



Parker & McCarthy Middle School PTO

January 8, 2026

Mission of the Parker & McCarthy PTO:

Proactively and collaboratively support the Parker/McCarthy Middle School curriculum, enrichment, school improvement and school spirit through a close partnership with parents and faculty of our middle schools.

Parker & McCarthy PTO Board Members

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

Principal Updates

Parker Middle School

Josh Blagg provided an update on recent and upcoming activities at Parker Middle School.

- **Details**

- "Be the Change" service project in December where students chose service projects to make positive impacts on their community
- Upcoming grade level socials (5th grade next Friday, 6th grade the following Friday) with \$5 tickets
- New morning interventions program that supports 56 students with different needs including physical activity, social engagement, organization, and mindfulness
- Enrichment programs including John Morello's "I Am Dirt" performance for 6th graders in March

- **Conclusion**

- The "Be the Change" service project was successful and will continue as a staple at Parker
- Grade level socials are being organized with PTO support
- Morning interventions program has been successful and will continue with a second round starting January 23rd

McCarthy Middle School

Jeff Parks provided updates on current activities at McCarthy Middle School.

- **Details**
 - Spirit Week is currently underway with good participation
 - Cell phone policy issue, stating that no cell phones will be used in any classrooms including art class
- **Conclusion**
 - Cell phone policy has been updated - students will use Chromebooks instead of phones in art class
 - Spirit Week has been successful in helping transition back from break

Project 300

Tommy Gallagher presented information about Project 300, a food drive at McCarthy Middle School.

- **Details**
 - Project 300 began in 1975 with a goal of collecting 300 non-perishable items, but now collects between 22,000-35,000 items
 - Mr.Gallagher explained how students bring donations to the small gym before school, with items tracked by student volunteers
 - Requested PTO support for prizes to encourage participation
 - McCarthy PTO is committed to supporting the project with prizes for both top donors and students who donate just a few items
- **Conclusion**
 - Project 300 will run January 12-20
 - PTO will provide prizes to incentivize student participation
 - The food collected will benefit the Salvation Army and local food bank

School Committee Update

Diana Lebeaux provided updates from recent School Committee meetings.

- **Details**
 - 2026-2027 school calendar was approved with school starting September 1st
 - McCarthy will have students starting on an election day, which will create logistical challenges
 - Capital Planning Committee approvals including McCarthy roof replacement study and new antenna system
 - The Parker redesign project, including approval of the education program plan
 - The School Committee unanimously supported a 4th-6th grade configuration for the redesigned Parker school
 - Updates to the student handbook and anti-bullying plan
- **Conclusion**

- The 2026-2027 school year will start September 1st and end later than the current year
- The Parker redesign project is moving forward with a preferred 4th-6th grade configuration
- Budget season is approaching, and community input is welcome

Budget/Treasurer's Update

Sarah and Alysun provided brief financial updates for both PTOs.

- **Details**

- Parker Craft Fair brought in \$693
- UMass Lowell Riverhawks hockey game fundraiser made \$310 to be split between schools
- McCarthy book fair proceeds were approximately \$2,499, but the final invoice was pending
- McCarthy junk day fundraiser was very successful

- **Conclusion**

- Both PTOs have had successful fundraising events
- Financial reports are available in the PTO calendar links

Parker Committee Update

- 5th & 6th Grade Snowflake Socials - 16 January (Grade 5) & 23 January (Grade 6)
- Parker calendar raffle, mentioning they're reaching out to businesses for donations and moving to a digital format
- Parker Science Fair/STEAM event - 26 March- More information to follow

McCarthy Committee Update

- No-Brainer fundraiser in early February with proceeds going toward the Blacklight Dance or 8th grade activities
- McCarthy Blacklight Dance is scheduled for March 6th
- Rock and Roll Bingo scheduled for March 20th, including donation solicitation and raffle prizes
- Anthem performance at Fenway - waiting on weekday dates for the McCarthy Anthem at Fenway Park

Across Schools Discussion

- December Staff Appreciation - Cookie Stroll -cookie stroll was very popular and should continue
- January Staff Appreciation - Classroom Supply Replenishment - Classroom supply replenishment will be organized for both schools (Parker on January 21,

- McCarthy on January 28)
- Globetrotters - 14 Feb
- UML Riverhawks - 21 Feb
- Enrichment:
- 2026 Scholarships - Winners need to be submitted by second week in May - **already have 5 submission for Parker and 3 for McCarthy**

January PTO Action items

- **Alysun**
 - Contact Tommy Gallagher about prize details for Project 300
 - Organize prizes for Project 300 participants
 - Coordinate classroom supply replenishment for both schools
- **Lisa**
 - Schedule conference call with Jeff, Chris, and Kathy Sullivan regarding potential presenter
 - Send scholarship application links to CHS contact
 - Continue following up on McCarthy Anthem at Fenway Park dates
- **Sarah**
 - Finalize details for 5th and 6th grade socials at Parker
 - Continue organizing the Parker calendar raffle
 - Help coordinate classroom supply replenishment at Parker on January 21
- **Marguerite**
 - Submit donation request letters for Rock and Roll Bingo
 - Follow up with Lowe's regarding potential door prize
 - Submit proposal to Wegmans for \$500 gift card for liquor baskets
- **Jeff**
 - Meet with Tommy Gallagher to discuss Project 300
 - Provide Lisa with dates for conference call about potential presenter
- **PTO Board Members**
 - Attend Council of Schools meeting on January 15th to secure photo commission

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 is **Thursday, February 12th @ 6:30 pm**

The next Council of Chelmsford Schools (CoCS) Meeting is **Thursday, January 15th @ 7:00 pm**
virtual only (quorum required for photo commission vote)