this. Teachers seem very interested in this
  - Family Wreath-Making fundraiser (possibly with The Rocks).
    - Amanda will look into the cost of this
  - Pumpkin fundraiser (guess the pumpkin weight at Place Above the Notch).
    - This was recommended and is a possibility
  - Woodstock Brewery root beer label project → student-designed label is happening, portion of proceeds to PTA. This is in motion and will be happening soon.

## Events & Activities

Halloween:

- The PTA will host the annual Halloween Parade for the 3rd year in a row.
- A dance following the parade at 2:30 PM was considered but ultimately decided against.
- Also discussed doing a dance instead of the Parade during the school day
- Last year's walk there was less involvement from the community due to no candy being handed out. This year we're considering:
  - Pre-made allergy-safe treat bags (similar to last year) but parents were not a fan.
  - Adding fun handouts along the path such as glowsticks and trinkets.

- Enhancing the parade experience with spooky extras like fog machines and decorations.
- Checking in with allergy parents about whether candy should be included or prebagging things for the allergy students. Staff strongly prefer the parade format, as many students are sensitive to loud music and noise and its a fun tradition now
- The PTA will wait on holding a dance and plan instead for a possible Winter Wonderland Dance in December.

Winter Wonderland Dance: Possible December event. We will discuss this on our next meeting

### **Proposed meeting date will be 10/6 at 2:45pm at BES**

There was discussion about moving the meeting time but overall consensus is to keep the time as it is for now.

- BES Apparel:
  - Online sales started, promoted on Facebook & Instagram.
  - Current sales: \$25 (not much) we plan to promote more.
  - Feedback: add more masculine designs (may come from student government)
- Coffee Hour (Back-to-School):
  - Positive response from teachers but very small turn out
  - Suggestions for next year:
    - Hold outside on blacktop or “little island.” for a better turn out
    - Add photo backdrop.
    - Link event to first PTA meeting perhaps instead of first day
    - Over all was not a good turn out but ideas on how to make it better next year. First day of school is chaotic for most parents
- Buddy Benches:
  - Mrs. Turner & Mrs. Chote want to build during Friday's program.
  - Seeking 4 old benches to refurbish.
  - Amanda and Sara to look into sourcing and costs
- Community & Student Support:
  - Idea: Rec team “sports library” (borrow/loan equipment) so all kids can participate in sports
  - Allison to reach out to Rec program regarding this
- Spring Events:
  - Improve Bike Bus → PTA to support more with planning. Allison is not sure she wants to lead this event next year. Hopefully get more police involvement for next year.

### **Community Concerns**

- Crosswalk by Library:
  - Sara asked about lack of crosswalk.

- Mr. Smith: Town may be adding sidewalk.
- Will gather details; may need to attend town budget meeting.
- Sara interested in attending board meetings alongside Amanda. Mr. Smith is going to inquire about this more to see if we can join again soon.
- Meeting adjourned: 4:01 PM (Motion by Allison, seconded by Sara)