

October 7, 2024

Lunenburg School Committee  
1025 Massachusetts Avenue  
Lunenburg, MA 01462

Dear Members of the Lunenburg School Committee:

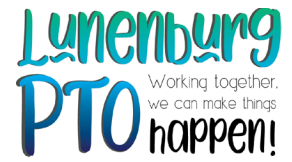
The Lunenburg PTO would like to express our support for the group, known as the Lunenburg Educational Advancement Foundation (LEAF) in their mission to open avenues of funding for the Lunenburg Public Schools that are outside of the purview of the PTO. Understanding that there is some inherent overlap in the scope of services provided by both groups, we find mutual appreciation for the need to clearly define parameters around funding sources sought by each group. We thank Dr. Burnham and the School Committee for the opportunity to provide our input on these parameters.

The mission of the PTO is primarily to provide funding for all four schools in the Lunenburg School District. Beyond fundraising, our group also works to provide resources which are instrumental in school events – such as Book Fairs and Penny Wars. We strive to foster a strong home-school connection and build a sense of community within the district. Our ability to achieve these objectives relies heavily - if not completely - on the participation and engagement of the Lunenburg School community for support.

We feel it is important to acknowledge that only three years ago, our group faced a drastic decrease in participation and donations. The PTO was faced with the very real possibility that the organization may need to be dissolved. Fortunately, through the hard work and dedication of a handful of people, we have made solid progress in expanding membership and participation and look forward to - this year - offering our first broadened grant opportunity for the schools in the district since the pandemic.

We appreciate your consideration in requesting our input to avoid overlap or conflict and ensure both groups are successful. We feel as though the delineation between the groups lies ultimately in the type of donation, rather than the source. The PTO generally seeks donations from the public, and members of the community in the form of sponsorships and single-type contributions made at events or for fundraising campaigns. We understand that LEAF would seek larger-scale donations, in the form of endowments or private gifts from a more narrow field of sources.

Most importantly, the PTO looks forward to the opportunity to work together with LEAF to establish marketing and communications standards regarding the differences between our groups that will clearly define our separate, yet complimentary missions for the community. We would request that any public relations materials LEAF puts out which discusses the PTO be provided for review prior to publishing to ensure accuracy; the PTO will offer the same courtesy.



As always, we cannot overstate our appreciation for the administration and school committee in continuing to communicate the value provided for the school district by the PTO. This support has been instrumental in furthering our efforts to boost membership and involvement from the Lunenburg Schools community.

We are hopeful for the opportunities an educational foundation can bring to the district, and appreciate the work LEAF is doing to enhance education in Lunenburg Public Schools.

Sincerely,

The Lunenburg PTO

Shaunna Baril, President; Mandy Gilman, Vice President; Alix Lind, Treasurer; Katie Donell, Secretary

CC: Dr. Kate Burnham & Lunenburg Educational Foundation (LEAF)