

Broadneck Elementary School Monthly PTO Meeting Minutes

September 8, 2026

Meeting called to order at: 7:00 pm

Attendance:

- Board Officers in Attendance: Paige Skrickus, Shannon VanHoesen, Meagan DiSalvo, Nina Adams, Cindy Sumner, Ms. Noe
- Additional attendance: About another 25-30 virtual attendees.

o Officers Reports:

a. President (Paige Skrickus):

- Welcome message
- PTO Meetings are normally held virtually on the first Tuesday of the month. There is the option of in-person if there is a special topic or speaker. This month's meeting was shifted a week due to Back to School Night. November's meeting will also be on the second Tuesday of the month, due to election day. Meetings are at 7pm and open to all BES community members.
- A new spirit wear store is open through October 5th. The link was shared in the weekly newsletter and will be posted on the Facebook page. The store features kids' and adult sizes at various price points: short sleeve, long sleeve, hoodies, and music shirts (yellow tie-dye). The school has moved to a new female-owned local vendor with competitive pricing. Orders will be printed within 2–3 weeks after the store closes and distributed through the school.
- Picture Day Thursday, September 10th
- Principal Miller proposed a shade structure for the playground due to limited shade for students. The structure must comply with county regulations: it must be a steel structure (12x12 or 20x20), installed on poured concrete or rubber surfacing, and sourced from one of only two county-approved vendors. One bid came in at \$41,000, not including architectural drawings or permitting costs. Any school improvement over \$25,000 requires Board of Education approval. The PTO is concerned about fundraising for a specific item that could stall in the approval process. A second bid is pending. Alternatives discussed include framing the fundraising goal as broader "playground upgrades," which could include the shade structure, improvements to the younger kids' playground, or the basketball court area. A multi-year fundraising approach was also considered.

b. Vice President (Cindy Sumner):

- Review committees and their heads. Present committee heads spoke, see notes below.

c. Treasurer (Nina Adams) **TO SPEAK AT END**

- The updated teacher reimbursement form was sent to Mrs. Miller and will be posted on the PTO website. The PTO budget was worked on over the summer with the board and is nearly finalized; Nina will send the final version to the board for a vote.

o School Administration and Faculty Reports:

a. Assistant Principal (Ms. Kristen Noe): Assistant Principal's Update

- Assistant Principal Ms. Noe presented on behalf of Principal Miller.
- The school year started smoothly with a successful visit from Superintendent Dr. Bedell and approximately 7–8 staff on the first Friday back.
- MCAP data shows a dip at Broadneck, consistent with a county-wide trend; the school will focus on math instruction and test-taking skills. The upcoming standardized test is transitioning to a new format.

- iReady diagnostic testing is underway in grades 1–5 for a baseline.
- DIBELS (phonemic awareness/phonics) testing is upcoming.
- KRA (Kindergarten Readiness Assessment) is in progress for kindergarteners.
- Arrival reminders: car riders must stay in cars; parents who exit should use the lower/first left lot; dogs are not permitted on school property during student hours.
- Dismissal reminders: no early dismissals after 2pm; parents should stand on the grass, not the front sidewalk, to allow safe student egress.
- A new initiative called "From a Schoolhouse to Your House" aims to hold mini workshops/sessions connecting families to school happenings; the school is seeking community input on desired topics via social media or email.
- Lettie coordinated the Toastique luncheon and back to school gifts for staff and it was much appreciated.
- 50th anniversary celebration coming up!
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b. Teachers Reports:

- **Mrs Welsh (music):**
- Band, strings, chorus, and theater club all begin the following week.
- Enrollment: 80 students in band, 93 in strings, 57 fourth graders in chorus (over half the grade), and 52 fifth graders in chorus (just under half).
- The school musical this year is The Little Mermaid, with the show in February.
- A children's residency grant was written by Mrs. Welsh; the residency will take place in April at the request of classroom teachers.
- Cultural arts staffing changed this year: part-time teachers are now present one day per week instead of two. As a result, third, fourth, and fifth grade classes have music and PE in one-hour blocks on alternating days rather than two 30-minute sessions per week. Some classes split instruction between two teachers (e.g., Ms. Roselle and Mrs. Welsh for music; Ms. V and Ms. Shuck for PE).
- Mrs. Welsh has submitted the full music events calendar to the PTO.
- The music department will also contribute to the 50th Anniversary celebration with performances and work on the school song.
- **Mrs. Wakshul (50th celebration):** Broadneck Elementary turns 50 this year!
- The celebration is set for Friday, November 13th, with a one-hour daytime assembly for students and an evening community celebration.
- The committee met for the first time the Thursday before the PTO meeting and is meeting again with Paige and Nina that Thursday to finalize details.
- The Fun Run T-shirts will feature the 50th anniversary and students are expected to wear them the day of the celebration.
- Ideas include: a slideshow using scanned old photos and yearbooks (community members are asked to donate or loan old yearbooks), alumni outreach for donations toward a legacy gift or school upgrades (potentially the shade structure??), possible sale of extra Fun Run T-shirts at the evening event as a PTO fundraiser, and community beautification efforts around the building.
- PTO support is requested for decorating and setup of the evening event.
- Mrs. Welsh's chorus and other music groups may perform during the daytime assembly and potentially the evening event.
- The school song is also being revived for the occasion.

o Standing Committee Reports

a. Boosterthon (Christine M.):

- Over \$14,000 was raised in sponsorships — more than previous years — with 100% of sponsorship money going directly to the school (Boosterthon takes none). New and returning sponsors contributed, including a referral from Ms. Tanis's brother.
- The Fun Run is on October 9th.
- Fundraising kickoff with students begins around October 1st–2nd.
- The Fun Run shirt incorporates Broadneck's 50th anniversary. Shirts are expected to arrive by the end of September.
- This year, Boosterthon is shifting from distributing many small prizes throughout the event to a points-based system where families redeem points for one large prize or several smaller ones, shipped directly to school — reducing volunteer distribution burden.
- Boosterthon is partnering with Great Wolf Lodge: students who sign up and receive their first donation earn "wolf ears," and if the school reaches its overall goal, all students registered for Boosterthon receive a free day pass.
- Businesses can still sponsor during the fundraising period and have their name appear on the Boosterthon website.

b. Fall Festival (Bri. T)

- Rachel McMahon is the primary committee lead. Brianna Tracy-Sawdey and Caitlin Smith are co-leads.
- Fall Festival is October 3rd, noon to 3pm (shortened from last year's 11am–3pm to ease adult volunteer recruitment).
- Over 20 craft vendors confirmed after a post in an Anne Arundel County craft Facebook group; vendors paid \$25 each to reserve space.
- PTO is fronting the cost of the moon bounce/obstacle course since Boosterthon sponsorship outreach is happening simultaneously, limiting business donations.
- Revenue sources: vendor fees and raffle ticket sales.
- Food trucks confirmed: Chevy's, Sweet Satisfaction and one other.
- Student volunteers from National Honor Society at the middle and high school are confirmed. Adult volunteers are urgently needed for setup, teardown, and monitoring student volunteers. A SignUpGenius will be posted.
- An Amazon Wish List has been posted on the PTO Facebook page for supply donations. Last year, every child received a punch card and earned a prize (e.g., slime, resin animals) by completing 9 games/crafts.

c. Restaurant Nights (Melissa P)

- Confirmed restaurant nights: Spizzaco 9/23, Broadneck Grill 11/11, The Point 3/22
- Vida Taco guest bartender night is being targeted for December — Melissa is monitoring their Instagram for scheduling. Chipotle is planned for January or February (they only book within 120 days of the event date); they are easy to work with and give a high percentage back. Rita's was moved from September (poor turnout due to rain in past two years) to Spring when they re-open. Ledo's reached out but was voted against due to its less convenient location further up Route 2 and historically low returns. Froyo House was intentionally left for the music department.
- Chick-fil-A was suggested by a community member; it has been done in past years and they used to send the cow mascot to school for hype. The group is open to suggestions for additional restaurant partners.

d. Fifth Grade (Susan Ellis)

- Sue Camper will send out a Google Form to all fifth grade parents via Facebook, the newsletter, and the Bee's Buzz to recruit subcommittee heads and general volunteers. The committee reviewed last year's Google Drive materials from Sherry to identify all subcommittees.
- Confirmed upcoming events: Lucky Draw Table at the Fall Festival (serves as a fundraiser, with teacher-donated prizes like lunch bunches or breakfast with friends), Glow Dance (aiming for November — moved earlier from recent years to avoid conflict with the school play in February and the Broadneck Ball in March), and end-of-year events including promotion, pool party, legacy gift, spirit week, T-shirts, and yard signs.
- Mrs. Fitzpatrick is the teacher liaison for the fifth grade committee. The committee noted the 50th Anniversary celebration is November 13th and will plan the Glow Dance around that date.

Open Discussion

- Christine McDowell proposed creating a vinyl banner listing all Boosterthon sponsors to display at the Fun Run and future PTO events. The idea was motivated by wanting to visibly recognize the generosity of sponsors beyond the shirt logo. Christine agreed to research costs and report back.
- Paige Skrickus raised a concern on behalf of her fourth grader: the Gaga ball pit grass is overgrown, preventing students from playing. Ms. Noe acknowledged the issue and agreed to find out when it will be addressed. Paige's husband offered to cut the grass if given the gate code.
- Mrs. Wakshul (Angela Wakshul) was announced as Broadneck Elementary's Teacher of the Year!

Meeting called at: 7:50