CPS PTO Meeting Minutes: February 2026

Date: February 5, 2026 | Time: 10:00am

Zoom Link

WELCOME, CALL TO ORDER 10:02 am

ROLL CALL

- Board (voting members): Meredith Bielecki, Kaitlin Waterson, Karen Landale, Naiara Vaz, Chris Winders, Katie Vachon
- Committee coordinators: Ryan Lester, Lynette Kelleher, Sharon Whitt, Ashley Young, Liese Meier
- CPS faculty / admin: none.
- Parents and other school community members: none.

GENERAL UPDATES

Updates from PTO Co-Presidents: Meredith Bielecki and Kaitlin Waterson

- Approved January 2026 meeting minutes
- Assemblies at school for grades 3-5 and 6-8 on January 30 by IROC2 - Institute for Responsible Online and Cellphone Communication.
- PTO/CEF “My So Called Prom” - May 9, 2026 at the Concord Armory - call for volunteers
    - Committees include: Auction, Sponsorships, Decor, Food, Beverage
    - Ryan Lester and Ian Applegate will lead Sponsorship committee. Ryan put a few feelers out for decor.
- Teacher 2 Teacher program - mentorship program starting this month so teachers can observe one another.
- Other possible spring fundraising - coffee cake sale? Globetrotters deadline is Feb 5, UML/Northeastern Hockey sales go until the game. Red Sox - follow up with Megan McNamara.
- Multicultural festival - kindergarten and 3rd grade do not attend - suggest to admin that they communicate that to families and tell them they can attend after school if their student is interested.

Updates from CPS Faculty / admin: none

BOARD / COMMITTEE COORDINATOR UPDATES

Timely updates

Publicity: Chris Winders - newsletter going out 2/13, content due 2/10.

Fundraising: Ian Applegate - none

Treasurer: Katie Vachon - PTO is going to oversee Prom finances and then will share profits with the CEF after the event.

Curriculum Enrichment: Karen Landale and Naiara Vaz

Middle School:

- 7th/8th grade - Living Voices - $900 for up to 3 classes - March 19
- 6th grade wants to do poetry - $2000. Could also do Living Voices.
- 5th grade wants to bring in Discovery Museum in April on Electromagnetism - approx $1000 for all 4 classes.

PTO/DEICAC Cultura Latina dance troop - we will work with Marianne Cook to organize an all school assembly in March. Jim O'Shea is on board. $600.

Elementary School - Read Across America costs are $1500 - 1700. In the past there had been coffee/donuts for people who came in to read available in the office. Readers will come in on March 3. Jen Rowland and Amanda Gilchrist are the coordinators this year. Naiara will pick up coffee and donuts on March 3.

Faculty & Staff Appreciation: Ashley Young - week of May 11 is teacher appreciation. Sent a survey to find out if everyone prefers a potluck or catered lunch. 49 respondents so far. 41% want catered, 31% want catered and potluck, 15% want potluck and all others have allergies and food sensitivities. Most liked the idea of Wagon Wheel catering and individual lunches or a food truck. Could we pre-order choices from a food truck so they are ready and the lines are not long? People mentioned elementary teachers coming in after middle school and not having as many choices or enough food. So far we like the idea of ordering lunches from Wagon Wheel and doing a dessert potluck that families can contribute to. Survey will stay open until 2/13.

During the week we will do the coffee cart, Kimballs gift cards and stock the teacher lounges one day. Need to acknowledge Jim O'Shea's retirement that week, but there will be another celebration for him.

Room Parents: Krystle Gibbs and Janelle Kapusta - none.

Events: Elena Kennedy - none.

Middle School: Deepa Chungi - none.

Husky Directory: Niressa Martin - none.

DEI Committee Update: Liese Meier - Multicultural festival - a successful day - always popular and tend to end up with enough families. Kids enjoy themselves. Allow 7th grade students to go through the lunch line first if they have play rehearsal. May consider a different format next year since Mahreen Hoda, the parent coordinator, is aging out. She works with Marie-Laure Rivier for the festival.

Book fair: week of March 9. Will do a push the week after February break.

CPS Garden: Ayla Barmer - none.

SEPAC: Jessie Pescatore and Almudena Pacheco - none.

CEF: Ryan Lester - looking forward to MakerSpace options for spring. Also working on Prom.

School Supply Kits: Sharon Whitt - identified team leads to confirm kit supplies. Will start sales in April. PreK kit will be available this year. Prices will go up for some kits.

School Committee: Lynette Kelleher - Regional School Committee request - HS cell phone policy is on the agenda and they are seeking input from Carlisle families.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURNED at 10:47 am.

Minutes prepared by Kaitlin Waterson and approved March 5, 2026.