APPROVED 11/10/2026

Burton PTA
General Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 6, 2026 – 7 pm

Date: 10-6-2026
Time: 7:10 - 8:16 pm
Location: Media Center

Attendees: 30 (26 members)

I. Welcome and Convene
   A. Meeting called to order 7:10 pm by Natalie Friedman
II. Quorum Check
   A. Quorum confirmed
III. Approval of September meeting minutes
   A. Minutes from 9/1/2026 motioned by Melissa, second by Kristina, approved by membership
IV. Officer Reports
   A. Officers
      1. President: Natalie Friedman
         a) School of Excellence, Phoebe Apperson Hearst Award for Outstanding Family-School Partnership
            (1) Received new award correcting city
            (2) Received certificate from Governor Whitmer recognizing achievement
            (3) Thank you Rob Wittenberg for helping connect with Governor.
         b) Safe Schools Week 10/19 – 10/23
            (1) Additional messaging will be provided by district
         c) Trunk-or-Treat
            (1) Moved to Tuesday, October 27 from 6-7 pm at City Hall,
            (2) SignUp Genius is open: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090449A5AB2FAAFA7-66488426-burton
            (3) Families are encouraged to sign up whether they plan to decorate a trunk and/or attend for trunk-or-treating so organizers can estimate attendance and ensure there is enough candy.
         d) Evening Fall Conferences 11/23
            (1) Childcare will be available in The Nest/multipurpose space.
         e) Caring & Sharing 11/2 – 12/14
            (1) Nominations are due December 1.

(2) Caring & Sharing is a district initiative that provides additional support to district families during the holiday season. More information will be shared.

f) Founders' Day BSD Celebration – Thursday 2/25 6-9 pm

(1) PTA Member of the Year, Staff Member of the Year, and Teacher of the Year will be selected in connection with the celebration.

2. Vice President/Chair of Standing Committees: Elizabeth Scott
   a) Fun Run
      (1) The Fun Run was a success and exceeded its fundraising goal, raising $40,566.
      (2) The event ran smoothly, and Elizabeth thanked all volunteers who helped make it successful.
      (3) Special recognition was given to Jenny Morgan and Travis Wright for providing shout-outs and jokes throughout the event.
      (4) Deputy Director Spencer was recognized as an incredible collaborator.
      (5) Special thanks were given to Alyssa Levin, Ellie Mosko, and Natalie Friedman for their work on fundraising.
      (6) Elizabeth, Alyssa, Ellie, and Natalie worked together to secure more than $29,000 in business sponsorships, exceeding the budgeted sponsorship amount by more than $11,000.
3. Secretary: Ellie Mosko
   a) Membership Update: 222 members, down approximately 1.8%.
   b) Members were reminded to sign in at each PTA meeting.
   c) Meeting minutes are posted on the PTA website following each meeting.
   d) Upcoming PTA coffee meetups are scheduled for October 23 and November 20. Details to follow.
4. Treasurer/Treasurer Elect: Max Shear/Chris Davidson
   a) Budget Update
      (1) The Fun Run met and exceeded its fundraising goal.
      (2) Business sponsorships exceeded the budgeted amount by more than $11,000.
      (3) Several funding requests were presented for consideration, including previously discussed outdoor classroom/recess improvements.
   b) Outdoor Recess Equipment and Storage
      (1) Following Principal Fragomeni's presentation regarding plans for additional outdoor recess equipment and storage, a request was made for up to $5,000 to purchase a shed, storage/organizational materials, and outdoor recess equipment.

(a) Motion: Lauren Fragomeni moved to allocate up to $5,000 for the shed, storage, and outdoor recess equipment.
(b) Second: Natalie Friedman
(c) Discussion: None
(d) Vote: Motion approved unanimously.

c) 5th Grade Party Funds
(1) $712 remained from funds collected for the prior year's fifth grade party.
(2) Individuals who contributed the remaining funds were contacted and agreed that the unused funds could be donated.
(3) Ellie motioned to allocate $350 of the remaining $712 toward fifth-grade expenses already included in the PTA budget. The funds previously budgeted by the PTA for those expenses would then be reallocated to the PTA's general fund. This would not increase the overall amount budgeted for fifth-grade expenses.
(a) Second: Ciara O'Laoire
(b) Discussion: None
(c) Vote: Motion approved unanimously.

d) Trunk-or-Treat Budget
(1) Alana Shamban and Alyssa Levin presented a proposed expanded budget for Trunk-or-Treat, including the addition of an MC/DJ.
(2) Proposed expenses included:
(a) DJ – $200
(b) Decorations – $250
(c) Prizes – $250
(d) Cider, donuts, and paper goods – $600
(e) Miscellaneous – $200
(3) Candy expenses could also be included within the miscellaneous category.
(4) Alyssa initially moved to add $1,250 to the $250 already budgeted for Trunk-or-Treat.
(5) Alyssa initially moved to add $1,250 to the $250 already budgeted for Trunk-or-Treat.
(6) During discussion, members suggested ways to reduce expenses, including asking families to donate paper goods and making other adjustments to help offset costs.
(7) Following discussion, Alyssa amended the motion to add $750 to the existing $250 budget, for a total Trunk-or-Treat budget of $1,000.
(a) Second: Ciara O'Laoire

(b) Vote: 18 in favor; 2 opposed; 0 abstentions.
(c) Motion approved.

5. Principal: Lauren Fragomeni
    a) Lauren thanked Ms. Ashkenani, Mrs. Henry, and Ms. Mann for coming tonight
    b) Outdoor classroom / hammock garden
        (1) Plans are being explored for an enclosed outdoor classroom/hammock garden.
        (2) The project is expected to occur in phases:
            (a) Phase 1: Address essential needs, including seating and development of the space.
            (b) Phase 2: Additional improvements based on quotes and available funding.
        (3) The school hopes to collaborate with a local landscaping company to help create the space.
        (4) Potential components include storage and a hammock garden.
        (5) The area would be locked and available only to students and staff during the school day.
        (6) The goal is to begin work after the frost season so current fifth graders have an opportunity to enjoy the space.
    c) Outdoor Recess
        (1) The rock wall has been very successful and is being used as an activity center, as envisioned. It is accessible to all students.
        (2) The school would like to expand outdoor recess options and provide additional equipment and activities for students.
        (3) The school is working to consider ways to better define areas of the field and create distinct spaces during unstructured time.
        (4) Additional activity options could include chess, checkers, building activities, and other structured choices.
        (5) Facilities supports the purchase of a shed to provide a functional storage and organizational system for outdoor equipment, including storage bins.
        (6) New fifth-grade safety position to be created to help ensure equipment is properly returned and stored.
        (7) Volunteers will be needed to assemble the shed. A volunteer sign-up may be circulated once additional details are available.
    d) School Updates
        (1) A drone photo was taken during the Fun Run.

e) Lauren thanked Elizabeth for creating the Fun Run hype gear/chains.
f) Mr. Keegan is developing a Fitness Friday initiative highlighting ways students can be active in the community, including an interactive board.
g) Bowls painted by students were auctioned as part of Forgotten Harvest event.
h) Upcoming events:
    (1) Wednesday: Walk, Bike & Roll to School and Count Day
    (2) Thursday: Picture Retake Day
    (3) Halloween information will be distributed this week.
    (4) Safe Schools Week begins the week of October 18.
i) Blue Jay Way: where we are and where we are going
    (1) Lauren shared an update on Burton's ongoing Blue Jay Way initiative and its development over the past several years.
    (2) The initiative began approximately three years ago with a focus on kindness, respect, and empathy.
    (3) The following year focused on defining what those values mean in practice and developing common language throughout the school regarding expectations.
    (4) The school is continuing to explore what it means to be a leader at Burton and how students can put these values into action.
    (5) Community town halls/"Burton Bashes" are expected to begin within the next month.
    (6) The school continues to recognize and celebrate students who demonstrate these values.
    (7) The mentorship program had approximately five to six mentors last year, with an additional four to five students identified for support this year.
    (8) The school is also developing a peer-to-peer program. This year's first phase will focus on determining the structure of the program, including appropriate ages and how student leaders will be identified, with the goal of rolling out the program next year.
    (9) Ms. Schlinker, the school counselor, will attend the November PTA meeting.
    (10) She is taking a proactive approach with fourth- and fifth-grade students, focusing on areas such as social conflict, supporting friends, and appropriate ways to report concerns.
    (11) Ms. Schlinker will also provide lessons in classrooms and share information and resources with parents.

(12) The Birdhouses initiative will return this year, with an increased focus on helping students put the school's values into action and providing tools for navigating unstructured time.

V. Committee Reports

A. Staff Update - Mrs. Henry
   1. Mrs. Henry thanked the PTA for its continued support of Burton staff, including snacks, the Fun Run, assemblies, and other programs.
   2. She shared that staff members feel supported and appreciated.
   3. She also noted that the school's work over the past three years is making a noticeable difference, particularly among older students as they model expectations and help guide younger students.

B. Fundraising – Alyssa Levin
   1. Great job exceeding Fun Run goals!

C. Reflections – Melanie Wright & Laurel Byrne
   1. Reflections Kick-Off Event: Tuesday, October 13, from 6:00–7:30 p.m.
   2. The event will be open-house style and will feature several art stations.
   3. Activities are expected to represent visual arts, air-dry clay, writing, poetry, photography, and potentially dance.
   4. The committee is looking for NHS student volunteers to assist with the event.

D. Teacher Appreciation – Melissa Purdy and Annmarie Sanderson
   1. Stock-the-Lounge Update
      a) Approximately $490 was raised through Givebacks.
      b) Thank you to first-grade families for supporting this month's Stock-the-Lounge.
      c) The committee plans to move away from the Amazon Wish List because of delivery and storage challenges and return to using SignUpGenius.
      d) A caramel apple bar is planned as an upcoming staff appreciation activity.

E. Cheetah Running Club – Annmarie Sanderson and Amy Feiler
   1. Cheetah Running Club begins tomorrow.
   2. Approximately 230 students are signed up.
   3. Students can run or walk the track and earn tokens for their participation.
   4. Participants should report directly to the pavilion.
   5. Families are welcome to attend even if a particular date's volunteer sign-up appears full.
   6. Families were encouraged to register participating children, even if they are unsure whether they will attend every session.

VI. New Business

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A. Trunk-or-Treat - budget proposal was addressed during treasurer's report

VII. Good of the Order

A. Community/District Advocacy – Amanda Berman

1. Amanda shared that she has been part of the Berkley Schools community for approximately nine years and discussed recent community concerns, including Board of Education resignations and conversations surrounding a variety of district issues.
2. As a school counselor within the district, Amanda has been involved with several groups that formed in response to these concerns.
3. Efforts are underway to bring these groups together into a larger, more coordinated group focused on solutions.
4. Areas of focus include:
    a) Working collaboratively with principals and district leadership.
    b) Providing parent education around difficult topics and conversations.
    c) Ensuring appropriate systems and supports are in place within individual schools and consistently across the district.
    d) Creating meaningful ways for parents and community members to raise concerns and advocate constructively.
    e) Brainstorming solutions that are helpful to both district leadership and the broader school community.
    f) Bringing community members together around shared concerns and constructive solutions.

VIII. Adjourn

A. The meeting adjourned at 8:16 pm.

Important Dates

October

- **October 7 -** Cheetahs Running Club begins!
- **October 8 -** Picture Retake Day (Students should bring to school their pictures from Picture Day for retakes)
- **October 13 -** Burton PTA Reflections Kick - Off from 6-7:30pm in The Nest (Burton's Multipurpose Space)
- **Wednesday, October 21 & Thursday, October 22 -** Scholastic Book Fair from 4-8pm in the Media Center
- **October 27 -** Burton Trunk or Treat from 6pm-7pm at Huntington Woods City Hall
- **October 30** - Halloween Parade at 9:00am

November

- **November 2 & November 3 -** No school for students
- **November 10 -** PTA Meeting 7 pm
- **November 17 -** Music concerts for grades 2nd, 3rd, and 4th
- **November 23 -** Evening Parent Teacher Conferences from 5-8pm (in-person)

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- **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

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: