

Ludlow Taylor Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization

November 6, 2025

Meeting opened at 6:06pm

PTO Present: Lissell, Woodburn, Zlotnick, Pippinger, Orshefsky

School staff present: Dr. Miller, Ms. Watson, Mr. Stafford

Estimated community attendance: 25

Welcome & Opening Remarks (Lisell)

PTO President, opened the meeting with a warm welcome to families and staff in attendance.

School Updates (Presented by Mr. Barnes and Dr. Miller)

- **Art Night:** *Art Night* is coming up on **Tuesday, December 9**, and will feature beautiful artwork from students across all grades. Families are encouraged to stop by and celebrate our young artists! 6:15-8PM
- **Winter Musical Performance:** The winter show, *December in Our Town*, will take place on **Thursday, December 11**, highlighting our PK–2nd grade performers. Grades 3–5 will have their musical showcase later this school year. 6:15-8PM
- **School Tours:** Tours for prospective families will be held on **December 19, February 9, and March 11**. Please share these dates with friends or neighbors who might be interested in joining the Ludlow-Taylor community.
- **Security Enhancements:** The school is reviewing its building safety measures. Door alarms in the multipurpose room are being inspected, and new cameras will be added on the Morris Street side to help strengthen campus security.
- **Construction Update:** The expansion project remains on schedule to open new spaces after winter break! Interior renovations are underway, the exterior façade will be finished later this month, and rooftop work is planned for December while students are off for the holidays.
- **Eco-Compliant Supplies:** The school is reviewing all classroom and cleaning supplies to make sure they meet environmental and safety standards. Moving forward, only “green,” eco-friendly products will be used throughout the building.
- **Health Update – Lice Awareness:** There’s been a slight uptick in lice cases, likely from shared hats and jackets during the colder weather. Families are asked to keep an eye out for signs of itching or scratching and to let teachers or class parents know if a case is confirmed so the school can increase cleaning as needed.
- ** Leadership team left after their updates and short Q&A

PTO Updates (Presented by Andrea Lisell)

- Andrea Lisell opened by taking a moment of gratitude, thanking parents and community members for their incredible dedication and volunteer support through a busy month of field trips and school events.
- **Facilities & Repairs:** The PTO has been tracking and following up on DGS tickets for school repairs and maintenance. Several have been successfully resolved, and others are scheduled for completion soon. Families interested in construction updates can view the recent FIT team presentation on the school website.
- **Lost & Found Refresh:** The PTO is exploring a proposal to refresh the Lost and Found area, including clearer grade- and class-based labeling for portable items. Parent feedback

will help determine whether there's community support—both financial and volunteer—to move this project forward.

- **Learning Labs with Dr. Miller:** The first *Learning Lab- "Score Sense"* will take place on **November 18**, focusing on understanding and interpreting student testing results. Future sessions will each center on a specific topic to help families engage more deeply with the school's academic programs.

SY25-26 PTO Communications and Calendar of Events (Emily Woodburn)

The November calendar went home in student backpacks earlier this week. A few additional dates will be added and shared digitally for everyone's convenience:

- ❖ 2nd Grade Field Trip: November 14
 - ❖ Learning Lab: November 18
 - ❖ No TFS Clubs: November 24
 - ❖ No TFS Clubs or Before/After Care: November 25
- New Giveback Opportunity at Fresca: On November 7–8, Fresca will host "Margaritas on a Mission", donating 10% of all checks mentioning "Ludlow-Taylor" back to the PTO. All funds raised will go directly toward purchasing grocery gift cards for families in need this Thanksgiving. Families who can't attend can also contribute directly to the grocery card fund.
 - Direct Gift Card Donations: Families are also welcome to donate \$25 grocery gift cards directly to Mr. Stafford for distribution to community members who need extra support. Based on the current needs, the number of Thanksgiving baskets is expected to be noticeably higher than in previous years.
 - Thanksgiving Dessert Potluck: Mark your calendars — the annual Thanksgiving Dessert Potluck will be held on November 20! Sign-ups will open online soon for families who'd like to contribute a sweet treat.

PTO Financial Updates (Lauren Pippenger)

Brief update on the recent PTO spending. The PTO covered costs for the staff lounge refreshments, teachers campaigns in Donors Choose, printing and copying supplies for the school, movie night, and various needs across the school.

Parents should be aware that the PTO has set up a new form for expenses that need reimbursement from PTO funds. The link is available upon request to ptotreasurer@ludlowtaylor.org, and requires a receipt image for payment to be issued.

LSAT (Beth O'Connor)

The LSAT has been focused on addressing the ongoing vacancy in the Speech-Language Pathologist position, which continues to affect the IEP services of more than 50 students across the school. The team has been carefully documenting the situation and communicating with DCPS to advocate for an immediate placement.

To strengthen this effort, the LSAT has drafted a letter to DCPS requesting that these legally required services be restored without further delay. The committee will be seeking parent signatures in support of this appeal before the letter is submitted.

Family Leadership: Committee Updates (Committee Leads or PTO)

- **Spirit & Swag:** The cold-weather apparel store will open later in November, with all orders delivered before winter break so students and families can enjoy cozy new gear.
- **Teacher & Staff Appreciation:** The committee is inviting parents to complete a short survey to share thanks and praise for teachers and staff at all levels of the school. Your feedback helps celebrate and recognize the dedication of our educators.
- **Grounds Committee:** The next clean-up day is scheduled for December 6 at 2 PM. Ms. Jackson is coordinating a calendar so students can help pitch in, and the committee thanks everyone who participated in last weekend's event. Families are also reminded to help ensure the playground remains locked on weekends, and there are additional projects that could benefit from volunteer energy and attention.
- **Auction:** The popular Camps+ fundraiser will return in late January. This year, it will feature early registration for summer camps, day-off camps, and special family experiences — a great way to support the PTO while planning fun activities for your children.
- **Givebacks:** In addition to Margaritas on a Mission, the PTO has a special code at Minted.com, offering both a discount for families and a donation back to the PTO fund.
- **Warrior Fund Drive:** Launching Tuesday, December 2 (Giving Tuesday), the PTO is emphasizing participation over monetary goals this year. Fun incentives will be offered for student swag and grade-level involvement, making it an engaging way for the whole school to get involved.

Lice Prevention & Updates (Laurie Burkitt)

Laurie Burkitt shared some tips on how to prevent lice outbreaks around the school, especially developing a habit of lice combs and rosemary spray before nits turn into bugs. Put brushes and combs in the freezer overnight.

Open Q&A from the Community (Andrea Lisell)

- Vision to learn: Apparently these happened? Children were given a Perfect or fantastic rating the week of Oct 20-24. If they were assigned perfect they would not need to be assessed or seen for a prescription. Fantastic needs a follow up. **During follow up students will work with staff for VtL and get assessed for the prescription. Waiting on a date for the follow up from VtL. See Principal Miller's Remind email on October 27 for info.**
- **The Evolution of Coffee Talk:** To foster greater trust and collaboration, the PTO is transitioning last year's Coffee Talk into the **LT Learning Lab**. These sessions will have a more focused format, providing a stronger foundation for meaningful conversations between school leadership and families. The PTO is also working with administration to develop additional forums that are positive, solution-oriented, and designed to encourage constructive dialogue across the community. Families who have questions or ideas are invited to email pto@ludlowtaylor.org or submit them using the new form available on the newsletter or school website.
 - Anonymous Feedback & Recurring Issues: Parents requested that the Q&A collection mechanism be revived to gather anonymous questions and track recurring concerns, even though Coffee Talk has sunsetted.

- NEW SOLUTION 11/11-Families can submit feedback via new **LT Listens: Community Questions and Concerns form** in the 11/11 newsletter or via school website.
- **Concerns of Specials Teacher Removing Recess** – Multiple parents have heard that the music teacher is discouraging or barring students from outside recess, either as a punishment for not having instrument (playing) or a scheduling matter for choir/band. Also scaring students into not forgetting supplies with disciplinary action.
 - The parent contacted the teacher and has not had a response. Parents requested to contact administrative leadership to include Dr. Miller.
 - Andrea Lisell will notify Dr. Miller as well.
- **Dismissal Procedures:** Some families have shared that the “red zone” times in the afternoon can feel a bit rigid and may not always feel community-oriented. In some cases, watching children through the window while waiting for the red zone to end can be frustrating. Other concerns included children not being able to re-enter the building for forgotten items, coordinating pick-up for multiple children (for example, between clubs and aftercare) at different doors or during missed windows, and navigating multiple entrances. Families are encouraged to reach out to TFS directly, as these procedures are part of school policy. The PTO is happy to help clarify and support communication but does not set school policies, especially those related to safety and security during transitions.
- **Construction Noise:** Parents have raised concerns about the high levels of noise from ongoing construction. The PTO and school administration have both written to the project manager to address these concerns. To support students’ learning, children have been temporarily moved to alternative spaces when noise levels are particularly disruptive. According to the project manager, there may be additional interruptions next week as work continues.
- **Lice Notification:** If your child has lice please send an email to child’s teacher and administrative team (Miller, Barnes and Watson) so they can initiate cleaning protocols and track trends.

Meeting adjourned at 7:07pm.