

# Bigelow PTO Spring General Meeting

April 8, 2025

<https://www.bigelowpto.org>

bigelowbulldog@gmail.com



Tonight is all about next year!

We will talk about

- 1) PTO planning for our budget and officers
- 2) How families can support NPS by advocating for NPS's budget

# Bigelow PTO Planning

**BIGELOW PTO PRESENTS**

# **TROPICAL TWIST**

**FRIDAY APRIL 11, 2025**

**7-9 PM BIGELOW GYM \$10**

Tickets Include a slice of pizza, a water, dancing and other activities

Pre Sale Tickets Available:

- Cash: In school at Lunch
- Venmo: @BigelowPTONewton - Please include Student Name in the Note

Additional Refreshments available for sale.

Tickets will be available for purchase at the door Cash or Venmo

No Admittance after 7:55pm

You must be picked up by an adult (parent, guardian, parent of a friend, etc.)

**Parent Volunteers Needed - [Signup Here!](#)**

## Other Events

Thursday, May 1: **Principal Coffee at 9 AM**

Sunday, May 4: **Newton Serves**

Thursday, May 8: **Superintendent Nolin + School Committee Visit at 8:20 AM**

May 5-9: **Teacher Appreciation Week**

Friday, May 16: **Parent Social (Evening)**

# Thank You

## Volunteer Community

Hai Ly Burke

Laura Goldworm

Zlatena Simeonova

Susan St. Pierre

Jeanne Cho Arrieta

Angela Brooks

Margaret Battat Silva

Kate Luethy

Paul Chin

Corena Larimer

Nisa Dailey

Eugene Rhee

Heather Sundram

Heather Philbrook

Anna Sicam

Kerri Vonnegut

Jillian Feinberg

Rodrigo Canales

Victoria Peake

Barbara Farell

Alberto Pina

Kelly Dakin

Mandy Cardozza

Dominique Folwer

Jordyne Wu

Monicka Sawicka

Kathy Shields

And so Many MORE ...

## Bigelow Staff

Green Team

Dance helpers - Leah

Richardson and Emily

Archibald, Crista

Cavicchio, Felicia

Bennington)

ELL and World

Languages

Kersten Raso

Dan Green

# Bigelow PTO - Yearly Traditions and Events

- ❑ *Back To School Bash / Franklin Park BTS Picnic*
- ❑ *6th Grade Potluck*
- ❑ *Creative Arts and Sciences (CAS) presentations and talks- 2-3/grade*
- ❑ *Dances- 2-3/year*
- ❑ *Warrior Ice Arena Skate Nights- 2-3/year (fundraiser)*
- ❑ *Global Diversity Festival*
- ❑ *Ten Tables Dinner (fundraiser) / Spring Parent Social*
- ❑ *Boston Bowl*
- ❑ *FORJ Discussion Group*
- ❑ *8th Grade Activities and Graduation*



# Volunteers Needed

**PTO President, VP, Secretary** (all elected at EOY meeting)

**PTO Communications**

**6th Grade Potluck**

**8th Grade Activities** (Tui Sutherland + need more)

**Teacher Appreciation** (fall, winter & spring)

**Parents of Performing Arts Students (PoPs)**

**Families Organizing for Racial Justice (FORJ)**

**Student and Family Social Events** (e.g., Dance)

**Ten Tables, Auction, Big Night** (Fundraisers)

**Safe Routes to School**

**Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC)**

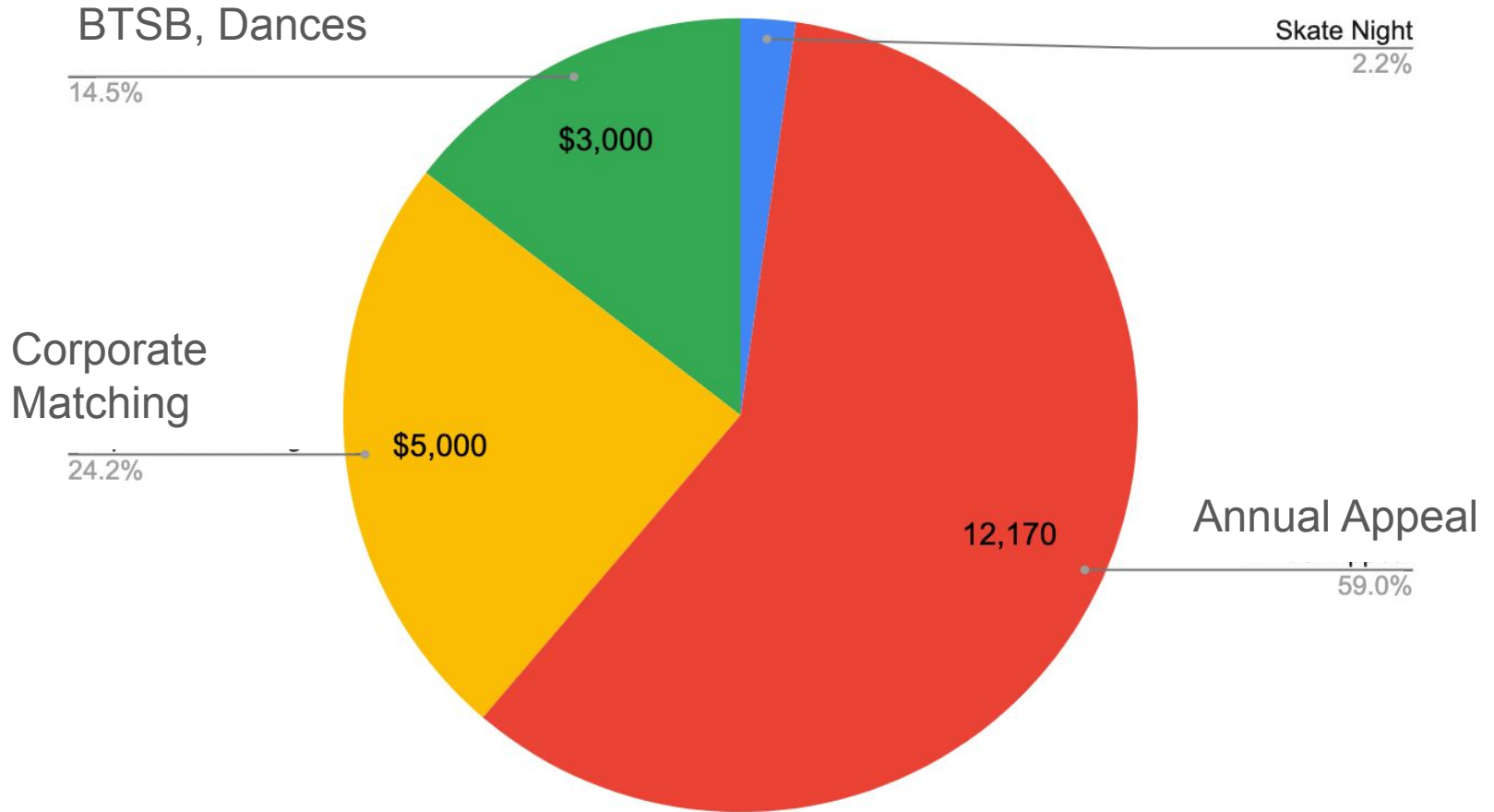
**Green Newton School Connections**

**Newton Schools Foundation Liaison**

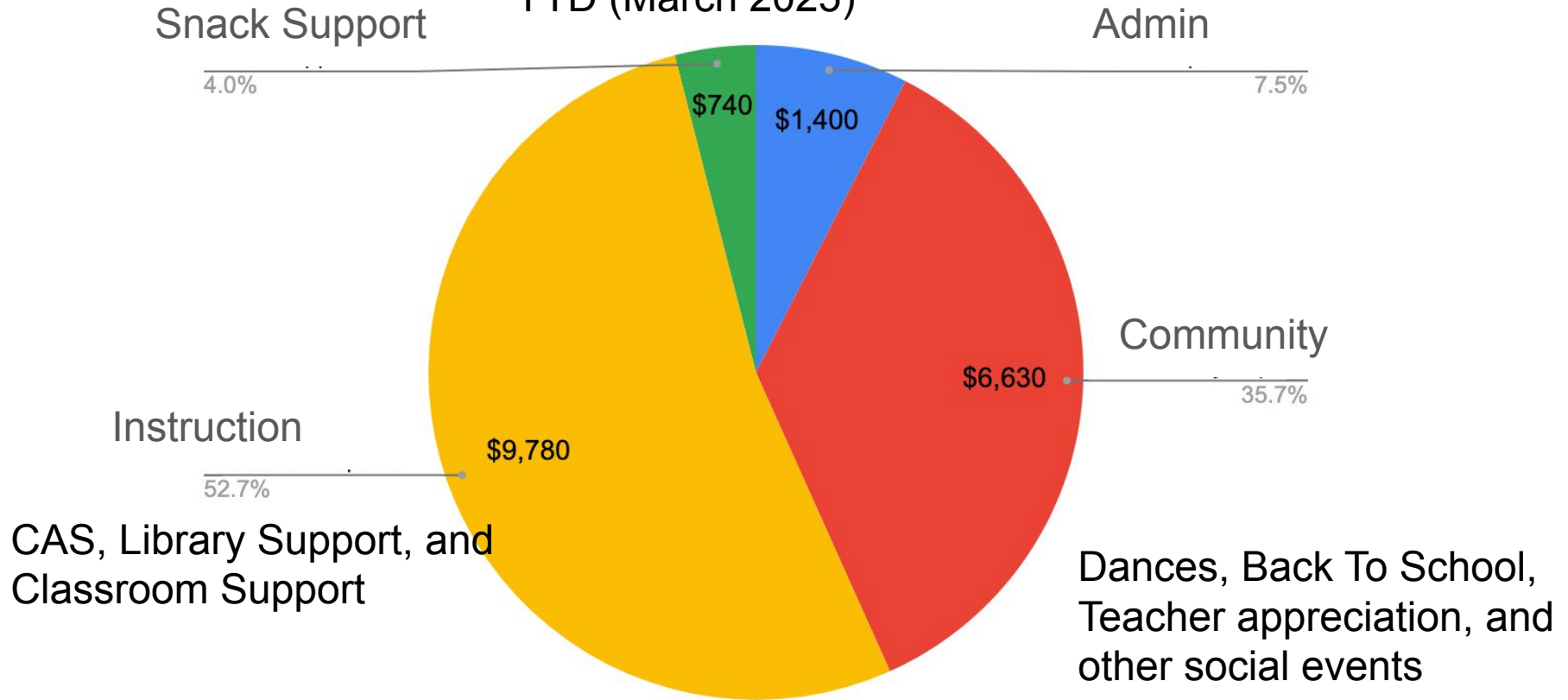
**Bigelow Garden/Newton Serves**



# PTO Income YTD (March 2025)



# PTO Expenses YTD (March 2025)



# Bigelow PTO Resources

Website - <https://bigelowpto.org/>

Email - [bigelowbulldog@gmail.com](mailto:bigelowbulldog@gmail.com)

Public Calendar - <https://bigelowpto.org/calendar/>

Directory - <https://bigelowpto.membershiptoolkit.com/directory>

[Committee Chairs / Volunteers](#)



# NPS Budget

# THE FACTS

- Superintendent Anna Nolin, in consultation with principals and department heads, drafted a “Thrive” budget that would fully fund NPS and requires a 9% funding increase to implement.
  - This is the Green “**Thrive Budget,**” which enables NPS to be the school system it should be for all students; one that meets diverse academic needs, provides robust academic offerings, and maintains highly-trained staff.
- The Superintendent also drafted 4 other budget options with lower funding allocations, and recognizing the city’s financial climate, proposed a budget that requires a **6.1%** funding increase.
  - This is the Yellow “**Level Services Plus Budget.**”
- Mayor Fuller has allocated only a **3.65%** increase in funding.
  - This is the Red “**Cuts Budget,**” which would require meaningful cuts to current NPS operations.
- The School Committee can approve *any* budget. However, under the City Charter—only the Mayor controls the purse strings in Newton and ultimately the Mayor *alone* decides how much money to allocate to NPS.

# A Tale of Five Budget Models

Proposed by Superintendent



Mayor's current allocation



## Cuts

"Cuts & Reductions"

3.65%

NO ADDITIONS - ONLY REDUCTIONS:

- 28.8 positions cut across NPS
- Reduction of 15 elementary teachers
- Cuts to late sports buses
- No overnight field trip funding
- No expansion MTSS

Level Service  
"Maintain Status Quo"  
5.05%

INCLUDES LEGAL/CONTRACTUAL REQUIREMENTS ONLY:

- Complex disability programs for students rising from preschool with significant needs
- Expansion of dyslexia and literacy disability programs
- Increases in contractual costs

Level Service Plus  
"Stabilize and include minimal restorations"  
6.1%

LEVEL SERVICE PLUS THE FOLLOWING:

- Restores *full-time* kindergarten aides in *all* classrooms
- \$150K for Equipment replacement
- \$200K for professional development
- \$500K for daily substitutes
- Maintenance budget of \$100K

Level Service + Restoration  
"Invest in targeted strategic resources and restorations from five years of reductions"  
8%

- Expansion of MTSS across Middle and High School
- NSHS Facilities Upgrade
- Funds for regular maintenance and equipment/furniture replacement
- Expanded college prep services
- More Funded substitutes
- Mental health stabilization teams
- Preschool classes in elementary schools
- Campus aides for door security at high schools
- Ongoing funds for
  - curriculum materials
  - technology replacement

Thrive Budget\*

"Visionary and Programmatic Improvements"  
9%

- ★ Funds for contract negotiations
- ★ Funded sports transportation
- ★ Social Studies & Arts curriculum
- ★ Elementary SEL and behavioral supports to reduce classroom interruption
- ★ Early college options
- ★ Expanded Career and Vocational /Technical programs
- ★ Increased HS electives
- ★ Advanced extension options at elementary and middle school
- ★ Increased after-school options for elementary students
- ★ First steps toward Universal Preschool Options
- ★ Implement NTA-NPS recs for mental health

## Current Status of the Budget for the 2025-26 School Year

Dr. Nolin has proposed a “Level Services Plus” budget, but the city allocation does not provide enough funding, as shown below. The NPS budget faces a shortfall of \$3.7M - \$4.5M.

Available Funding				
	FY25	FY26	Change	% Change
Base Allocation from City	\$278,547,007	\$288,713,973	\$10,166,966	3.65%
Education Stabilization Account	\$4,100,000	\$4,249,650	\$149,650	3.65%
<b>Total Available Funding</b>	<b>\$282,647,007</b>	<b>\$292,963,623</b>	<b>\$10,316,616</b>	<b>3.65%</b>
<b>Level-Service Plus Costs</b>				
Salaries	204,236,910	212,323,276	\$8,086,366	3.96%
Benefits	42,888,627	46,699,807	\$3,811,180	8.89%
Expenses	35,521,470	37,649,175	\$2,127,705	5.99%
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>282,647,007</b>	<b>296,672,258</b>	<b>14,025,251</b>	<b>4.96%</b>
Contingency Full Day Kindergarten Aides		836,373	\$836,373	
	<b>282,647,007</b>	<b>297,508,631</b>	<b>14,861,624</b>	<b>5.26%</b>
Deficit Without Contingency	-	(3,708,635)	(3,708,635)	
Deficit With Contingency	-	(4,545,008)	(4,545,008)	

# What Can Bigelow Families Do?

**The most important action is to contact Mayor Fuller and your city councilors as soon as possible!**

Even a short email makes a big difference - you just need to say that you support the School Committee's budget and that adequately funding Newton Public Schools is important to you.

The City Council will hold several meetings soon on the budget. Email before these happen:

- **Programs & Services and Finance Committees** will hold a joint meeting to discuss the School Department budget on April 17.
- **City Council** will hold meetings about the overall City budget on May 15 and 19, and if needed, May 21.



# What Can Bigelow Families Do?

**Contact Mayor Fuller** and ask her to allocate additional funds to NPS to **fully fund the Superintendent's recommendations and proposed "Level Service Plus" budget**. *The Mayor alone determines the funding allocation for NPS.*

- Email [rfuller@newtonma.gov](mailto:rfuller@newtonma.gov)
- Call 617-796-1100
- Attend Office Hours
  - The next office hours for Mayor Ruthanne Fuller is **April 9 from 4 – 5:30 p.m.**
  - Email Amalia Timbers, Resident Assistance Officer, City of Newton [atimbers@newtonma.gov](mailto:atimbers@newtonma.gov) your topic to get a spot to speak w/the Mayor.

**Contact [City Councilors](#)** and ask them to advocate for additional funding for NPS. While the Newton City Council does not set the operating budget, City Councilors are our elected representatives and have substantial influence.

- Contact [specific councilors](#)
  - Look up your ward on this [map](#) or [by address](#) to determine your specific City Councilors.
- The twenty-four city councilors represent eight Wards (each with two At-Large councilors and one Ward Councilor). Ward Councilors are only voted on by the Ward and the other two at-large-councilors are voted on by the entire city. While the At-Large Councilors informally divvy up the responsibility by ward, **they are accountable to everybody**.
- Email the entire city council: [citycouncil@newtonma.gov](mailto:citycouncil@newtonma.gov) (but better to email individually).

More information on municipal budgets in Massachusetts: <https://vimeo.com/1069029857?share=copy#t=0>