

**East Rutherford PTA Meeting**  
**Location: Faust School**  
**3.4.26**

**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:**
  - February 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**

- None

**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.
- Big Box Cards:
  - Will make arrangements for sorting and distribution, TBA
- Getrude Hawk:
  - Spring sale did very well, approx \$6400 in sales
  - A portion of these proceeds will go to the 8th grade committee.
  - Delivery should be week of 23rd, will setup for distribution tba.
- Coin Challenge is in full swing, ends 3/13
- Dine & Donates:
  - none
- 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

- Information going out to collect donations per grade level, will be themed.
  - Givebacks shop - sign up, put on your phone, a small percentage goes back to PTA, but adds up!
  - Spirit Wear
    - Spring sales starts soon
    - 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
  - Kids Night Out
    - March 20th - Lincoln
    - March 21st - McKenzie
- 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)
    - Field Day May 19th
  - Lincoln (Rose Ampuero)
    - Kids Night Out plans in the works
      - Reach out if interested in Volunteering

- Faust (Christine Green)
- 8th Grade Committee (Christine Green, Melissa Haskel)
  - Fundraise to offset cost of formal, class gift
  - Thank you for supporting all our February Fundraisers
  - PTA will provide the 8th graders their yearbooks
  - Dine and Donate was 2/4 at Charlie Bloods
  - Pampered Chef ends 3/23
  - March 18th - Basketball game vs. ERPD/ERFD at Lincoln
  - March 28 - Comedy Show Community Center
  - April 2- Cornhole 8th Grade ER vs Carlstadt at Becton
- **Administration Updates:**
  - *At the February 19th Board of Education meeting, Mr. Brian Barrow was unanimously approved as our new Superintendent of the East Rutherford School District. Mr. Barrows tenure in this role will begin July 1, 2026. Congratulations!*
  - Mrs. Barrale (on behalf of Mr. Barrow)
    - Catching up after snow days, if any parent wants to conference with a teacher, you are encouraged to reach out, as we are always available to help our students' academic journey.
    - Faust students will have a pizza party for those on Honor Roll.
    - Interims will be available on genesis portal March 11th.
    - Music/theater/dance will be performing for Lincoln students March 13
    - NJ Honor society students will go to McKenzie later this month to read to students
    - Yearbooks are on sale until April 1st, \$25. Hardcover book , 60 pages, full color, grades 6-8th grade. Contact Ms. Machere to order.
    - Thank you to the PTA for lunch tomorrow before professional development; One session day for students 3/5
  - Mr. Barrow
    - Thank you for your kind words and support. Appreciate all the support for Mr. Scarafile.
    - Read across america spirit week, this week. There will be guest readers throughout month from community and parents.
    - Becton national honor society read to students 3/3. Looking forward to Faust National Honor society students to come later this month.
    - Dr. Lee and Mrs. Credato PreK program welcomed prek fashion show 3/4 was a success
    - PreK registration started, free prek full day. Success with program and looking to expand our program, more info tba

- Key components, have to complete 100% residency and must be an East Rutherford resident.
  - Kindergarten registration starts soon. All Prek 4 students will have to re-register. Additional information will be sent out regarding the district re-registration for all students.
  - March coin challenge started, ends 3/13. Pta fundraiser. Homeroom with most collected, will get prize from PTA
  - Kindergarten concert, April 1st. Communication coming, will be daytime.
- Mr. Scarafile (Interim Superintendent)
  - Congratulations to Mr. Barrow, will do a fine job.
  - All snow days have been used. This extends our calendar to June 18th; 8th grade graduation is June 16th.
  - In the process of putting out a re-registration of every student, every family in the district this year. It will be easy, one stop shop. Will be via online, if difficulty will have one Saturday session and one Wednesday session, dates tba. (process will be tentatively March 1-April) tentatively to complete the process by May.
    - With the free prek program, need to make sure the funding is going to those that are East Rutherford residents. As long as the funding is coming, an additional 3 pre-k classes (approx 45 students) will be housed at kiddie academy on union ave in Rutherford.
- Mr. Vilardi
  - NJSLA assessment preparation underway.
  - 5th grade students start L.E.A.D starts Monday. Thank you ERPD, many officers will be coming Monday & Thursday to make sure our 5th grade students are learning the importance of a safe and drug-free community.
  - Please reach out to teachers if you have any questions regarding academics.
  - World SEL day, number of elements incorporated into our program. Positive affirmations. Monthly meeting focusing on resilience.
  - Principals Panel will meet Monday with Homeroom reps to discuss pressing issues at Lincoln
  - Read across America week 3/5 will be our 2nd drop everything and read hour. Send in with a free read book or they can choose from the class library.
  - Farmer Friday, help launch our One Book One School Initiative - every student will get a "Charlotte's Web" book to keep and a reading log.
  - Modified Pie Day challenge. Mrs. Cook set up an IXL leaderboard challenge. Launched monday. Grade level questions, who can answer the most in 9 days.
  - Kids Night Out Friday March 20

- Fourth Grade class trip to Ellis Island April 9th
- NJSLA testing starts Tuesday, May 5th
- Spring Showcase Thursday May 28th
- March 5 - staff professional day, one session day for students

### **East Rutherford Recreation Speaker**

- Evelyn Samtak (Event Coordinator)
- [esamtak@eastrutherfordnj.net](mailto: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:**
  - Leprechaun Traps - March 13
  - Easter Egg Hunt - March 27
    - Rain Date March 29
  - 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/>

- McKenzie St. Patricks Day Coin Challenge - March 1-13
- 8th Grade vs ERPD basketball - March 18
- Kids night out -
  - Lincoln March 20th
  - McKenze March 21st
- Comedy Show - March 28
- ER vs Carlstadt Cornhole - April 2

- Tricky Tray - May 15th
- **Upcoming School Dates:** *(Calendar is on ERBOE site)*
  - Half Day - March 5 - Teacher Professional Day
  - School Closed - April 3 - Good Friday
  - Half Day - April 10
  - School Closed - April 13-17 - Spring Break

**New/Other business & Open discussion:**

- McKenzie School is welcoming parents to read to classrooms during March. Contact your child's teacher
- 
- National PTA hosted their legislative Conference in Virginia from March 2-4th. This annual event brings together PTA leaders and passionate advocates from across the country for three days of connection, learning and impact.
  - <http://www.pta.org/home/events/national-pta-legislative-conference>
  -
- National PTA will host 2026 Convention June 18-20.
  - This year's theme, Together Again: PTA Lights the Way for Every Child, celebrates PTAs mission to illuminate educational pathways for all children. During the Convention, attendees will sharpen their skills in engaging workshops, build lasting connections in networking spaces and become inspired by noteworthy speakers. Register by March 30th, discounted rate. Local pta will cover cost, any member can attend, not just board.
    - <http://www.pta.org/home/events/national-PTA-Convention>
- Field Day T-shirt contest will begin in March. Entries to be submitted by mid-april.
  - Each school will have one design selected to be on the Tshirt for their school
- End of Year Assemblies: will discuss with principals
  - Hollyrock Game Show - May 22
  - Grit Ninja??(4th-7/8th grade)
  - Other ideas??
- Teacher appreciation week
  - gift ideas, Linda to bring ideas to board

**Nominating committee 2026:**

- Three members to be nominees: Emily Landolfi, Christine Green and Rose Ampuro.
- Contact: [ERPTANominate2026@gmail.com](mailto:ERPTANominate2026@gmail.com)
- They evaluate all the possible nominees for each position. This forms in January for elections to be held in April, to be announced at the May meeting.

- 2026 elections
  - President
  - Vice President
  - Recording Secretary
  - Corresponding Secretary
  - Treasurer
- Vice President and Corresponding Secretary will be 1 year term for this year only. All others are 2 year term
- If interested in any of these positions, our standing rules are on the ERPTA website and bylaws.

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

- PTA Grant Application:
- Kiddle Alarm Donation Opportunity - starting the distribution at Kids Night Out
  - 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)

**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 April 1st @ 7pm at Faust Media Room

**Meeting Adjourned: 7:45 pm**