

# Parker & McCarthy Middle School PTO Minutes

February 12, 2026

## Parker & McCarthy PTO Board Members

President	Sarah Mackie (Parker) / Alysun Kenney (McCarthy)
Vice President	Amanda Collison (Parker) / Lisa Bryant (McCarthy) <i>Also filling in as Enrichment Coordinators</i>
Treasurer	Shanon Dahlstrom (Parker/McCarthy)
Secretary	Kate O'Malley (Parker/McCarthy)
Principals	Josh Blagg (Parker) / Dr. Jeff Parks (McCarthy)

Attendees: Sarah, Alysun, Lisa, Shanon, Kate, Martha Muwanguzi, Diana Lebeaux, Chris Cowan, Hilary Case, Brenna Thornton

## Principal Updates

### Josh Blagg (Parker):

- Finished up annual Superbowl – food drive for Chelmsford Food Pantry; donated 3500 food items – filled the place and store remainder in gym at town hall
- This week is Pride Week – each day is a different core value that's being reinforced (student council organized); culmination of the week ends in empathy and an ultimate volleyball game
- Just recently in last month did a mid-year social emotional survey so we can see any trends or concerns that need to be addressed through intervention, etc
- Project-based learning and culminating activities this week to have a finite ending to learning blocks ahead of the February break

### Chris Cowan (McCarthy)

- 1 million item mark for Project 300 campaign; trying to highlight some of the acts of kindness
- Successful Mean Girls – 3 shows well attended; Cast & Crew very impressive
- About to embark on March Madness basketball tournament – well received in years past; turnout of students to participate in 3 on 3; teams are randomly selected – winning team takes on staff
- All out last week with NE Patriots spirit – Friday was Patriots spirit day; Handed out mini footballs with numbers on them – students kept footballs and winning numbers were called on Monday - \$25 gift cards to various places; Walked around asking random students trivia questions on Patriots – correct answers got shwag from the office; Superbowl prediction questionnaire that students filled out – winners won gift cards

- Valentines Game for Staff

#### **School Committee Update - Diana Lebeaux**

- ELA instructional materials affecting K-6 – pilot of a new curriculum starting next year
- Budget – School Committee website has full budget that has been released → next committee meeting will be a vote on the budget line by line
  - No cuts needed this year but can't do any exciting new initiatives
- Design & feasibility phase for new Parker school – final decision on location (field next to Parker); grade configuration is still open for discussion (grades 4-6 vs other options)
- Non-union staff decisions & non-capital equipment decisions will be discussed during next meeting
- First day of school for next year is September 1<sup>st</sup> – 2026-27 school calendar is up

#### **Budget/Treasurer's Update - Shanon Dahlstrom**

- Parker
  - Jan – 5<sup>th</sup> / 6<sup>th</sup> grade socials – ton of tickets sold; \$2700 in tix; \$600 in expenses
  - Calendar raffle just kicking off – donations coming in and first purchases made
  - Staff appreciation spend – supplies for teacher classrooms (\$681)
  - PTO expenses - \$150 for filing tax return; annual reports for MA
  - Reserve activity – bought new tables, chairs and cart for Parker - \$2,685
- McCarthy
  - No income events in Jan
  - Deposit for 8<sup>th</sup> grade speaker - \$1750 enrichment
  - PTO expenses – same as Parker

#### **Minutes Approval - Kate O'Malley**

- Approved by Hilary; Seconded by Brenna

#### **Parker Committee Update – Sara Mackie**

- 5th & 6th Grade Snowflake Socials – lots of fun; 5<sup>th</sup> grade is enormous; played a lot of games, won prizes; Student council helped
- Enrichment: Grade 5 - Pyramids & Pharaohs – went well, lady was super knowledgeable and dramatic – lots of artifacts; played to the imaginations of the kids
- Online Calendar Raffle – at about \$2K in sales right now but will keep pushing it
- Community Read-In - 2-6 March
- Parker Science Fair/STEAM event - 26 March
- Enrichment: Grade 6 - Sheryl Faye Presents Ruth Bader Ginsburg “I Dissent” - 30 April
- Enrichment: Grade 5 - The Concord Museum - 28, 28, 30 April and 6, 15 May

#### **McCarthy Committee Update – Alysun Kenney**

- McCarthy PROJECT 300 – Chris recapped
- Spread Love Not Germs for Staff Appreciaton
- No Sale Fundraiser – Lisa & Alysun working on it; few more tweaks
- Enrichment: Grade 8 - Dr. Melba Beals author of *Warriors Don't Cry* - 06 March
- 7th Grade Black Light Dance - 06 March – sign-up for volunteers this week
- Rock & Roll Bingo - 20 March – Brenna Thornton & Margo; Bummed with Lowe's donation; Question for group on how much can we spend to fill in the blanks for large door prizes – PTO Board will get back to committee

- Enrichment: Grade 8 - Hamilton via Swank streaming license (Democracy?)
- Anthem performance at Fenway – latest date of April 7<sup>th</sup> isn't going to work (BC Night at Fenway); will take offline to see if there's another opportunity for anthem date but it may not happen this year
- Sullivan's Message ([www.sullivanmessage.com](http://www.sullivanmessage.com)) meeting – May replace Hunter Flores from Super Truth

### **Across Schools Discussion**

- Jan/Feb Staff Appreciation: Classroom Supply Replenishment – Well-received
- February Staff Appreciation: Show Me Some Love - 13 Feb (tomorrow for McCarthy; Parker did it today)
- Globetrotters - 14 Feb (tix sales ended 8 Feb)
- UML Riverhawks - 21 Feb
- April/May Staff Appreciation Week – Traditionally after April break but this year already have a number of activities so looking to move to another week; Want to try to do both schools at the same time; Third week of May would be best based on Principal feedback based on MCAS, etc → May 18-22 (there are make ups three days that week and Civics another day → may do grab and go for the Civics day)
- 2026 Scholarships - Submissions to date (due April 10<sup>th</sup>):
  - **8 = Parker**
  - **9 = McCarthy**

### **Volunteer Opportunities:**

- 7th Grade Black Light Dance - 6 Mar
- Rock & Roll Bingo - 20 Mar
- Parker Pride Run – Sunday, May 17; Greater Lowell Road Runners will be helping out; Need someone to head up the race but Alysun will submit the permits for it with town & Chelmsford PD

### **Looking Ahead in the 2025/2026 school year:**

- UML Basketball / Mass Pirates Indoor Football / Boston Fleet Professional Women's Hockey League Games - repeating this year?
- CFOM / SHOWBOAT Talent Show - 16 May (auditions TBD as current dates are during Passover)

### **Looking Ahead to the 2026/2027 school year:**

- How to recruit new board members

New PTO Calendar: <https://pto.chelmsfordschools.org/>

- Parker = <https://pto.chelmsfordschools.org/parker-pto/>
- McCarthy = <https://pto.chelmsfordschools.org/mccarthy-pto/>

Our next PTO Meeting: **Thursday, March 12th @ 6:30 pm**

The next Council of Chelmsford Schools (CoCS) Meeting: **Thursday, March 26th @ 7:00pm**