

**GENERAL BODY MEETING MINUTES**  
**Seaton Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization**  
**December 3, 2025**

**PTO Updates**

- EXCEEDED OUR **GIVING TUESDAY** GOAL! Thank you all for your contributions and support for the school community!

**Principal Updates**

- DC Scores Poetry Slam: team placed 3<sup>rd</sup>!
  - They've placed every year, huge shoutout to the amazing Ms. Duarte and Mr. Martinez, and thank you to all of the students who shared their stories.
- 4<sup>th</sup> graders did a great job in their performance at Banneker High
- Principal listening sessions are ongoing – please join!

**Responding to parent feedback following the November 5<sup>th</sup> lockdown**

- DCPS Instructional Superintendent Katy Larkin ([Kathryn.larkin@k12.dc.gov](mailto:Kathryn.larkin@k12.dc.gov))
  - New to Seaton this year, but 26 years in DCPS. Started at Ross, then Hearst, HD Cooke. 8<sup>th</sup> year as an Instructional Superintendent. First year with Seaton. Oversees Seaton + 13 other schools.
  - Principal Torres shared with her and DCPS communications feedback and input from the school community.
- Parent concerns and response from SI Katy Larkin:
  - Lack of clarity on who is drafting the communications
    - It comes directly from DCPS, not the school.
  - Desire to have more real time information, or at least the expectation of updates at regular intervals (e.g. 15 minutes), even if the update is simply “no new information”.
    - Unfortunately, it is not up to the school. DCPS manages communications for these types of events, and they have a rigid protocol that prioritizes sending correct information over sending timely communication.
    - We will likely need to go to the Chancelor to advocate for change.
  - Families want an update on the status of the investigation
    - None given, other than it was determined to not be a credible threat.
  - Parents had questions about why nearby Cleveland sent out more detailed communications to parents.
    - Cleveland shared different, more detailed information. These communications were not authorized by DCPS. Seaton communicated only the authorized communications.
    - Standard DCPS protocol: Once an incident has been reported to DCPS, it is the principal's job to ensure safety at the school. DCPS takes over everything else: coordinating with MDP, fire department, communicating with community, etc.
    - DCPS typically sends a message to families when a lockdown or other situation has happened, and then not again until this incident has been closed.
      - This absolutely does not work for families. We want whatever information you can give that will stop parents from assuming the worst

because in the absence of information, we will assume the worst and we will all show up at the school. Parents will share information, and it would be better for DCPS to get ahead of this by sharing more.

- Parents request that DCPS update the protocol. Suggestions include to communicate level of severity in the absence of being able to share anything else. Suggestion to at least share what is the nature of the incident - active shooter, bomb threat, etc.
  - Katy will share this information with the DCPS office of external affairs (Kera Tyler - kera.tyler@k12.dc.gov). Ultimately it is the Chancellor who determines the protocol.
  - DCPS also could convene a parent engagement event to hear from families from multiple schools that have been through this.
- Kids did not know what has happening on the time.
    - Even communicating this would have been incredibly helpful.
  - Parent interest in increasing security at the school (cameras, technology to screen phone calls, other tech that can help keep our kids safe).
    - We will have more security features with the renovated building.
    - We have cameras on the doorbell now – that is an update from last year.
  - Parents are also very concerned about the MPD response time. Both incidents, parents arrived to the school before MPD did.
    - Katy will take this feedback to the school security team, but really this is an MDP not DCPS issue.
  - From the parent perspective: the current system is not working. From the DCPS perspective, the process is fine and working very well. Parents are losing confidence based on this disconnect and DCPS seeming unwillingness to address parent concerns.

### **Modernization (more info)**

- **WE HAVE BUSSES from Seaton to the swing space!!!**
- Michelle Sterling will share information with the school community in January
- Playground final design:
  - Going with option 1
    - Looking into whether more shade is a possibility
  - Turf field
    - They have said turf is DCPS policy, even though all the other areas of the park are grass.
  - Additional green space (“K” on the map) is not included in our space
    - We are advocating very strongly to include in our space for security purposes. Swathi will send around template language, but we will need parent support here and on the turf question to outreach to DCPS and the council.
  - Putting in 40 bike parking spaces along the side of the building.
  - PK/K playground will have a fence, 7-foot fence around the rest of the playground
  - There will be water fountains.
  - No garden going in – it’s too expensive.

- Still TBD if the space will be open to the public during non-school hours.
- Mini pitch: still working on this.
- We requested DPR renovates the rest of the park during the winter so it doesn't disrupt when students are most likely to use the space. They declined to take our feedback.

### **Ward 2 Ed Council**

- Name of the middle school: please tell Anne Louise if you have strong feelings, they will be finalizing the decision soon.
- Alma Thomas probably not happening – already a Thomas.
  - Shaw Jr. High art teacher. Could incorporate her art or colors into the school.
- Roberta Flack probably not happening – she died earlier this year. Statutory requirements: needs to have been dead for 2 years.
  - Former music teacher a Banneker. Could potentially name auditorium after her.
- Probably Delores Tucker. Nadeau really wants it.
- Also need to determine the mascot and colors – survey coming soon!

### **After School Clubs**

- Fall clubs wrapping up this week and next.
- **Winter clubs schedule is posted! Sign up for teacher-led clubs by 12/12.**
  - Split roll-out of teacher-led clubs first, since typically have waitlists, followed by external vendors. You will know if your kid is in a teacher led club BEFORE registration opens for the vendor led clubs.
  - Girls on the run? TBD.
- Winter break day off camps at Seaton: [Register here](#)
  - December 22–23, 29–30, 2025 (Winter Break) **SIGN UP BEFORE DECEMBER 15<sup>th</sup>!**
  - Friday, January 2, 2026 (Winter Break)
  - Monday, January 26, 2026
  - Friday, February 13, 2026
  - Thursday–Friday, March 12–13, 2026
  - Monday, April 6, 2026

**20% discount** for Seaton students! Use code **SEATON20** at checkout for day-off camp

### **School and PTO Events**

- 12/8 – 12/12 [Bookfair](#)
  - [Seeking volunteers](#) for 1-hour shifts before school or after school
- 12/12 Music Performance
  - 9-9:30 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>
  - 2:30-3 K-2<sup>nd</sup>
- 12/12 Winter Wonderland Dance (7-9pm)
  - [Desperately seeking volunteers, especially for set up](#)
- 1/30 Science fair (9-10:30am)
- 2/4 next PTO meeting
- 2/11 Literacy night