



Bancroft School  
110 Shore Drive  
Worcester, MA 01605

The Bancroft School Parent Faculty Association (PFA)

Date: 09/04/2025

Time: 8 AM

Location: Bancroft School Dining Hall

**Meeting Date:** September 4, 2025

**Members Present:** Zaina Rivett, Samantha Zappia, Jennifer Vuona, Anjeza Xhemollari, Kan Wu, Emily Tomasino, Simon Seagrave, Kate Morrison, Kate Parsons, Thanh Nhoyen, Amy Salsman, Anne Harvey, Chris Yan, Wendy Kelly, Karim El-Gamal, Erik Scheider, Kathleen Martin, Jessie Reed, Amy Bauer, Nikkole Conway, Sameil Pease, Erin Bowles, Liz Spinney, Vimbai Chitakunye, Jeanette Alicea Blier, Heather Hendrick, Tramy Truong, Peter Truong, Kimberly Santana, Jessica Fisher, Stephanie Terill, Lupe Lomeli, Leili Dehnad, Kandie Parviv, Christen Amenta, Natalia Pavolva, Ajayi Harris, Kizzy Handsman, Mike Colria, Kathy Colria, Scott Lavigene, Stacey Auger, Ashley Stanton, Colleen Clarke, Poomgundrom Dharmanajay, Tanzia Zieja, Nick Zieja, Lillian Cox, Pete Tarli, Lora Markova, Sarah Hydon, Kara Pici, Yan Cao, Alba R Torres, Sade Foose, Kelley Prokop, Preana Bhatia, Saksham Shasuma, Gwen Caffrey, Colleen Arihem, Paul Foose, Ezri Silverberg, Gretchen Herault, Juan Carlos Bazboza, Stone Yang, Adam Outerbridge, Heather Outerbridge, Shi Bai, Andree Desmadais, Lisa Rice, Laur Mello, Julie Beck, Sue Stone, Jennifer Capra, Robyn Floyd, Allison Jang, Geraldine Conille, Jie Park, Bobie Forbes, Hakkl Kurtogis, Rachel Dillion, Justin Wong, Leac Reich, Barry Greenstein, Alison Reznec, Geneva Mehta, Rich Lin, Phuong Hang

**Administration/Staff:** Stephanie Luebbers, Bridget Burke, Craig Jones, Jake Dibbert, Sue Petrone, Rachal Wagner

### **I. Refreshments and Social:**

Bancroft families and school staff had time to mingle and enjoy light refreshments before seating for the speakers.

### **II. Welcome from PFA President:**

Mrs. Jennifer Vuona welcomed attendees to the 2025-2026 school year of joy and introduced herself as the PFA President. Mrs. Vuona shared that the PFA fosters a sense of community and supports various programming initiatives, including speakers and events. All parents/guardians are members of the PFA, with a current membership of 712.

Last year, the guiding theme of the PFA meetings centered on belonging, and the PFA is continuing and building on this theme by expanding to joy, working together to celebrate our children.

### **III. Welcome from Stephanie Luebbers, Head of School:**

Mrs. Vouna introduced the Head of School, Stephanie Luebbers. Mrs. Luebbers shared that she was excited and privileged to lead this institution and begin a new year.

Mrs. Luebbers introduced Mr. Jake Dibbert, Head of Lower School and Assistant Head of School; Mr. Hamilton Parks, Head of Middle School; Ms. Sue Petrone, Head of Upper School; Mrs. Bridget Burke, Director of Advancement; Mr. Craig Jones, Director of Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging; and Mr. Yavuz Kiremit, Director of Enrollment Management.

Mrs. Luebbers stated that the Bancroft community has grown by 25 new students, and the wonderful thing about being a part of a pre-k through 12<sup>th</sup>-grade model is the community and the connection of the curriculum woven through the three divisions. At Bancroft, the portrait of a learner develops critical thinking, fosters collaborative learning, promotes self-advocacy, cultivates creative designers and problem solvers, and nurtures confident communicators and engaged citizens.

Mrs. Luebbers updated the PFA that there was an all-school assembly the day before, and Spike, the Bancroft mascot, was present. At the assembly, Mrs. Luebbers spoke about community and the small things that build momentum to make a great year.

Mrs. Luebbers concluded by thanking everyone for coming and celebrating Bancroft's 126<sup>th</sup> year.

### **IV: "JOY" – Rachal Wagner, LS & MS Drama and Performing Arts Teacher:**

Ms. Rachal Wagner led parents and guardians through an activity to think about "one thing that brings you joy."

Tables of six were given several minutes to discuss and then directed to draw a picture that represents their joy. Each person fills out one section of a hexagon. Ms. Wagner then had the tables share their joy and collected the completed hexagons to be hung up later.

**V. Introductions to the PFA and Coming Events:**

Mrs. Vuona discussed that the PFA is a membership organization and all Bancroft families are dues-paying members. Each month, the PFA will host a community breakfast with a themed, purposeful agenda and will conclude by 9:00 a.m.

Mrs. Vuona then shared that the PFA is structured as a board that meets monthly, comprised of leadership who vote on important matters for the organization. Each of the three school divisions has a liaison, and from there, each grade has representatives.

**President** - Jennifer Vuona

**Secretary** - Zaina Rivett

**Treasurer** - Sam Zappia

**PIN Representative** - Natalia Pavlova

**Faculty Advisor** - Bridget Burke

Mrs. Natalia Pavlova shared with the PFA that the Parents' Independent School Network, Inc. (PIN) is a volunteer group of parents with children who attend New England-area independent elementary and secondary schools. PIN was formed to help parents share ideas and promote worthy programs at these independent schools.

**Upper School Division Liaison** - Stacey Auger

**Upper School Grade Representatives:**

- 9th - Stacey Auger
- 10th - Erika Schneider
- 11th - Zaina Rivett
- 12th - Amy Wolf & Jessie Reed

**Middle School Division Liaison** - Sue Gavin & Blair Mattina

**Middle School Grade Representatives:**

- 6th - Allison Jennett & Alycia Mack
- 7th - Robyn Floyd & Cassie Gevry
- 8th - Alyssa Bennett & Laura Mello

**Lower School Division Liaison** - Christen Amenta & Jeannette Blier

**Lower School Grade Representatives:**

- K - Amy Bauer & Angela Longo
- 1st - Stephanie Terrill
- 2nd - Jamie Rodgers & Leili Dehnad
- 3rd - Jenna Noel Grinshteyn & Rachel Dillon
- 4th - Katie Parvin
- 5th - Kimberley Santana



Mrs. Vuona stated that the next event is the Fall Fest, scheduled for September 20, 2025, and is in need of volunteers. The PFA is also looking for members to form committees.

**VI. Budget Report-PFA Treasurer:**

Ms. Samantha Zappia discussed the Treasures report summary dated September 3, 2025. The operating budget is projected to be approximately \$36,000, with dues accounting for over \$17,000, and the remainder to be raised through fundraising. A key difference between last year and this year is the consolidation of cultural funds into a single budget line item, instead of three divisional funds. Each division will receive its own funding.

Mrs. Vuona moved to have the 2025-2026 budget, as voted on by the leadership, ratified by a vote of those in attendance. The motion carried unanimously, with all in favor.

**VII Thank you!:**

The next meeting will be held on October 9, 2025, at 8 am at the Bancroft School Dining Hall. The PFA will welcome guest speaker Ms. Wendy O'Leary. Ms. O'Leary is an educator, author, and public speaker with expertise in mindfulness, self-compassion, and skills for emotional resilience. She will be discussing her book *Growing Self Compassionate Children*.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Mrs. Zaina Rivett.