



2017 School Fundraising Group Embezzlement Cases

PBUSA launched its *It Takes 2 to Prevent Theft* program in response to the ongoing problem with theft from school fundraising groups. Compiled from news reports, these are reports of charges made. These cases may not yet have resulted in convictions.

Date	Person	Amount	School	How? (Embezzlement Scheme Used)
01/03/17	Dawn Thomas, 44; Jack Smallwood, 56	Unknown	Thomson High School Band Boosters; Thomson, GA	How? n/a How caught? n/a
01/04/17	Shannon S. Justice, 36; Crystal R. Rummage, 43	Unknown	Churchland Elementary School PTO; Davidson, NC	How? n/a Caught when current PTO reported money missing from the account.
01/10/17	Kiley Degarmo, 35	\$1,800	McGuffey Cheerleaders Booster Club; Claysville, PA	Pocketed cash from concession stand sales; caught when they failed to produce receipts and cash generated from the sales
01/11/17	Latoya Rhodes, 32	unknown	Pine Forest High School Athletic Booster Club; Fayetteville, NC	Pocketed cash from concession stand sales; caught by surveillance camera in stand
01/26/17	Vannesa Rodriguez, 27	\$100,000	Victoria Walker Elementary School PTO; Baytown, TX	Unauthorized use of debit card, unauthorized cash and ATM withdrawals. Caught when bank account was discovered overdrawn and she was the only one with account access.
02/09/17	Douglas Gene Barrow, 44	\$36,400	Walker Charter Academy PTO; Grand Rapids, MI	How? n/a Caught when allegations of fraud surfaced.
02/23/17	Autumn Dillavou, 37	\$9,334	Central Springs HS Athletic Booster Club; Manly, IA	How? n/a Caught when 2 booster club members went to sheriff about missing money.
02/23/17	Elizabeth Gomez Llenez, 45	\$9,900	Robert Vela HS Booster Club; Edinburg, TX	Unauthorized cash and debit card withdrawals. Caught when BC President noticed money was missing.
03/7/17	Melissa Henriquez, 39	\$2,800	Rutland HS Soccer Booster Club; Macon, GA	Unauthorized cash and ATM withdrawals. Caught when confronted by school officials about missing funds.
03/10/17	Elena Ratti, 38	\$25,000	Patriots Booster Club (Secaucus HS); Secaucus, NJ	Suspicious activity reported to police. Caught after investigation and audits.
03/10/17	Craig Piekarski,	\$6,466	Beaver Dam HS Booster Club; Beaver Dam, WI	Pocketed cash from concession stand. Caught when proceeds were noticeably down and an audit was conducted.
03/28/17	Christy Bowne, 43	\$2,408	Crestwood Intermediate School PTO; Mantua, OH	Unauthorized use of debit card. No info on how caught.



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04/13/17	JoAnn Maldonado, 42	\$10,000	Waiakea Intermedia School Ukulele Band Booster Club; Hilo, HI	How? n/a Caught after false report of burglary and police investigation indicated she staged burglary and took the money herself.
04/18/17	Tammy Szejna, 43	\$2,416	Skinner Road School PTO; Vernon, CT	Pocketed money from a book fair fundraiser. Caught when book fair bill was not paid.
04/25/17	Michelle R. Adas, 50	\$5,260	Cherokee HS Drama Booster Club; Canton, GA	Unauthorized withdrawals with debit card and checking account. Caught when school discovered the continuous withdrawals.
04/26/17	Investigation ongoing	\$39,000	Montgomery County Council of PTAs;	Investigation ongoing
05/10/17	Kirsten Meyer, 38	\$46,000	Alvarado HS Band Boosters; Alvarado, TX	Unauthorized withdrawals. Caught when account was overdrawn and club president got suspicious.
05/17/17	Investigation ongoing	unknown	South Johnston HS Band Booster Club; Four Oaks, NC	Investigation ongoing
05/31/17	Jennifer Travers, 47	\$28,051	Beechwood Knoll Elementary PTO; Quincy, MA	Unauthorized cash withdrawals, unauthorized use of debit card. Caught when incoming treasurer reviewed bank records.
06/07/17	Michelle Ramsey, 51	\$20,630	Mayfield HS Band Booster Club; Las Cruces, NM	Cashed band checks for personal use; caught when club president asked to see financials.
06/09/17	Amanda Farr, 36	\$2,800	Southwood High Robotics Booster Club; Shreveport, LA	Money from fundraisers deposited in personal acct. Caught after an audit.
06/13/17	Laurie Saitta, 47	\$11,000	Boxford Elementary School PTO; Boxford, MA	Improper cash withdrawals, unauthorized use of debit card. Caught when bank noticed inappropriate transactions and alerted PTO president.
	TOTAL STOLEN:	\$359,265		

Links to news stories:

01/03/17 – Dawn Thomas, Jack Smallwood, Thomson, GA – Two members of the Thomson HS Band Booster Club arrested

<http://www.wrdw.com/content/news/Two-members-of-the-Thomson-High-School-Band-Boosters-Club-arrested-412702593.html>



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01/04/17 – Shannon Justice, Crystal Rummage, Davidson, NC – Former PTO officers accused of embezzling money from Davidson C. schools

<http://www.wfmynews2.com/news/crime/davidson-elementary-school-pto-embezzlement/381958945>

01/10/17 – Kiley Degarmo, Claysville, PA – Donegal woman accused of stealing from McGuffey cheerleader boosters

http://www.observer-reporter.com/20170110/donegal_woman_accused_of_stealing_from_mcguffey_cheerleader_boosters

01/11/17 – Latoya Rhodes, Fayetteville, NC – Volunteer accused of stealing from the Pine Forest High athletic boosters

http://www.fayobserver.com/news/local/volunteer-accused-of-stealing-from-the-pine-forest-high-athletic/article_67a31484-df97-58c2-81fe-b9e51292fe3a.html

01/25/17 – Vannesa Rodriguez – PTO president stole over \$100K from Baytown school, police say

<http://www.chron.com/news/houston-texas/houston/article/baytown-pto-president-steal-school-money-10885823.php>
<http://www.click2houston.com/news/former-president-of-baytown-elementary-school-pto-accused-of-stealing-more-than-100000>

02/09/17 – Douglas Gene Barrow – Former charter academy PTO treasurer gets probation for \$36,000 embezzlement

http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2017/02/former_charter_academy_pto_tre.html

2/23/17 – Autumn Dillavou, Manly, IA – Treasurer accused of stealing from high school booster club

<http://kchanews.com/2017/02/23/treasurer-accused-of-stealing-from-high-school-booster-club/>

2/23/17 – Elizabeth Gomez Llanez, Edinburg, TX – Fundraised money for Edinburg Band Booster Club stolen

<http://www.krgv.com/story/34579138/fundraised-money-for-edinburg-band-booster-club-stolen>

3/7/17 – Melissa Henriquez, Macon, GA – Macon woman accused of stealing thousands from high school booster club

<http://wgxa.tv/news/local/macon-woman-accused-of-stealing-thousands-from-high-school-booster-club>

3/10/17 – Elena Ratti, Secaucus, NJ – Booster club president charged in \$25,000 theft

<http://www.northjersey.com/story/news/crime/2017/03/10/booster-club-president-charged-25k-theft/99010360/>

3/10/17 – Craig Piekarski, Juneau, WI – Former BD booster club president charged with theft

http://www.wiscnews.com/bdc/news/local/article_5adc351f-7656-5312-b7db-a1f365c1b106.html

4/13/17 – JoAnn Maldonado, South Hilo, HI – Hilo woman charged for booster club money theft

<http://bigislandnow.com/2017/04/12/hilo-woman-arrested-in-connection-with-ukulele-club-money-theft/>

4/18/17 – Tammy Szrejna, Vernon, CT – Vernon PTO president stole money from children's book fair: Police

<http://fox61.com/2017/04/18/vernon-pto-president-stole-money-from-childrens-book-fair-police/>

4/25/17 – Michelle R. Adas, Canton, GA – Woman arrested for taking booster club money

http://www.tribuneledgernews.com/ledger/woman-arrested-for-taking-booster-club-money/article_54f12542-29e5-11e7-85a2-77d216d9d1ac.html

4/26/17 – Montgomery County Council of PTAs – Audit finds 39k missing from Montgomery co council of ptas fund

<http://wtop.com/montgomery-county/2017/04/audit-finds-39k-missing-from-montgomery-co-council-of-ptas-fund/>

5/10/17 – Kirsten Meyer, Alvarado, TX – Alvarado booster arrested for theft from nonprofit

http://www.cleburnetimesreview.com/news/alvarado-band-booster-arrested-for-theft-from-nonprofit/article_b0d19964-3589-11e7-924b-5b327aca14cc.html

<http://www.fox4news.com/news/253675961-story>

5/18/17 – unknown, Four Oaks, NC – Money missing from band booster club

<http://jocoreport.com/money-missing-from-band-booster-club>



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5/31/17 – Jennifer Travers, Quincy, MA – Quincy Police: PTO treasurer embezzled 28k

<http://www.patriotledger.com/news/20170531/quincy-police-pt0-treasurer-embezzled-28k>

6/7/17 – Michelle Ramsey, Las Cruces, NM – Mayfield HS band booster club treasurer accused of stealing

<http://kfoxtv.com/news/local/mayfield-high-school-band-booster-club-treasurer-accused-of-stealing>

6/9/17 – Amanda Farr, Shreveport, LA – Former president of booster club accused of theft

<https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/louisiana/articles/2017-06-09/former-president-of-booster-club-accused-of-theft>

6/13/17- Laurie Saitta, Boxford, MA – PTO treasurer charged with theft of funds

http://www.salemnews.com/news/local_news/pto-treasurer-charged-with-theft-of-funds/article_9973a002-a9b9-586e-ba5c-ac62d9d1e867.html