SEDGEFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL
PTO BOARD MEETING MINUTES

October 7, 2026 | In-person Meeting

Meeting Attendees
PTO Board members, Chrissy Brown, Bethany Michael, Lynne McDonald, Sara Boehm, Margaret Willoughby, Evonne Peterson

Meeting Facilitators
Bethany Michael and Chrissy Brown, Co-Presidents

Welcome and Call to Order
- The October PTO Board meeting was called to order.
- A motion was made and seconded to approve the September 2026 PTO Board meeting minutes. The motion was carried, and the minutes were approved.

Staff Update
Evonne Peterson, Art Teacher / PTO Staff Representative
- Students are expected to complete at least 30 minutes of i-Ready each week in both ELA and math.
- The weekly goal is to complete at least two i-Ready lessons. Students should use the class time available to them to meet the required minutes and lesson goals.
- A dashboard data glitch is affecting how some i-Ready information continues to populate. Staff members are aware of the issue and are continuing to monitor student progress.

Budget Update
- The PTO has collected approximately 68% of its budgeted revenue and spent approximately 17% of its annual expense budget.
- Approximately $80,000 has been raised overall. Change Wars generated approximately $1,600, and the combined spirit-night proceeds discussed were less than $1,000.
- Sparty Party expenses are approximately $2,600. Approximately $1,100–$1,200 had been recouped at the time of the meeting.
- Upcoming expenses include approximately $1,700 for walkie-talkies, about $400 for coaches' shirts and about $300 for cookies.
- The holiday gift-card line is budgeted at $1,125, compared with approximately $2,291 spent last year. With an estimated 80–90 staff members, the Board discussed increasing the amount to approximately $2,125 so each staff member can receive a more meaningful gift card.
- Approximately $25,960 is budgeted across field trips, transportation and eighth-grade support. The Board discussed using part of the available budget for on-campus enrichment that could reduce transportation costs and reach students effectively.
- Potential enrichment programs include age-appropriate speakers, performers, magicians or mentalists. The programs should engage middle-school students and avoid content designed for younger children.
- A Board member volunteered to research options and pricing, review providers contacted in prior years and coordinate with the enrichment committee before anything is scheduled.

Bell Schedule Discussion
- The Board continued discussing the CMS proposal to move Sedgefield to a 9:15 a.m.–4:15 p.m. schedule and the best timing for Sedgefield representatives to speak at a CMS Board of Education meeting.
- Greg Skidmore is helping refine the advocacy strategy and seeking district guidance about which arguments and proposed solutions will be most effective. One alternative discussed was offering an earlier start, such as 7:15 a.m., instead of moving to the late schedule.
- The message should emphasize Sedgefield's school-specific circumstances: it is a diverse, high-achieving neighborhood middle school with strong family involvement, and repeated operational and boundary changes make sustained academic progress more difficult.
- Approximately 32% of students ride the bus in the morning, with ridership increasing in the afternoon, and the school uses 12 buses. Transportation has not provided the requested on-time performance data for the 9:15 a.m.–4:15 p.m. tier.
- Mary Lott continues supporting the effort and created the petition. The advocacy group is seeking representative voices, including a Spanish-speaking family member, students, a coach and representation connected to Charles H. Parker. Recruitment will remain strategic at this stage.

Calendar Review
- Friday, October 9 – Sparty Party at OMB.
- October 14 – Early release and Shake Shack spirit day at Park Road Shopping Center.
- October 16 – Fall Fest; final event details and volunteer coverage are being completed.
- October 21 – Picture Day

October 30- first quarter ends
- November 4 – Next PTO Board meeting.
- November 17 – Prospective Parent Open House.
- November 20 – Charlotte Fine shopping event. The event is expected to return approximately 20% of purchases to Sedgefield; the business also donated to the Sparty Party auction.

Round Table Updates
Athletics
- Golf and volleyball were both undefeated at the time of the meeting, and the golf team recently celebrated a notable win.

- Winter sports tryouts are expected around mid-November, but dates have not been finalized.
- Winter and spring equipment orders are being finalized. Track uniforms and baseball hats may require additional PTO support.

Family Engagement and Blue Out

- Blue Out had a strong turnout and was viewed as a successful way to bring families together around athletics.
- FBLA managed pizza sales and shared proceeds with the PTO. A running clock shortened the game and reduced the selling time originally expected by FBLA and Kona Ice.
- The group discussed repeating the family-athletics concept in the spring around soccer and baseball, with the opponent and event format to be determined.

Men of Sedgefield and Mentoring

- Men of Sedgefield does not currently have a formal chair. Existing program shirts are available, and the Board will identify a volunteer to help organize the group.
- One option is a monthly adult-volunteer presence during HHC or recess, with volunteers engaging students in games and activities and encouraging students from different groups to interact.
- The Board also discussed a buddy or mentoring program and opportunities for male role models to be present on campus. Activities may include other adult volunteers when appropriate.
- A Donuts with Grownups event could serve as a kickoff, but parking, timing and location must be evaluated. A before-school format could reduce the chance that students feel singled out based on whether a parent can attend.

Fall Fest

- The current Fall Fest budget is $1,200. Final expenses will be reviewed before recommending a future budget; approximately $1,500 was discussed as a possible amount for next year.
- Two inflatable games were selected instead of three to control costs. The photo booth used previously is unavailable, so the inflatables and other activities will help fill the field.
- Planned offerings include a cakewalk, candy, popcorn and Kona Ice. Families will purchase Kona Ice directly.
- The event needs approximately 20 volunteer shifts in addition to setup and cleanup help. About six shifts were filled at the time of the meeting. A standalone ParentSquare request may be sent if openings remain.
- The committee needs confirmation of the administrator on duty, security or officer payment procedures, the vendor-tipping policy and access to the school popcorn machine.
- Current committee members should be copied on coordination emails so they can follow the planning process and carry the event forward in future years.

PTO Communications

- The PTO website is generally current. Board members should send outdated information to Lauren so it can be corrected promptly.
- The PTO email account should be used when the communication history will help future Board members. Individual officers may also be copied directly when timely follow-up is needed.

Staff Support

- A Coca-Cola product donation request has been submitted and is awaiting approval. Donated drinks may support the holiday lunch and other school events.
- The staff holiday lunch is generally held in mid-December before winter break. The date must be coordinated with school administration, and holiday gift cards are typically distributed at the lunch.
- Johnson and Wales may provide food donations several times during the year. Future pickups should be coordinated with staff-support volunteers and school administration so the food can be arranged and distributed promptly.
- The donated mums were distributed to staff and were very well received. A poinsettia donation is also expected for the holiday season.

Leadership Continuity

- For continuity, future president-elects should become involved early in Empowering Extraordinary, consistent with prior PTO practice.

Next Steps and Closing

- Continue refining the bell-schedule message, request late-tier bus data, clarify the approval process and determine the best CMS Board meeting for Sedgefield representatives to attend.
- Identify additional bell-schedule speakers and consider a family survey about bus use if the schedule changes.
- Confirm winter sports tryout dates and any PTO support needed for track uniforms and baseball hats.
- Recruit the remaining Fall Fest volunteers and confirm administrative coverage, security arrangements, payment procedures, popcorn-machine access and vendor policies.
- Research on-campus enrichment programs and pricing with the enrichment committee.
- Select a date for the staff holiday lunch and finalize the holiday gift-card budget.
- Improve coordination for the next Johnson and Wales donation pickup and distribution.
- Explore a chair and monthly activity format for Men of Sedgefield, along with possible mentoring and Donuts with Grownups events.
- The next PTO Board meeting is November 4, 2026.