

## **PAG Meeting 10/16/2025**

**LPS Attendees:** Kurt, Cate, Amy D, Amy P, Marianne, Dawn

**Family Attendees:** Sara Abbott, Wynne Meyer, Catherine Flynn

**PAG:** Parent Advisory Group is a mini State of the School presentation that provides parents/caregivers an opportunity to connect directly with LPS leaders.

Discussion topics include the academic program, testing schedules, policy updates, upcoming school and LPS community events, and ways to support the school.

Share information and encourage collaboration between LPS and families

PAG meets four times each year, typically on the 3rd Thursday of the month from 9-10 am

- ~~October 16, 2025~~
- **December 18, 2025**
- February 26, 2026
- April 16, 2026

All meetings use the same Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89453990390>

### **Upcoming Events**

- Fri 1/9: Blue/Green Shirt Day
- Wed 1/14: Family Committee Meeting 7-8pm (zoom)
- Wed 1/21: All School Bake Sale
- Fri 1/23: Term 2 Ends
- Fri 2/6: Blue/Green Shirt Day
- Mon 2/9: Parent-Teacher Conferences

### **Holidays & Early Releases**

- Tue 12/23: Early Release (11:00 am)
- Wed 12/24 - Fri 1/2: No School: Winter Break
- Wed 1/13: Early Release (11:00 am)
- Mon 1/19: No School: MLK Day
- Mon 2/9: No School: Conferences
- Mon 2/16 - Fri 2/20: No School: Feb Break

<https://www.learningprep.org/about-us/calendar>

## Enrollment Update

Total enrollment: 121 students

- Middle School (47 students):
  - 4th/5th – 6
  - 6th – 9
  - 7th – 11
  - 8th – 21
- High School (74 students):
  - 9th – 26
  - 10th – 16
  - 11th – 16
  - 12th – 16

## The science (and art) of admissions

- The Admissions Committee:
  - Korina Martin, Kurt Moellering, Cate Wilson, Amy Davis, Jodi Walters (and sometimes Lara Bollinger, Amy Plante, and or Staci Desatnick)
- Most files are screened out before the committee sees them. Applicant needs are greater than ever. We carefully consider which students we accept to stay true to our mission and have appropriate cohorts for our current and future students.
- Acceptance rate is around 20%
- Questions that we ask about each student
  - “Do we have groups?”
    - ELA
    - Math
    - Peer
  - “Will this student make progress in our language-based academic program?”
    - This is impossible to predict, but important to consider as we are an academic program.

## Most Common Profiles at Learning Prep School

**SLD Reading**

**ADHD**

**SLD Writing**

**SLD Math**

**ASD**



The above graphic shows the most common diagnoses our students have. SLD Reading, in the largest font, indicates that it is the most common diagnosis that our students have, impacting roughly 2/3 of our students have an SLD Reading diagnosis. 30% of our students have Autism.

**Suggestion:** Can LPS include some of the graphics/visuals we include in the PAG presentation with a link to the minutes in the Newsletter?

### MCAS/Competency Determination Update

## MCAS Tests By Grade

Grade	ELA	Math	Science	Civics
4	Grade 4 ELA	Grade 4 Math		
5	Grade 5 ELA	Grade 5 Math	Gr. 5 Science	
6	Grade 6 ELA	Grade 6 Math		
7	Grade 7 ELA	Grade 7 Math		
8	Grade 8 ELA	Grade 8 Math	Gr. 8 Science	Grade 8 Civics
9			HS Biology	
10	Grade 10 ELA	Gr. 10 Math		
11				
12				

### MCAS tests are still given to LPS students

- Passing is no longer linked to Competency Determination for Graduation
  - Competency Determination is
- Since the change, districts were given the power to set their own policies
  - Districts are sending their policies to DESE, but DESE does not have the answers or get involved

## What is LPS doing?

- We're working with peer schools and professional organizations to advocate for programs like us to be considered in the district's planning.
- We had hoped that we would be classified as a district to be able to set our own Competency Determination. This has not happened yet, but we are still working on it
- Reach out to MAAPS, Senator, policy makers to let them know students in Special Ed are not being appropriately
- Policies we are seeing so far, want to see passing grades, passing scores on final exams.
  - Some districts are including other elements such as community service, foreign language, or are continuing to require passing scores on MCAS
  - We can use the IEP process to waive district requirements
- We're meeting with districts individually to understand their requirements and work with them to advocate for our students.
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## Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

**"Above all, our mission is our students who are seen and celebrated in the safe learning environment they deserve."**

The mission emphasizes that all students are seen and celebrated in a safe learning environment. The DEI Committee meets monthly and includes professional development with external speakers, readings, recognition of heritage months, and an annual climate survey.

## Trauma-informed school professional development was held on 12/1. The 4 key takeaways for staff

- Form relationships with students
- Provide structure for students
- Teach self-regulation strategies to students
- Be curious about what an unexpected behavior is telling us.

## Development Updates

- **Giving Tuesday Update**
  - Goal was to receive 25 donations.
    - We met the goal and raised \$18,800!
- **Annual Fund Update**
  - We are at 63% of our 250k annual goal between Fall Appeal, Giving Tuesday and Family and Friends Day

- **Community Update**

- **Fall Fest was Saturday, October 25, 2025** – 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. at LPS.
- Activities include music, games, and family fun.
- Fun and successful event!
- The event raised money to purchase a mascot for LPS
  - Students are voting on the name as we speak! Choices are:
    - Phoenix
    - Prep
    - Elle
    - Raven
    - Purrdy
    - Pepper
- Kurt met with Kim Phillips yesterday to discuss a Community Book Club that will read the book “The Anxious Child”. Kurt and Kim will be reaching out to Staff and Families to form a Book Club that will host 3 discussions. 1 lead by Kurt, 1 by Kim, and 1 is TBD

### **After School Program**

[Registration is open!](#) Scholarships available! Scholarship Application Deadline Dec 19

Register by Jan 2.

- Monday Groups: Jan 5 - March 2
- Tuesday Groups: Jan 6 - Feb 24
- Thursday Groups - Jan 8 - Feb 12

Winter groups include Basketball, Dungeons & Dragons, Intro to Theater, Oil Painting, Build/Fix It, Winter Crafts, Choir, and more! If a group does not have enough participants to run, Nick will be in touch with affected families.

### **Student Council Events**

- Fri Jan 23: HS Monster Mini Golf
- Fri Feb 6: HS Mardi Gras Dance
- Fri Mar 12: MS Pizza Party & Bingo
- Fri Mar 20: HS Movie Afternoon

## LPS Family Committee

### Committee Leads:

- Family Committee Chair: Kim Phillips – [kim.phillips.sox@gmail.com](mailto:kim.phillips.sox@gmail.com)
- Fundraising Chair: Catherine Flynn – [caflynn@deloitte.com](mailto:caflynn@deloitte.com)
- Community & Events Chair: Sara Abbott – [sabbott23@me.com](mailto:sabbott23@me.com)
- Panther Pride Committee Chair: Christina Mullin – [christinamullin05@gmail.com](mailto:christinamullin05@gmail.com)

## Penny Wars

Total raised from Penny Wars: \$446.72

### Blue Team

Pennies and Dollars: \$161.69

Quarters, dimes, nickels combined = \$129.35

### Final Penny Wars total

$\$161.69 - \$129.35 = \$32.34$

Blue Team total: \$32.34

### Green Team

Pennies and Dollars = \$155.68

Quarters, dimes, nickels combined = \$129.35

### Final Penny Wars Total

$\$155.68 - \$129.35 = \$26.33$

Green Team total: \$26.33

## Winter Fair

- Earned \$882.36!
- Thank you to Dawn, Marianne for their hard work and a special thank you to all who donated, volunteered or supported the Winter Fair in any way!!

## GOALS Program at LPS

This program is launching next Fall (2026). This new program will help support students in pursuing a college certificate program with support from Learning Prep as well as skill-building component on the LPS campus. Applications are now being accepted for this program.



*Introducing a new initiative  
through Learning Prep School's  
Transition Program*

# GOALS AT LEARNING PREP

Certificate in Early Childhood  
Education or Cybersecurity for  
18-22 year olds

### DETAILS:

- ✓ Full-day programming for 1 year
- ✓ Become certified & hireable in Early Childhood or Cybersecurity
- ✓ Partnership with MassBay Community College
- ✓ Educational coach to support college navigation
- ✓ Instruction in functional academics, independent living & career planning
- ✓ Social pragmatics & community access opportunities
- ✓ Appropriate candidates have similar profiles to LPS students
- ✓ Tuition aligned with Learning Prep Day Program

**G**uiding  
**O**pportunities for  
**A**utonomy  
**L**ong-term planning &  
**S**elf-determination

**COMING  
FALL  
2026**



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 [learningprep.org](https://learningprep.org)

## Questions & Discussion

The meeting concluded with open Q&A.

- Q: Who is running Build it Fix it?
  - A: Ciarra, one of our job coaches. This group started as a way to teach students how to fix things, but it has also morphed into a group that builds what they can imagine with materials.
- Q: When GOALS program starts, where will these students be and how will these students interact with our younger students?
  - A: We have a large classrooms on the 3rd floor of the high school that is not being used. The space is removed from rest of the community. We may create a separate entry way to foster these students having more independence. These students will be off campus majority of the time, while starting and ending their day at LPS.
  
- Cate will send talking points to Sara about MCAS and the Competency Determinations.

If you have individual questions, please reach out to us! We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting on February 26th at 9:00am.