



# **BEN FRANKLIN ELEMENTARY PTO**

## March 2026 Meeting Minutes

**WHEN:** Monday, March 2, 2026

**WHERE:** Ben Franklin Library

**FACILITATOR(S):** Megan Coopersmith

**PTO BOARD:** Megan Coopersmith, Petra Crevier, Lindsay Walsh, Nicole Bottrel, Ilana Hernandez, and Kristen Paladino

**ATTENDEES:** Principal Geoff Hewitt, PTO Board, Ben Franklin Parents and Guardians

**START TIME: 7:03pm - END TIME: 7:47pm**

<b>TOPIC AND SPOKEPERSON</b>	<b>DISCUSSION POINTS</b>
<b>Introductions</b>  Megan Coopersmith	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Board introduced themselves: Megan Coopersmith - PTO President, Petra Crevier - 1st VP, Lindsay Walsh - 2nd VP, Nicole Bottrel - Corresponding Secretary, Ilana Hernandez - Recording Secretary, Kristen Paladino - Treasurer</li></ul>
<b>Principal Update</b>  Mr. Hewitt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Science Night was a great event. Thank you to the volunteers and participants. There was a big turnout.</li><li>- Students were able to have an outdoor recess for the first time in a long time.</li><li>- The Lost and Found is very full. It was decided to hold off on donating unclaimed items before winter break. Be sure to check the Lost and Found while at the school and claim missing items.</li><li>- The 2nd Grade Concert is tomorrow, March 3. Students will be able to enjoy the concert during the first portion of the school day with a showing for families at 2pm.</li><li>- It is Read Across America Week. To celebrate, different themed days have been planned for the students. Tomorrow is Superhero Day -</li></ul>

	<p>“reading is a super power.” The week culminates with the PTO’s annual book exchange event.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There have been changes in the district school calendar due to snow days. All of the emergency days have been used up. School will be in session for those days.</li> <li>- The second trimester is wrapping up. Report cards are expected to come out on Fri., March 27.</li> <li>- Ben Franklin is taking part in St. Baldrick’s for its 15th year. Students, staff and family members are welcome to join Team Ben Franklin and help raise money for childhood cancer. Shavees, a part of Team Ben Franklin will be shaving their heads on Fri., March 13. Pie Day will also be taking place on this day. Students can start buying tickets to enter for a chance to pie their chosen teacher/staff member in the face. The Color Run is also taking place on Sat., March 14. Families are welcome to sign up to support St. Baldrick’s. This year Ms. Valdez is shaving her head!</li> </ul>
<p><b>PTO President Update</b></p> <p>Megan Coopersmith</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There are Executive Board positions open for the next school year: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- President: open</li> <li>- Vice President 1: open; current VP1 is running for reelection</li> <li>- Vice President 2: open; current VP2 is running for reelection</li> <li>- Corresponding Secretary: open</li> <li>- Treasurer: open; current treasurer is running for reelection</li> <li>- Recording Secretary: open; current recording secretary is resigning from this position</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Nominations for Executive Officer positions will be accepted beginning April 3rd. Nominations will be accepted by email to the Recording Secretary, Ilana Hernandez, or in person at the April 13th PTO meeting. Nominations close at the end of the April PTO meeting. Elections will be held at the May meeting.</li> <li>- For a candidate to be eligible for an Executive Officer position, prior to nomination all of the following requirements must be satisfied in the current school year: (1) attended at least 50% of the PTO meetings and (2) volunteered for PTO activities.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Recaps</b></p> <p>Respective Chairs</p>	<p><u>Ice Skating at Iceland</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Kristen Paladino spoke.</li> <li>- The ice skating event at Iceland took place on Friday, Feb. 6.</li> <li>- The PTO rented a private ice skating rink for BF families only. There was a great turnout with well over 100 people in attendance.</li> <li>- The ice skating rink was rented for \$600. This event in particular brought in \$1600. Admission to the event included entry to the rink and free skate rentals. The PTO also sold hot chocolate for \$1 at the event. Thank you to those who volunteered to sell hot chocolate.</li> </ul> <p><u>Teacher Appreciation Lunch Sponsored by 2nd Grade Families</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lindsay Walsh spoke.</li> <li>- The 2nd grade sponsored teacher appreciation luncheon took place on Friday, Feb. 6. Families were generous with their donations allowing teachers and staff to enjoy some homemade meals and a catered lunch from Villa Maria.</li> <li>- There was good feedback from teachers. They especially appreciated the to-go containers that were available to them. A special thanks to Mrs. Gutierrez who helped with cleaning up.</li> </ul> <p><u>Valentine's Day Babysitting Night at Amerikick</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Megan Coopersmith and Kristen Paladino spoke.</li> <li>- The PTO organized a babysitting night at Amerikick on Saturday, Feb. 14. It was a fun event with board breaking as the highlight. Kids were able to enjoy karate, games and dinner.</li> <li>- The owner of the location, Vince, offered to donate to PTO for anyone who signed up for Amerikick at the event.</li> </ul> <p><u>Science Night</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ilana Hernandez spoke.</li> <li>- Science Night took place on Thursday, Feb. 26. This year the theme was animal science. Families were able to enjoy different animal themed</li> </ul>

	<p>experiments, activities and games. Kids were given junior explorer notepads and stickers upon arrival encouraging them to visit the different activities including the 3rd Grade Science Fair.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The 3rd Grade Science Fair is also hosted during this event. This year 33 third graders presented their science projects. Each third grader was given a scientist badge, certificate and ribbon.</li> <li>- The 3rd Grade Fundraising table was also present at the event. They were selling pretzels and baked goods to help raise funds for the 3rd grade party.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Ongoing Events</b></p> <p>Respective Chairs</p>	<p><u>Book Exchange Collection</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Petra Crevier spoke.</li> <li>- The PTO is collecting books for the annual Book Exchange all year round. Donations for used books in good condition can be left in the labeled bin in the vestibule at the front entryway of the school.</li> <li>- There is a need for chapter books and informational books. These are typically limited for students because there typically aren't enough. Board books for Pre-K students are also welcome.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Upcoming Events</b></p> <p>Respective Chairs</p>	<p><u>Coin Wars</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Nicole Bottrel spoke.</li> <li>- The PTO's annual Coin Wars are taking place from March 2 to March 27.</li> <li>- All grade levels are welcome to participate and send in coins or paper bills. The grade with the most money wins a pajama day with extra recess and popsicles. This is typically a fun competition.</li> </ul> <p><u>Book Exchange</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Petra Crevier spoke.</li> <li>- Book Exchange will be taking place later this week on Friday, Mar. 6. Students are invited to take up to 5 "new to them" books home with them to keep.</li> </ul>

### Teacher Appreciation Lunch Sponsored by 1st Grade Families

- Petra Crevier spoke.
- The next teacher appreciation luncheon will take place on Tuesday, Mar. 10 and is sponsored by 1st grade families.
- The lunch will be St. Patrick's Day themed with food catered by Wood Craft Catering.
- Presently, there is a need for homemade or store bought dishes to supplement the catered food. There is also a need for volunteers to help with set up and clean up.

### Multicultural Night

- Petra Crevier and Ilana Hernandez spoke.
- The PTO's 3rd annual Multicultural Night is taking place on Wednesday, Mar. 25 from 6pm to 8pm.
- As this is an event that focuses on sharing within the community, all attendees must RSVP and indicate if they are hosting an informational table, bringing a dish or volunteering their time.
- Students will each get a passport and take a passport photo. They will use that passport to travel around the tables that will be located in the gym to collect passport stickers.
- Food tastings and cultural performances will take place in the All Purpose Room. Music requests are needed for our volunteer DJ.
- Families are encouraged to come in clothing that represents their heritage or country to be entered into a raffle.

### Adults Only Night at River Horse Brewery

- Kristen Paladino spoke.
- Based on feedback from a survey that was sent out to BF families at the end of last school year, the PTO is hosting its first adult socialization event: Adults Only Night at River Horse Brewery on Saturday, Apr. 11 from 6pm to 9pm. This event is for BF families only. Age: 21+
- Admission: \$25 per person - includes dinner, desserts, nonalcoholic drinks, trivia and an exclusive tour of the brewery. This event is BYOB (no beer).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There will also be raffles: 50/50, door price and tricky tray with prizes like private book fair shopping, front row tickets for the Kindergarten and 1st grade concerts, etc.</li> <li>- Families are encouraged to sign up by Friday, Mar. 20 to be entered for a chance to win two FREE drink tickets.</li> <li>- FINAL <a href="#">RSVP</a> date: Sunday, Apr. 5</li> </ul>
<p><b>Updates</b></p> <p>Respective Chairs</p>	<p><u>3rd Grade Committee</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Megan Coopersmith spoke.</li> <li>- The 3rd Grade Committee met and separated into subcommittees. There have been a number of fundraisers thus far to supplement the cost of yearbook, gift, and party. At this time, more fundraising is needed to meet the goal of \$1k.</li> <li>- The 3rd grade class gift will be a t-shirt. Presently, the committee is considering different ideas and looking for options.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Treasurer's Report</b></p> <p>Kristen Paladino</p>	<p><i>*Please scroll to the end of the Meeting Minutes for Kristen's Treasurer's Report</i></p>
<p><b>Questions or Comments</b></p> <p>All</p>	<p><u>Comment:</u> There has been a change to this month's treasurer's report. An event for event expense vs. income breakdown will be provided for families to look over.</p>
<p><b>Next Meeting</b></p>	<p><b>Monday, April 13, 2026 at 7pm (virtual)</b></p>

### 3/2/26 Summary

1. Spirit Wear Commission: \$223
  
2. BF at Iceland Summary: Expenses \$603 (\$600 for rental); Income \$1654; Net: \$1050!
  
3. Amerikick Summary: Expenses \$73; Income \$330; Net: \$257
  
4. Began spending on Science Night (\$49), bought Cotton Candy Supplies (\$73) and celebrated School Counselor Day. We also purchased a Dunk Tank-like contraption for Field Day (Teacher Request Approved).
5. Additional Deposits: \$20 Donation from Amerikick, \$731 for 3 3rd Grade Fundraisers.

Teacher Appreciation Monthly		
September		
October		
November		
December	\$ 230.41	Chocolate Bar
January		
February		
March		
April		
May		
June		
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 230.41</b>	
<b>Budget</b>	<b>\$ 400.00</b>	
<b>Remaining</b>	<b>\$ 169.59</b>	

# Ben Franklin PTO 2025-2026

\*\*as of 3/2/26

## Budget Categories

<b>Income Categories</b>	24-25 Actual	25-26 Recommer	Actual 25-26	Dif
Cash Donations	\$ 3,235.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,085.00	\$ 85.00
Coin Wars Income	\$ 1,454.53	\$ 1,500.00	\$ -	\$ (1,500.00)
Fun Run Income	\$ 841.50	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 840.75	\$ (159.25)
Dine to Donate Income	\$ 700.85	\$ 750.00	\$ 570.14	\$ (179.86)
End of Year Carnival Income	\$ 2,894.50	\$ 3,000.00	\$ -	\$ (3,000.00)
Fall Fest Income	\$ 1,411.35	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,706.40	\$ 206.40
Fundraising Activity Income	\$ 3,549.90	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 4,949.15	\$ (50.85)
Other Income	\$ 5.20	\$ -	\$ 2,502.18	\$ 2,502.18
PNO Income		\$ 2,500.00	\$ 50.00	\$ (2,450.00)
Raffle/Gaming Income	\$ 2,483.35	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 1,676.50	\$ (1,323.50)
Scholastic Book Fair Deposits	\$ 8,142.93	\$ 8,800.00	\$ 4,796.31	\$ (4,003.69)
Spirit Wear Income	\$ 4,932.53	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,767.25	\$ 1,267.25
Third Grade Party Fundraising	\$ 1,763.50	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 786.36	\$ (213.64)
Trenton Thunder Income	\$ 2,715.00	\$ 2,750.00	\$ -	\$ (2,750.00)
Holiday Shop Income	\$ 2,100.45	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,716.95	
<b>Expense Categories</b>	24-25 Actual	25-26 Recommer	Actual 25-26	Dif
Assemblies	\$ 1,520.00	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 1,810.00	\$ (10.00)
Bank Fees	\$ 172.29	\$ 175.00	\$ 182.36	\$ (7.36)
Coin Wars Expenses	\$ 55.96	\$ 50.00	\$ -	\$ 50.00
Fun Run Expenses	\$ 429.78	\$ 500.00	\$ 174.31	\$ 325.69
End of Year Carnival Expenses	\$ 2,911.46	\$ 2,500.00	\$ -	\$ 2,500.00
Fall Fest Expenses	\$ 1,249.78	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 1,118.13	\$ 131.87
Fundraising Activity Expenses	\$ 684.73	\$ 1,350.00	\$ 1,288.55	\$ 61.45
Insurance Expenses	\$ 487.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 516.00	\$ (16.00)
Misc Family School Activities	\$ 418.99	\$ 50.00	\$ -	\$ 50.00
Misc In-School Activities Expenses	\$ 16.75	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
No-Cost Family Events		\$ 650.00	\$ 139.46	\$ 510.54
Operating Expenses	\$ 883.74	\$ 850.00	\$ 1,487.04	\$ (637.04)
Other Expenses	\$ 39.00	\$ -	\$ 203.74	\$ (203.74)
PNO Expenses		\$ 1,000.00	\$ 286.77	\$ 713.23
PTO Gift to School	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00
Scholarships	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Scholastic Book Fair Expenses	\$ 6,651.03	\$ 900.00	\$ 196.07	\$ 703.93
Scholastic Book Fair Payment		\$ 6,500.00	\$ 2,566.73	\$ 3,933.27
Science Night		\$ 400.00	\$ 208.28	\$ 191.72
Screen Free Week Expenses	\$ 286.52	\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$ 200.00
Student Appreciation	\$ 298.51	\$ 500.00	\$ 197.00	\$ 303.00
Teacher Appreciation Activity	\$ 2,245.29	\$ 1,400.00	\$ 765.52	\$ 634.48
Teacher Appreciation Week		\$ 1,250.00	\$ -	\$ 1,250.00
Teacher Request Fund	\$ 614.66	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 825.92	\$ 174.08
Third Grade End of Year	\$ 5,382.62	\$ 4,786.36	\$ 393.84	\$ 4,392.52
Trenton Thunder Expenses	\$ 1,596.00	\$ 1,750.00	\$ 700.00	\$ 1,050.00
Trunk or Treat	\$ 150.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 106.90	\$ 93.10
Holiday Shop Expenses	\$ 1,888.65	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,492.12	\$ 7.88

Income Total	\$ 36,230.59	\$ 25,446.99
Expenses Total	\$ 28,182.76	\$ 14,758.74
NET	\$ 8,047.83	\$ 10,688.25

Type	Event Name	Date / Date Concluded	Budget / Amount Expected	Amount Spent	Amount Spent vs. Budget	Amount Collected	NET
Fundraiser	Fall Spirit Wear	11/10/2025				\$ 1,544.25	\$ 1,544.25
Fundraiser	Coin Wars		\$ 50.00		\$ 50.00		-
Fundraiser	Ice Cream Social	9/24/2025	\$ 300.00	\$ 240.35	\$ 59.65	\$ 350.50	\$ 110.15
Fundraiser	Fall Fest	10/5/2025	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 1,118.13	\$ 131.87	\$ 2,524.40	\$ 1,406.27
FREE Family Event	Trunk or Treat	10/24/2025	\$ 150.00	\$ 106.90	\$ 43.10		(106.90)
Fundraiser	Fall Book Fair	11/25/2025	\$ 450.00	\$ 196.07	\$ 253.93	\$ 2,229.58	\$ 2,033.51
Fundraiser	Holiday Shop	12/5/2025	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,492.12	\$ 7.88	\$ 2,716.95	\$ 1,224.83
FREE Family Event	Multicultural Night	3/25/2026	\$ 400.00		\$ 400.00		-
Fundraiser	Movie Night	1/23/2026	\$ 500.00	\$ 371.02	\$ 128.98	\$ 1,098.15	\$ 727.13
FREE Family Event	Science Night	2/26/2026	\$ 400.00		\$ 400.00		-
Fundraiser	Spring Spirit Wear						-
Fundraiser	Fun Run	11/22/2025	\$ 500.00	\$ 174.31	\$ 325.69	\$ 840.75	\$ 666.44
Fundraiser	Teacher Experience Raffles	11/22/2025				\$ 856.50	\$ 856.50
Fundraiser	Spring Book Fair		\$ 450.00		\$ 450.00		-
PTO Gift to Teachers/Staff	Teacher Appreciation Week		\$ 1,250.00		\$ 1,250.00		-
FREE Family Event	Family Pizza Night (BINGO)	5/6/2026	\$ 200.00		\$ 200.00		-
Fundraiser	Spring Carnival		\$ 2,500.00		\$ 2,500.00		-
Fundraiser	Trenton Thunder		\$ 1,750.00		\$ 1,750.00		-
PTO Gift to Students	Third Grade Party	as of 3/2/26	\$ 400.00		\$ 400.00	\$ 786.36	\$ 786.36
PTO Gift to Students	Assemblies		\$ 1,800.00	\$ 1,810.00	\$ (10.00)		(1,810.00)
FREE Family Event	Service Project (3rd Grade)				\$ -		-
Fundraiser	Amenkick PNO February	2/14/2026	\$ 200.00	\$ 72.98	\$ 127.02	\$ 330.00	\$ 257.02
Fundraiser	Charleston Wrap	12/24/2025				\$ 1,401.50	\$ 1,401.50
FREE Family Event	Popsicles on the Playground/2 Chalk the Walks		\$ 250.00		\$ 250.00		-
PTO Gift to Students	Book Exchange				\$ -		-
PTO Gift to Teachers/Staff	PTO Gift to School		\$ 1,000.00		\$ 1,000.00		-
PTO Gift to Students	HS Scholarships		\$ 200.00		\$ 200.00		-
PTO Gift to Students	Student Appreciation		\$ 500.00		\$ 500.00		-
PTO Gift to Teachers/Staff	Other Teacher Appreciation		\$ 1,400.00		\$ 1,400.00		-
PTO Gift to Teachers/Staff	Teacher Request Fund		\$ 1,000.00		\$ 1,000.00		-
PTO Gift to Students	Third Grade Yearbooks		\$ 2,600.00		\$ 2,600.00		-
PTO Gift to Students	Third Grade Gift		\$ 1,000.00		\$ 1,000.00		-
Operational Expenses/Supplies	Bank Fees	as of 2/18/26	\$ 175.00	\$ 177.47	\$ (2.47)		(177.47)
Fundraiser	Donations	as of 2/18/26				\$ 3,065.00	\$ 3,065.00
Fundraiser	Dine to Donate	as of 2/18/26				\$ 570.14	\$ 570.14
Operational Expenses/Supplies	Registrations/Subscriptions	as of 2/18/26	\$ 478.00	\$ 618.26	\$ (140.26)		(618.26)
Operational Expenses/Supplies	Stationery/Stamps				\$ -		-
Operational Expenses/Supplies	All-Event Supplies	as of 2/18/26	\$ 372.00	\$ 796.23	\$ (424.23)		(796.23)
Fundraiser	Concert Raffles	as of 2/18/26				\$ 115.00	\$ 115.00
Operational Expenses/Supplies	Insurance Expense	1/13/2026	\$ 500.00	\$ 516.00	\$ (16.00)		(516.00)
Fundraiser	Winter Spirit Wear	2/16/2026				\$ 223.00	\$ 223.00
Fundraiser	Brewery PNO	4/11/2026	\$ 1,500.00		\$ 1,500.00		-
Fundraiser	Ice Skating @ Iceland	2/6/2026	\$ 550.00	\$ 603.20	\$ (53.20)	\$ 1,654.00	\$ 1,050.80
Fundraiser	Double Good Popcorn						-
				<b>Amount Spent So Far This Year</b>	\$ 8,293.04		
						<b>How Much we Brought In So Far</b>	
						\$ 12,013.04	<b>NET So Far</b>

Notes

Notes 2

\*\$689 from NEW Sales; Remainder from selling old inventor

\*\$820 was from Raffles offered at Fall Fest

\*add Fundraised Amount to Budget once finalized

How we are SPENDING Money

<b>Row Labels</b>	<b>Sum of Amount Spent</b>
FREE Family Event	106.9
Fundraiser	4268.18
Operational Expenses/Supplies	2107.96
PTO Gift to Students	1810
PTO Gift to Teachers/Staff	
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>8293.04</b>