

East Rutherford PTA Meeting
Location: Faust School
1.7.26

Called to order 7:01 pm

Pledge of Allegiance

PTA Mission

Our websites:

East Rutherford PTA: <http://www.erboe.net/domain/124>

NJ PTA: <http://www.njpta.org/>

National PTA: <http://www.pta.org/>

PTA Who's Who:

President: Kevin Lyon

Vice President: Jillian Cawley

Recording Secretary: Tara Pachon

Corresponding Secretary: Christine Green

Treasurer: Paola Restrepo

Membership: Charise Brown

Bylaws: Shannon Cowan

Ways & Means Fundraising: Linda Lyon

Cultural Events: Elyssa Martino Foster

Social Media & Communications: Holly Wagner

McKenzie Rep: Natasha Bonilla

Lincoln Rep: Rose Ampuero

Faust Rep/8thGrade Committee: Christine Green & Melissa Hall

Agenda

- **Approval of Minutes:**
 - December Meeting Minutes - Approved

- **Reports of Officers:**
 - A. Treasurer's Report

- Reports are posted on the PTA page on the district website
 - <http://www.erboe.net/page/1630>
 - 8th grade committee reports on as well

B. Correspondence

- Thank you for your incredible support as we celebrated the 2025 holiday season through the number of meaningful programs and initiatives for our 4th and 5th grade Wildcats. Particularly Annual Thanksgiving Feast, Holiday Shoppe and Hot Coco Social. Regards, Mr. Vilardi

C. By Laws & Standing Rules

- Report on PTA page of District website

D. Membership Report

- The committee helps spread word about all the amazing things our PTA does and solicits new members to join our organization. The committee is year long, the primary activity occurs during the first few months of school.
- Sign up Links are available on PTA on the district website and on the PTA Facebook page. Individual Member = \$10
 - <http://weareerpta.givebacks.com/shop/items/22709>
- Currently 228 Members (140 Individual, 88 Teacher/staff)

● Reports of Committees

○ **Fundraising**

- We are dedicated to ensuring we have enough funding to accomplish all our goals. This team plans and executes events and causes throughout the year.
- Cards:
 - Tentatively early January fundraiser; flyers should be distributed shortly
 - All occasion and Birthday boxes (35 card for \$40):
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YOAz2phsbio>
 - Holiday Box: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UP4ZI4JnASQ>
 - PTA makes back \$13 per box.
 - offer prices minimum 75 boxes sold, get pizza partn. 150 boxes provide 4 \$24 gift cards. \$50 a box for holiday cards.
- Getrude Hawk:
 - Holiday Sale went very well, roughly \$8000 in sales; 40-50% of profits goes to PTA
 - There will be a spring sale as well, portion of these proceeds will go to the 8th grade committee.

- If March 23rd delivery, then forms would be back by the beginning of March. tentatively
 - Holiday Shoppe:
 - Did very well both schools
 - Totals available shortly
 - Dine & Donates:
 - tba
 - Tricky Tray (May) - Sub-committee ensures our annual Tricky Tray is an amazing experience for all. The Committee solicits donations, plans, setup and executes the event. (January- May)
 - Planned for May 15th
 - Givebacks shop - sign up, put on your phone, a small percentage goes back to PTA, but adds up!
 - Spirit Wear
 - Proceeds back to PTA
 - Shop at: <http://1stplace.sale/107768>
- Cultural Events
 - 2025/2026 Events - Welcome to Ideas
 - PTA Cultural Events Committee celebrates the diversity of our ER School District by planning and executing fun filled activities for our families
- Social Media & Communications:
 - We make every effort to keep the public and our school community informed of the PTA activities and happenings through our Website, Facebook, Instagram and YouTube, Newsletters and Emails.
 - Information and events are constantly posted and updated on our socials. Updates when made available from the schools & important PTA info is posted in real time. Great resource to stay up to date on what is happening.
 - <http://weareerpta.givebacks.com/>
 - Instagram: @erptahost
 - <http://instagram.com/erptahost>
 - Facebook: “East Rutherford NJ PTA -Members Only” & “East Rutherford NJ PTA”
 - <http://www.facebook.com/ERNJPTAHost>
 - YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/@eastrutherfordnjpta4627>
- School Reps

- McKenzie
 - Natasha Bonilla
 -
- Lincoln
 - Rose Ampuero
 - Will start working on Kids Night Out soon
- Faust
 - Christine Green
- 8th Grade Committee
 - Christine Green, Melissa Haskel
 - Fundraise to offset cost of yearbooks, formal, class gift
 - Thank you to our holiday hangout chaperons and DJ Gio
 - Thank you for those that supported the 8th grade raffle. One winner, Mr.Scarafile, donated his winnings back to the 8th grade committee.
 - Thank you to all that supported holiday grams and football square fundraisers.
 - Next Meeting:
- **Administration Updates:**
 - Mrs. Barrale
 - Community meeting this week with all grade levels to discuss with students things we can improve in and things that we see from facility and student perspectives. The afternoon pep rally over at Lincoln was so much fun, the kids really enjoyed it.
 - Becton is coming Friday, 1/9 to talk to speak to the students look at schedules, answer questions that they may have
 - Band and Choir will go to Community Center to play for the Seniors 1/13
 - 1/15 National Junior Honor Society induction in the gym 5:30pm
 - Mr. Barrow
 - Happy and Healthy New Year. Thank you to all the parents for the assistance with the Holiday shop. Second grade concert very successful and students performance was amazing
 - 1/8 12:30pm One session day. Thank you PTA for the luncheon.
 - 1/19 MLK day off
 - War assembly at the end of month to highlight character education.
 - Trying to improve student attendance. After 3 consecutive days off, a doctor's note is needed to return. Communications is going out to engage with attendance meetings with parents.

- More student and spirit days coming up at the end of month, communication to follow via parent square.
 - Dental health assembly in February.
- Mr. Scarafile (Interim Superintendent)
 - BOE meetings are public and on erboe website.
 - Happy and Healthy New Years.
- Mr. Vilardi
 - Happy new year. Massive Thank you for our visual and performing arts teachers with our winter wonderland week, closing out with Hot coco social and Faust band/choir performance. Thank you Mrs. Barrele, PTA.
 - Fantastic Professional Day for teachers tomorrow 1/8 focusing on ELA, universal screeners and literacy programs, lots for the teachers to bring back to the classroom.
 - Global school playday, Wednesday, Feb 4 - more to come
 - 4th grade wildcats, approximately 50 students will participate in a national benchmark exam at the end of the month. January 29th. Parents will be notified via formal letter, we encourage you to obviously have your child do their best. It's a great opportunity on a national level to show what your child knows. Very exciting that we got excited for this.
 - Focusing on attendance as well. Wear layers, when we can have kids go out for lunch recess.

East Rutherford Recreation Speaker

- Evelyn Samtak (Event Coordinator)
- esamtak@eastrutherfordnj.net
- 201-207-6501
 - Events on town website, flyers in backpack
 - <http://www.eastrutherfordnj.net/>

*Public meetings first Tuesday of the month, community center

*Friends of East Rutherford looking for more members if you want to join

- 250th Anniversary -
 - Next year we celebrate the 250th Anniversary of the USA.
 - ER will be hosting a celebration on June 20th at Riggins field
 - PTA is asked to be part of the planning and event. The planning committee meets twice a month, first Wednesday . We would need a member to attend as many of these and keep us up to day.

- [Http://www.eastrutherfordnj.net/](http://www.eastrutherfordnj.net/)

- **Town Events/Dates:**

- 250th Anniversary of America Celebration - date changed to June 20
- Fifa World Cup coming to Metlife in June and July

● **Upcoming Events**

<http://wearerpta.givebacks.com/w/Events>

<http://www.eastrutherfordnj.net/>

- Tricky Tray - May 15th
- Kids night out -
 - Lincoln March 20th
 - McKenze March 21st
- Teacher Luncheon- January 8, master Pizza always willing to provide for our community
- McKenzie St. Patricks Day Coin Challenge - March 1-13

● **Upcoming School Dates**

- One Session Day for students 1/8
- MLK Day 1/19 No school

Calendar is on ERBOE site

New/Other business & Open discussion:

Officer Elections:

- Last month we mentioned possibly off setting elections for officer positions so we vote on some positions each year. Currently all ERPTA officer positions are re-nominated and voted on every other year.
- If we do this we will need to change our Standing rules/by-laws by membership vote
- Currently all Five (5) ERPTA Officer Positions are re-nominated and elected in the even years and have a 2 year term.
- Proposal:
 - To have 3 positions nominated and elected in even years and 2 positions nominated and elected in odd years.
 - Group A - Even Years
 - Three (3) positions will be elected to a 2 year term in Spring 2026 and again in Spring 2028
 - President

- Recording Secretary
- Treasurer
- Group B-Odd Years
 - Two (2) positions will be elected to a 1 year term in Spring 2026 and then elected to a 2 year term in Spring 2027 and again in 2029 and odd years going forward.
 - Vice President
 - Corresponding Secretary

*Standing Rules: may be amended at a membership meeting by majority vote.

*We will need a motion to vote to approve our revised standing rules and someone to second. Please state your name when making the motion or second for the record.

“Charise Brown I move to amend the rules.” “Susan Cabri Second”

No questions, concerns or comments regarding the motion.

Voting for those in room. Yes/Yea to Adopt or No/Nay to Reject

Voting for those on zoom, a poll was launched.

3 in the room vote Yea

8 of 11 online have voted Yes. With 11 as Yes. **This Passed.**

PTA Financial Review:

- Need financial review completed by October, PTA will need one more person to sign up to perform this activity to ensure compliance. (3 total)
- Committee reviews the prior year financial information. A financial review examines that expenditures are properly documented and conforms with the approved budget and the PTAs governing documents. This committee meets sept&oct.

End of Year Gift Idea:

- In the past the PTA would often have enough funding to present a larger gift to the school district. For Example:
 - McKenzie Podium 2016
 - Sign outside McKenzie School 2011
 - Sound System
- We would like to do something similar this year and are asking for ideas from members and our schools, administrators, teachers, for what is needed.

Nominating committee 2026:

- Requests members to be nominees for the open Officer positions. They evaluate all the possible nominees for each position. This forms in January for elections to be held in April, to be announced at May meeting.

New Sub committees would love to create:(available with grants to offset cost)

- PTA Grant Application:
- Kiddle Alarm Donation Opportunity - TBD distribution
 - National PTA teamed up with Kidde to provide families with free smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms
 - ER PTA has been awarded, if accepted PTA will receive 160 (80 smoke alarms and 80 carbon monoxide alarms)

IN REMEMBRANCE:

Joan Martin passed away peacefully, surrounded by her loving family on December 24, 2025. A lifelong resident of East Rutherford, Joan dedicated 34 years of service to the borough. When her daughters were young, Joan was deeply involved in their lives and school community, proudly serving as PTA president for many years.

Volunteer Opportunities:

- Check ERPTA page, *volunteer tab*
 - <http://wearerpta.givebacks.com/w/volunteer>

ER Library has many events and opportunities for children, teens, and adults!

Next Meeting February 4th @ 7pm at Faust Media Room

Meeting Adjourned: 7:35 pm