Baker Elementary School PTA Meeting Minutes

Date: April 10, 2025

Location: Virtual

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1. Call to Order

• The meeting was called to order at 9:31 AM by Amanda Palermo, PTA President. Attendees were admitted as they joined the call.

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2. Pledge of Allegiance

• Attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

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3. Approval of Agenda

• The agenda was distributed in advance via the calendar invitation and RSVP.

• Motion to approve: Kelly Meyers

• Seconded by: Halley Casey

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4. Approval of January 2025 Meeting Minutes

• The January meeting minutes were posted to the Baker website prior to the meeting.

• Motion to approve: Halley Casey

• Seconded by: Heather Elmer

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5. Treasurer’s Report – Heather Elmer

• Current PTA account balance: $33,000

• Estimated end-of-year balance: $20,000 after remaining expenses

• Predicted profit: $1,500

• Income Highlights:

- The Read-a-Thon raised $4,300 this year (including one standout $1,000 donation).
- The $600 previously budgeted for Watershed Awareness will not be spent as this program is no longer part of the school curriculum. These funds will remain in the PTA budget.

- Spirit Wear sales have reached $1,500, not including the spring sale.

- Spring Book Fair brought in $705 and the rest was used for Scholastic Dollars.

• **Draft Budget 2025–2026:**

- Currently showing a minor deficit of $190, which is anticipated to be offset by unused classroom party reimbursements ($700 yearly allotted budget)

- Boo Bash projected to raise $16,500 net ($3,000 expense, $19,500 income)

- PTA Membership dues owed to the Pennsylvania PTA will increase from $5 to $6 of every membership sold for the 2025-26 school year and the Baker PTA dues/activity fee will increase to $20 per family to account for rising costs. An estimated $2,800 is still expected to be brought in. There will be a big push next year to increase our membership rate.

- Field trip budget increased to $8,500 due to rising costs.

• The budget will be posted on the PTA website; members are encouraged to review and contact Heather with any questions.

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6. Secretary's Report – Emily Hand

• No correspondence to report for this meeting.

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7. Vice President's Report – Halley Casey

• Art Show – April 24, 2025:

- PTA is supporting the event alongside Mrs. Herbey.
- Volunteers will help assemble three different “take and make” art kits.
- Ideal opportunity for middle and high school students to earn volunteer hours with parent support.
- Mrs. Herbey is preparing instructions and all materials.
- Halley offered to drop off supplies to interested volunteers due to the school being closed the following week for spring break.
- Additional volunteers are needed to help with setup, cleanup, and the refreshments table during the show.
- A Signup Genius link will be shared shortly.

• Homeroom Coordinators:

- A big thank-you was extended to all Homeroom Coordinators for organizing classroom parties and coordinating teacher gifts.

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8. President’s Report – Amanda Palermo

• Draft Calendar for 2025–2026:

- Inspired by the current year’s calendar and will be posted to the PTA website.
- One notable change: The Baker Variety Show is being moved from April to November or early December per the Theatre Manager’s request. PTA is requesting November 19th and 21st as preferred dates.
- Variety show scheduling will be coordinated with Streams Elementary to share space and resources.

• Committee Chair Recruitment:

- PTA is actively seeking volunteers for the following roles:
    - Co-chair for 4th Grade Memory Book
    - Co-chair for After-School Activities
    - Assemblies Chair
    - Baker Variety Show Chair
    - Field Day Co-chair
    - Spirit Nights Chair
    - Staff Appreciation Chair
    - Grade-Level Social Coordinators (Kindergarten and 2nd Grade needed)
- Volunteers are encouraged to reach out if interested.

• PTC Update & Community Day – May 17, 2025:

- The PTC is currently seeking new members for their Executive Board:
    - Vice President
    - Treasurer
    - Spelling Bee Chair
    - Arts in UCS Chair

- Community Day is on May 17th, 2025 - this year it will feature the return of the Family Fun Run/Walk.
    - Events include:
        - 5K through the Westminster neighborhood (starts at 9:00 AM)
        - 1-mile walk/run on the high school track
    - Parent & Student Volunteers from Baker are requested
    - Baker will host a cheer/water station along the 5K route, located at the first half-mile mark.
    - Baker is also responsible for organizing a kids' activity on the stadium field.

    - Signup Genius and event flyer will be included in the next PTA bulletin.

- Registration is currently live. This is a district-wide event and all buildings are coordinating to ensure equitable participation and support.

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9. Second Vice President's Report – Dr. Patrick McClintock-Comeaux

• Art Show Displays:

- Two new display cases were acquired and installed in the West Wing top stairwell for student artwork, thanks to Mrs. Herbey. You will be able to see them if you attend the Art Show coming up.

• PSSA Testing Schedule:

- 3rd and 4th Grade students will take PSSAs in early May.

- Testing dates:
    - English Language Arts: April 22nd, 23rd, 25t April 29th & 30th
    - Mathematics: April 29th & 30th
- Take Your Child to Work Day is April 24th
    - Parents planning to take their children out for that day should submit an educational trip form in advance to avoid attendance alerts.

• Sensory Garden Project:

- Gift to School project for 2024–2025 is underway.

- Three ground-level raised beds and one elevated bed have been delivered.

- Mrs. Stringe's class will help assemble them after spring break. The kids are very excited.

- The garden will feature plants of varying textures, scents, and sounds (e.g., wind chimes).

- Located behind the school between the two rear staircases.

- Project will come in under budget.

• Resin Ducks Policy Update:

- Due to excessive trading, theft, and distraction caused by small resin ducks, students have been asked to leave them at home moving forward.

• Staffing Updates:

- Mrs. O'Leary has returned to 1st Grade.
- Mrs. Tipton is preparing for her maternity leave.
- Ms. DeBoer will serve as her long-term substitute, having previously filled in for both Mrs. Del Greco and Mrs. O'Leary this school year.

• Assembly Recap – CLO Gallery of Heroes:

- Held this week with performances for K–2 students.
- Featured a USC (Eisenhower) graduate among the cast.
- Post-performance Q&A was well received.
- The performance emphasized the role of "swing" actors who understudy multiple roles, which tied into schoolwide appreciation for Ms. DeBoer's versatility.

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10. Teacher Representative Report – Mrs. Elizabeth Cook (3rd Grade)

• Students were thrilled with the recent Baker's Got Talent Show.

• Third Grade Social was also a great success; students bonded and had so much fun.

• The CLO "Next Galileo" assembly was a major highlight and inspired many students to imagine themselves on stage in the future.

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11. Committee Reports

• 4th Grade Memory Book – Kristen McIntyre & Bethany Salmen

- The committee is actively collecting student photos and completed memory book forms.

- A team meeting was scheduled for the following morning to continue progress.
- Approximately 50% of families have already paid for their child's yearbook and class t-shirt.
- Books will be distributed before the end of the school year.

• After-School Activities – Kelly Meyers & Kelsey Minerd

- Spring sessions recently concluded successfully.
- New classes offered this session included Coding, Golf, Pie Place, and a Kindergarten playdate.
- Kelly and Kelsey are stepping down from their roles. Meg Holt has volunteered to Chair next year.
- Thankful for parent volunteers as they remain essential for the program's operation, especially for student check-in/out.

• Baker Gives Back – Kara Krebs & Katie Marsh

- Second session wrapped in March with a high level of student engagement.
- Activities included:
    - Banners and valentines created for Friendship Village residents.
    - Care bags with handwritten notes assembled for the Light in My City outreach.
    - Ongoing pajama drive for the Casey Cares Foundation (drop-off bins by the office).
- Nurse Holly Fisher will deliver donated items to the sorting site.
- Club will continue next year under Kara Krebs, with Katie remaining in a supportive role.
- Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive; students are eager to attend, even at 7:45 AM.

• Baker's Got Talent – Pam Scureman

- Event was a major hit.
- Students enjoyed the opportunity to perform and participate behind the scenes on stage crew.

• Grade-Level Socials

- Kindergarten – Carnival-themed event scheduled for April 11, 2025.
- Games, bounce house, glitter tattoos, photo booth, and more.
- Large parent volunteer turnout ensured smooth planning and execution.
- 1st Grade – Step Into Spring - Scheduled for April 25, 2025.
- 2nd Grade – Held March 27, 2025.
- 3rd Grade – Held March 21, 2025.
- 4th Grade – End-of-year pool party at St. Clair Country Club on May 30, 2025, from 8:00–10:30 PM.
    - Event is for 4th graders only and their parents. No siblings permitted.
    - A Sign-Up Genius for volunteers and RSVP will go out in early May.
    - No additional cost for students beyond the Memory Book/T-shirt, but if parents would like to attend, it is $5 a parent.

• Read-a-Thon – Jess Schroeck, Jocelyn Munro, & Natalie Jaskowski

- Raised $4,300 — significantly above goal.
- One family contributed $1,000 (not an expected annual occurrence, but greatly appreciated).
- Funds will help offset increased field trip costs.

• Spring Book Fair – Christina Tullai & Diana Slanders

- PTA earned $705 in cash and Scholastic Dollars, which were reinvested in classroom and library materials.
- Event was well received by students and families.

• Staff Appreciation – Bethany Salmen

- Teacher Appreciation Week: May 6–10, 2025.
- Each day will feature a unique gesture or activity for staff.
- A “Soup Day” will be included again this year — parents donate crockpots of soup.
- End-of-year gifts will be collected in the form of gift cards and/or themed gift baskets.

- A parent suggested a platform named Cheddar-Up as another option to run a group collection for gift cards/money.
- Classroom coordinators and individual families are welcome to contribute.
- Baskets can be built by individual families, neighborhoods, or parent groups. You can also donate money if you would like.
- A Sign-Up Genius will be released at the end of April.

• Third Grade Tile Wall – Natalie Jaskowski & Meghan Mechlem

- Over 90 students participated.
- Tiles are being finalized and will be displayed at school.

• School Supply Kits – Gina Pelusi

- Kits for the 2025–2026 school year will be available for purchase after spring break.
- Vendor has locked in prices close to last year's.
- A portion of the proceeds supports PTA fundraising.
- Kits will be delivered to Baker, with pickup tentatively scheduled for August 6.
- Ordering is open to all families, including incoming kindergarten students (will be reached out to.

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12. New Business

• 2025–2026 PTA Board Nominations

- Vice President Nominee – Charissa Lauren Moses
    - Mother of a current Kindergartener, incoming Kindergartener, and young twins.
    - Professional background in writing, PR, and publishing with Upper St. Clair Today magazine.
    - Excited to get involved, particularly in arts-related events. Volunteered to plan the Kindergarten social.
- Secretary Nominee – Maya Brook

- Mother of three USC students (grades 1st, 3rd, and 5th).
- Active Homeroom Coordinator and co-leader of Enchanted Shop.
- Has experience on a PTSA board in Colorado and works in the nonprofit sector.
- Comfortable taking meeting minutes and excited to join the team.

13. Adjournment

• The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 AM.

• The next PTA General Meeting and Board Elections will be held in May 2025.

Attendees:

Amanda Palermo

Kelly Myers

Halley Casey

Heather Elmer

Emily Hand

Dr. Dr. Patrick McClintock-Comeaux

Kara Krebs

Bethany Salman

Diana Slanders

Samanta Adler

Elizabeth Cook

Charissa Lauren Moses

Maya Brooks

Katie Marsh

Gina Pelusi

Daisy Miksch