

Parker & McCarthy Middle School PTO Minutes

April 9, 2026

Attendees: Lisa Bryant, Kate O'Malley, Sarah Mackie, Amanda Collison, Alysun Kenney, Shanon Dahlstrom, Josh Blagg, Jackie Bombaci, Vihaan Gnanendran Sasirekha, Diana Lebeaux, Chris Cowan, Hilary Case; Kshitija Pandit, Tara Carroll

Principal Updates

Parker Update (Josh Blagg):

- First day of MCAS for 6th Grade
- Continuing w morning interventions - 3rd 6 week interventions; kids identified by staff to help with start of day (executive functioning, social, nervous energy, mindful moments)
- Festival Orchestra - gold medal at MICA; All Town Ensemble - gold medal
- Professional Dev Day - Practical application / use of AI

McCarthy Update (Chris Cowan):

- Professional Dev Day - gather information on what skills do we want kids to have when they get to us (from Parker), what do they need / should they have for going into high school and what do high school colleagues want the kids to have
- Adopting the PASS system that the high school uses. It's an electronic pass system that allows for a certain amount of passes for students. Um, throughout the day, with a time limit on them. There's a green go button, a red stop button. It collects data for us that will be shared with families
- Interviewing for history teachers (2)
- Red Sox Spirit Day
- Successful basketball tournament
- Field Trips / Field Days for all grades - incentive-based for students
- Restorative practices - implementation for kids with behavioral challenges

School Committee Update

Diana Lebeaux

- Extra funds - McCarthy 3D Printers; Parker - music-related supplies; Back to School supplies for all students
- changes in the 7th grade placement process for math
- Budget approval for next year
- Role in replacement school for Parker - every school committee open up space for preferences on grade config (4-6 grade is preference)
 - Saw potential designs
 - Cost - more expensive for reno / addition than for a new building
 - Final decisions being made at May meeting
- School Committee is staying the same next year

Budget/Treasurer's Update

Shanon Dahlstrom

- Parker - combo Feb / Mar results
 - Kicked off Red Sox fundraiser - buy all tix up front
 - Calendar raffle did well - all expenses in
 - Sam Dresen / Cheryl Fay / Pyramids and Pharaohs - enrichment expense
 - Restocking of staff supplies
 - Medals & gift cards for science fair
 - Folding chairs / tables for Parker
 - School Pic Proceeds
- McCarthy
 - 7th Grade Black Light dance - income (try to break even)

- R&R Bingo - \$4,581 (includes \$4K deposit for next year) - didn't sell all tables this year
- Book Fair - Payment to Scholastic
- School Pic Proceeds
- Staff supplies
- Enrichment - Sam Dresent, Dr Melba Beals
- PBIS gift card incentives

Minutes Approval - February

Kate O'Malley

- Jacki Bombaci approve; KP second

Parker Committee Update

Recaps:

- Enrichment: Grade 6 - John Morello - 3 March
- Fundraiser: Online Calendar Raffle - Feb/Mar
- Science/STEM Fair - 26 March

Upcoming:

- Enrichment: Grade 6 - Sheryl Faye Presents Ruth Bader Ginsburg "I Dissent" - 30 April
- Enrichment: Grade 5 - The Concord Museum - 28, 30 April and 6, 15 May
- Socials: Grade 5 & 6 Spring Flings - 15 & 8 May - Need parent volunteers
- Fundraiser: Parker Pride Run on - 17 May - Need participants - register
- Enrichment: Grade 6 - Kite Workshop - Aylward date?
- We are Parker event - June 4th

McCarthy Committee Update

Recap:

- Fundraiser: Rock & Roll Bingo - 20 March
 - 18 raffle baskets
 - Didn't sell all tables but have fun

Upcoming:

- Fundraiser: Center/McCarthy PTO Recycle Day - 2 May
 - Info in weekly Smore update / also in District update
 - Volunteer hours available for high school & middle school students
- Enrichment: Grade 7 - Author Zoom Visit - Marion Blumenthal Lazan - 7 May
- Enrichment: Grade 7 - Worcester Art Museum field trip - 13,14,27,28 May
- End-of-Year Activities: Grade 8 - Ice Cream Truck, Mel's Funway Park, Dress Up Dance; Yearbook Signing - Date for Dance?
- Sullivan's Message (www.sullivanmessage.com) meeting - Dr Parks met w Kathy & her husband in addition or replacement to Sober Truth for enrichment - Postponed by Sullivans and will reschedule

Across Schools Discussion

- Parker Pride Run - 17 May; Pre-registration ends on April 13 (t-shirt only for those that pre-register)
- CFOM / SHOWBOAT Talent Show - 16 May
- Woo Sox Game Band/Orchestra/Chorus Performance - 21 May - happens during the school day
- Staff Appreciation Week: Thank you for helping our students bloom & grow - 18-22 May
- Middle Schools Night at Fenway Park - 26 May - tickets on sale
- Lowell Spinners Game - 7 June - tickets on sale
- Staff Appreciation End-of-Year: Piece of Cake (cupcake trucks) - 15 June?
- 2026 Scholarships: Need Readers - Submissions to date:
 - **19 = Parker**
 - **20 = McCarthy**

Volunteer Opportunities:

- 5th & 6th Grade Socials
- Parker Pride Run - Cross country team and GLRR help but also need some parents
- Staff Appreciation Week - set up / break down
- 8th Grade Events - mostly staffed by school

Looking Ahead to the 2026/2027 school year:

- How to recruit new board members
- Consider offering more than one scholarship at both schools next year due to the number of applicants?
- Still need to update Bylaws for both PTOs

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, May 14th @ 6:30 pm** IN PERSON for Scholarship Award at the McCarthy School Library; Last meeting is **June 11th**

The next Council of Chelmsford Schools (CoCS) Meeting: **MONDAY, May 18th @ 7:00pm** - Quorum required for Board elections and Updated By-laws approval - Hybrid: Zoom & IN PERSON for Scholarship Award at the McCarthy School Library