PROPOSED

Burton PTA
General Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, November 10, 2026 – 7 pm

Date: 11/10/2026
Time: 7:02 pm
Location: Media Center

Attendees: 19 (17 members)

I. **Welcome and Convene**
   A. Meeting called to order 7:02 pm by Natalie Friedman
II. **Quorum Check**
   A. Quorum confirms
III. **Approval of October meeting minutes**
   A. Minutes from 10/6/2026 motioned by Elizabeth, second by Melissa, approved by membership
IV. **Welcome Christina Schlenker, School Counselor**
   A. Background and Role
      1. Ms. Schlenker is in her ninth year as a school counselor and is also a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC).
      2. Her experience spans early childhood, elementary, middle school, high school, higher education, and adult education.
      3. Her role includes supporting the school community as a whole, with an emphasis on Tier 1 support for all students.
      4. She works collaboratively with students, families, teachers, and staff to support students' academic, social, and emotional development.
      5. Her work encompasses academic achievement, emotional regulation, coping skills, social relationships, and age-appropriate college and career exploration.
      6. She also serves as a Section 504 coordinator alongside Principal Fragomeni.
   B. Current Goals and Initiatives
      1. Introducing herself and building relationships with all Burton students, including individual meetings with each student.
      2. Establishing herself as a trusted adult whom students feel comfortable approaching.
      3. Supporting students during lunch and recess.
      4. Collaborating with teachers and administration to identify schoolwide and individual student needs.

5. Implementing a four-part social conflict series for fourth- and fifth-grade students.
6. Offering classroom lessons on social-emotional learning (SEL) and career exploration, beginning in December.
7. Providing small-group support, individual check-ins, crisis intervention, and referrals to outside resources as needed.
8. Using data to identify appropriate interventions and strategies for students at school and at home.
9. Ms. Schlenker also described the different spaces and stations within her counseling room designed to accommodate students' varying emotional and sensory needs.

C. Additional Areas of Support

1. Ms. Schlenker can assist students and families with academic planning, study skills, managing stress and worries, navigating friendships, identifying available school supports, and connecting with appropriate resources. She emphasized the importance of consistent language and collaboration between school and home.

D. Parent Questions and Discussion

1. Parent notification: A parent asked whether families are notified when Ms. Schlenker meets with a student. She explained that a one-time interaction may not necessarily prompt parent contact, but ongoing concerns, patterns, significant issues, or situations requiring additional intervention generally would. Parents may also reach out directly to request a student check-in.
2. Counseling room resources: A parent asked whether information about the counseling room's different stations could be shared with families to help facilitate conversations at home. Ms. Schlenker agreed to share additional information.
3. Parent-teacher conferences: Ms. Schlenker confirmed that she has conference appointment slots available for families.
4. Parent feedback: A parent shared a positive experience in which Ms. Schlenker helped their child after a lunch mishap, ensuring the student received a meal and felt supported.

E. Contact Information

1. Christina Schlenker
   christina.schlenker@berkleyschools.org
   248-837-8625

V. Officer Reports

A. Officers

1. President: Natalie Friedman

a) **Caring & Sharing 2026**
   (1) Natalie highlighted the Berkley Area PTSA Council's annual Caring & Sharing program, which provides grocery gift cards to local families experiencing financial hardship during the holiday season. The program typically supports approximately 100 families across the district.
   (2) Community members can participate in two ways:
      (a) Refer a family: Families may nominate themselves or someone they know who could benefit from assistance. Referrals are confidential, and designated district representatives contact recipients. Family Referral Form
      (b) Make a donation: Monetary donations are used to purchase grocery gift cards for families in need. Donation Page
      (c) Questions may be directed to Abby Watteny, 2026 Caring & Sharing Chair.

b) **Treasurer Transition**
   (1) Congratulated outgoing Treasurer Max Shear on his appointment to the Berkley School District Board of Education.
   (2) Officially welcomed Chris Davidson as PTA Treasurer. Chris had been shadowing Max this year as Treasurer Elect.

c) **Reflections Kickoff**
   (1) Congratulated everyone involved in the successful Reflections event.
   (2) Thanked Melanie and Laurel for organizing the event and Melissa for her work at the district level.

d) **Trunk-or-Treat**
   (1) Thanked Alyssa and Alana for their efforts to enhance this year's event, including the addition of donuts, cider, and a DJ.
   (2) Recognized event sponsors Prudential Alarm and Oakland Kids Rehab for their support.

e) **School Directory**
   (1) Thanked Katie for her work on this year's directory and efforts to make it more inclusive.

(2) Reported that the PTA entered into a three-year agreement with local printer Cathedral Connections, resulting in a waived one-time setup fee.

2. **Vice President/Chair of Standing Committees: Elizabeth Scott**
    a) No separate report recorded
3. **Secretary: Ellie Mosko**
    a) **2027–2028 PTA Leadership Recruitment**
        (1) Announced that planning and recruitment for next year's PTA leadership will begin early to encourage an open, welcoming, and transparent process.
        (2) All executive board positions will be up for election this spring, and some committee chair opportunities will also be available. At least two current board members will not be returning next year.
        (3) Encouraged all parents and caregivers to consider getting involved.
        (4) An interest form will be shared for anyone wishing to learn more about leadership opportunities, with no commitment required.
        (5) An informal **PTA Board Interest Coffee is planned for Friday, January 29, 2027, at 8:30 a.m.** at Mother Handsome. Interested parents and caregivers will have an opportunity to meet current board members, ask questions, and learn about available positions.
    b) **Sensory Spot at PTA Events**
        (1) Introduced the Sensory Spot initiative to provide a supportive space for students who may benefit from a sensory break during PTA events.
        (2) This year will be sponsored by Oakland Kids Rehab
    c) **Queer Connect Coffee Meet-Up**
        (1) Reminded attendees of the upcoming Queer Connect Coffee Meet-Up on November 20 at 8:15 a.m. at Das Velo.
4. **Treasurer: Chris Davidson**
    a) Chris is transitioning into the Treasurer role and becoming familiar with PTA financial operations.
    b) Members with outstanding expenses or reimbursement requests were asked to contact Chris and/or Natalie.
5. **Principal: Lauren Fragomeni**
    a) **Upcoming Conferences and School Schedule**

(1) One full week of school remains before Thanksgiving break.
(2) Thanked families for signing up for in-person parent-teacher conferences.
(3) Conferences will be held:
(a) November 23, 5:00–8:00 p.m.
(b) November 24, 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.
(4) Families may register through the Conference Sign-Up Page.

b) **Recess Equipment and Outdoor Storage**
(1) A new storage shed has been assembled outside the multipurpose space.
(2) Recess supplies, including chalk, balls, hula hoops, Frisbees, flags, and other equipment, are being added.

c) **Student Social-Emotional Support**
(1) Fourth- and fifth-grade students are participating in a four-part series addressing social conflict, recognizing situations, and identifying available supports.
(2) Teachers participated in a two-day restorative practices training on November 2–3, focused on repairing harm, resolving conflict, and moving forward constructively.

d) **School Community Updates**
(1) The most recent Burton Bash town hall celebrated student leadership.
(2) Families were encouraged to view the video created by Ms. Smith.
(3) Birdhouse activities are expected to begin next month.
(4) Another Burton Bash is planned.

B. **Teacher Representative – Ms. Henry**
1. Thanked the PTA and families for their continued support, including the Book Fair, snacks, and other contributions.
2. Shared that the school year is off to a positive start and students and staff are settling into their routines.

VI. Committee Reports

A. Teacher Appreciation – Melissa Purdy and Annmarie Sanderson

1. **Parent-Teacher Conference Meals**

a) The committee will provide lunch and dinner for staff during conferences.
b) Thanked families for their support and encouraged additional volunteers and contributions through the Conference Meal Sign-Up.

2. **Stock-the-Lounge**
   a) Fifth-grade families are responsible for stocking the staff lounge in November.
   b) Families were thanked for their continued donations and support.
3. **December Staff Appreciation**
   a) The committee plans to provide a pizza lunch for staff in December.

B. **Book Fair - Annmarie Sanderson and Megan Backes**
1. The Book Fair was a huge success! I want to extend a big thank-you to all of the volunteers who helped us set up, worked during the sale, and helped pack everything up. We couldn't have done it without you! We are excited to share that we were able to give Burton **$3,761.88** from the sale!

C. **Cheetahs Running Club - Annmarie Sanderson and Amy Feiler**
1. The club continues to be a positive experience for participating students.
2. Volunteers were thanked for their time and dedication.
3. Volunteers were reminded to complete and submit the required Berkley School District volunteer form before participating.

VII. New Business

A. **Reflections Contest Deadline Extension**
1. The 2026–2027 Reflections contest deadline has been extended to **Friday, November 13, 2026**.
2. This year's theme is **"What My Culture Means to Me."**
3. Students are encouraged to submit original work in categories including dance, literature, photography, and visual arts.
4. Contest information, rules, and a student video have been shared with families.
5. Reflections Submission Form

B. **Holiday Staff Gifts**
1. Room parents will be communicating with families about holiday gift collections.
2. As in previous years, $3.25 per student will be collected by room parents toward gifts for school staff, including office, specials, and custodial staff.

VIII. Good of the Order

A. No additional items recorded

IX. **Adjourn**

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A. The meeting adjourned at 7:39 pm

Important Dates

November

- **November 17 -** Music concerts for grades 2nd, 3rd, and 4th
- **November 20 -** Queer Connect Coffee Meetup at Das Velo at 8:15 am
- **November 23 -** Evening Parent Teacher Conferences from 5-8pm (in-person)
- **November 24 -** No School for students, Parent Teacher Conferences from 8am-4pm (in-person)
- **November 25- November 27 -** No School (Thanksgiving Break)
- **November 30 -** School resumes

December

- **December 1 –** PTA Meeting @ 7pm – Burton Media Center
- **December 21- January 1 –** Winter Break

January

- **January 4 –** School resumes
- **January 14 –** WinterFest Family Skate Night – Skate World of Troy 6:15-8:15
- **January 29 -** PTA Interest Coffee at Mother Handsome @ 8:30 am

Support Burton Elementary and join PTA today! Each membership includes one vote in PTA budgets and elections as well as a school directory.

Have a suggestion, idea, or a skill you'd like to share with us? Or looking to be part of a PTA committee? Link below to our suggestion form:

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