



***Sharon Center School PTO
Meeting Minutes***

Meeting Date: December 4, 2025

Call to order: at 6:05PM with the following persons in attendance via Zoom: Karen Rios (President), Meghan Kenny (Treasurer), Lisa Pedersen (Co-Secretary), Carol Tomkalski (Principal), Kylie McCarron-Trivelli, Emily Wolf, Mike Nolan, Anna Crews-Camphouse, Heather Socci, Heather Matthews (Teacher) and Phillip O'Reilly (BOE)

Approval of Minutes:

Treasurer's Report: \$120 was spent on a care package for Justine Smith, and \$172 was spent for 6-7 Day leaving a checking account balance of \$1,774.42. A refund is expected from Amazon for materials not used and the Charleston fundraiser profits were \$2,445.70 plus a \$50.00 direct donation.

Principal's Report:

- Empathy is the Character Strong trait of the month. Listening with understanding and responding with wonder and awe are the Habits of the Mind being focused on this month.
- The first trimester just closed and report cards are being generated. There has been a change in grading scale for EK-3 from the Beginning, Developing, Secure to a 1-4 rating scale.
- The School Climate & Culture Committee is developing a plan to be put in place by the end of December. Three students in the Wingman program will be joining the committee on developing the plan. Sarah Ives, a primary teacher, is also joining the committee to fill the empty seat left by departing staff.

- The Wingman program is looking to start a peer mediation program for student conflicts among the primary students. The start of this program is pending proper training for participating student mediators.
- This year there is a focus on improvement in math skills throughout the school. Last year a significant improvement in ELA scores was achieved. A math enrichment program is scheduled to begin at the end of January. Additional information will be included in this month's News from the Nest.
- There is currently a need to fill the position of after-school Art Club leader. The previous leader was an aide who was moved to working in a different building and is unable to continue. The first choice would be for the position to be filled by a current member of the staff, however parents and community members will be considered (with proper approvals) if there is not a staff member able to.
- The annual Winter Concert is December 12th at 5:30PM. This year the program has been expanded and the concert is expected to be approximately 90 minutes long. There will be an increased request for audience members to be more respectful during the performances by keeping all children in their seats and maintaining a more attentive attitude. In the past there have been children running or playing in the back during performances which is distracting to those on stage.
- The school is hosting the PTO Gift Wrapping event on December 13th in the gymnasium. Carol is planning on attending and hopes to see many parents there.
- The parent-community forum with the Board of Education (BOE) is scheduled for December 12th at 3:30PM in the school Library. This is meant to be a constructive listening session to begin to understand and respond to parent concerns as well as identify positive qualities that should continue to be fostered. All parents and Sharon residents are encouraged to attend.

Board of Education Report:

- This year's officers have been elected and are:
 - Philip O'Reily, Chair
 - Nancy Hegy-Martin, Vice Chair
 - Peter Birnbaum, Secretary
- The BOE is looking to improve communication with all Sharon residents in recognition that most people do not know what the BOE does and the level of commitment members undertake when making decisions. This year there are three focus areas to address communication concerns:
 - The BOE will submit a summary report to be included in the Town of Sharon monthly newsletter. This will be more informative than general minutes and will include information on deliberations leading to decisions.
 - The BOE is requesting that the PTO submit written correspondence to the Board each month to be read at the meetings. This will allow discussion of anything

included in the letter at the BOE meeting in accordance with proper meeting procedures.

- At least one BOE member will attend the monthly PTO meetings as an avenue of open communication and collaboration.

Old Business:

- Spirit Wear
 - A new order of updated spirit wear will be made after the holidays.
 - A table will be set up at the winter concert to sell the remaining stock from last year. This will include a “buy now, pay later” option.
- Gift Wrapping Event
 - So far there have been no RSVP’s for wrapping as requested on the flyer.
 - The event will go on as planned for walk-in patrons.
 - Nikki Blass has been in contact with NBT Bank regarding sponsoring refreshments. Karen will confirm with her the results as Nikki was unable to attend the meeting.
- Care Package for Justine Smith
 - An email from Justine Smith was received thanking the PTO for the care package sent after her surgery.

New Business:

- Parent-Community Forum
 - Concerns were voiced as to the time of the event being very inconvenient for parents.
 - All parents who are unable to attend are encouraged to schedule a personal meeting with Carol Tomkalski or submit a written letter as requested in the invitation email.

Meeting adjourned at 6:52 PM

The next meeting will be Thursday, January 8th at 6:00 PM. A link for virtual access will be sent to all parents prior to the meeting.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Lisa Pedersen