

Bancroft PTO Meeting 9.16.2025
In-person and Virtual

Attendees:

Stephanie Barry
Cristina Addesa
Kate Kurkul
C Ramirez
Antonia Gruning
Lise Singer
Caity Castagna
Katie Carbone
Michelle
Laura Rubin
Caroline Hughes Wilder
Beth Leavitt
Christine Barsanti
Katie Oullette
Shelby Baecker
Annie Traub
Casey Vemis
Mia Angle
Matthew Davidge

Budget

Caity Castagna shared the budget for this year

Bancroft Bucks

Stephanie discussed Bancroft Bucks
It's been kicked off - envelopes have gone out.
We are 22% to goal so far with 16% of the school participating.
Tracking better than last year - 75% of the money came in in the last 2 days.
Parent socials have helped with the fundraising.
Stephanie will do another push on social tomorrow.

Directory

Katie printed out all the pages and brought them to the classes during the open house so parents can check their information.
We will publish it online this weekend and give people one last chance to update.
Sanborn has an app but you can't print it. We will look into this.

Maker Space

Katie Oullette has done amazing work on updating the maker space.

Katie said there is more to do - she is super excited and grateful to be there and have everyone including the teachers be excited about it. She thinks the space can be used to build community and foster creativity.

Stephanie reminded us that we have a 3D printer.

We're looking at storage options and some decor.

Caity mentioned that we have \$550 in the budget for the space.

Student Enrichment

Brenda Shields is no longer with Andover. She did start to work on the student enrichment programs and got some of it done.

We have no parent volunteers for it. Stephanie is trying to find someone.

What the parent volunteer does - communicate with vendors, got the dates, work with the school on booking, coordinate the parent volunteers.

Would the other PTOs want to share? Stephanie said that our list is longer but she can bring it up on the town wide PTO.

Danielle and Matt Noyes are interested (weather people).

Past event recap

Walk and Talk

Laura said there were lots of new faces this time.

Stephanie said that the principals want to come - she will send them the dates.

Next one is 10/3

Open House

Beth said that she still thinks this format is best for us.

PTO presentation was awesome.

There is less of a demand on our teachers this way.

CORIs were a bit of a hiccup but they are correcting the issue. Printing and sending it out ahead of time was great.

K parents liked that they could buy the spirit wear.

Learning Labs

Kate K. discussed Learning Labs

There is a new email account to converse with teachers

It's important to have someone from the school in the loop and get CORIs from everyone.

Kate asked how we include all students? Especially those with aids? Beth confirmed that we will accommodate anyone.

Right now Christina Baker and Stephanie are going to let kids in for now so that Learning Labs can continue while they continue to look for someone internally that can help.

In the past, an IA would man the door and do some coordination.

Scarecrow festival

Theme is "every scarecrow has a story"

We welcome ideas on the PTO scarecrow

Halloween festival

Kate K discussed the halloween festival.

We are continuing with the trunk or treat - 15-20 vehicles

We liked beth and Officer O being judges - maybe include students and give out a gift as a prize.

With the Decor we will look for donations

We will not do pumpkins but are looking into a petting zoo

Time will be 4-6pm and do Popcorn again

Auction coincides with Halloween - how do we maximize the fundraising affects

How do we make the auction visible?

Do we split it at the beginning of the year (the school based prizes) and then at the end? At an adult only event. Keep it online in case parents can't go to the event.

Lise asked if there could be a preview prior to the event - we do have it online and send it out.

Contacted an inflatable night club - looks like a log cabin - has a strobe light and smoke machine for a dance party. Getting a quote.

Beth confirmed that it was ok with the way we collected candy last year.

11/2 is the back-up date. Beth recommends moving it because of daylight savings changes.

Adult Social

Oak and Iron in November potential

Spirit Wear

There are 2 more days of the Andover Collection sale. Prior we did not have enough sales.

Beth

Beth gave Stephanie kudos for the PTO closet clean out

Budget - every teacher gets \$250 from the PTO. If there are other things - wish list on Amazon - are we ok with that? We would rather they ask for things they want. We just want to remind them of the things we provide. Can we ask them to exhaust our funds before they ask?

It was asked what the process was like to ask for funds. It was explained that it's easy to get things - either by buying and getting reimbursed or having the PTO buy it for them.

Matthew Davidge asked:

Rather than having a public Amazon Wishlist, could lists be set up that are only visible to the Teacher and the PTO, where the PTO could then purchase those items as applicable?

Beth asked the PTO for clothes from the board for extras to have on hand at the nurses office. Katie and Caity had a bunch they donated. Is it enough?

School Council - 3 parents are interested in school council. Beth is going to email them.

Spirit Day - Can we do it every Friday? Beth sent it to the staff to see what they think. Beth will let us know. Lise said that It's good for the kids that forget and to maximize the investment of spirit wear.

Meeting conflicts

Stephanie said that she did try to avoid conflicting with other meetings

Dine-in fundraisers

Mia said that Habit wants to do a dine-in date with us. Beth is requested for the drive-through. Could be Mr. Rex or someone else. 10/16 as a potential date. Maybe the week before to tie in to the end of Bancroft Bucks. Staff will wear Bancroft shirts.

McDonald's would like to do it. Doherty is doing theirs 10/28. April was the right time to do it.

There was a discussion about Nan's? Maybe do it earlier in the day - a brunch/lunch. Bueno Malo was also really fun and people would like to do that again.

Mia asked if it is possible to do one every month? Maybe skip December. Steph said as long as we don't pressure people to do it. And it's an easier thing for parents to participate in. Wait to promote each one so they don't pick and choose in the beginning.

School Play

Stephanie said School play is not being revealed until later. Same play as with Sanborn. Practices will be in the morning. There will be afternoon practices during tech week.

Christine has 3 names of teachers that are having life events. Any others? Beth confirmed that Christine has them all.

Laura discussed a few events:

Le Fleur sip and shop

Hockey events - Chrissy coordinated that last year

Flower arranging at South Church

Katie mentioned the Boston Fleet

The sports nights were well attended and worth continuing.