

Central PTO Meeting Minutes

Date: September 11, 2025

Time: 2:15 PM

Location: Central APR

Executive Board Updates and New Members

- Christina is now the Vice President; Vanessa remains in Membership, Cristina and Cindy are Secretaries; Melissa remains Treasurer; Janaki is now VP of Fundraising along with Meenal.
- Teacher's wish list is available on the website for parents.
- A new website was launched, attracting significant traffic, especially for after-school clubs.
- First Ice Cream Day for students 9/25 (Mary Recio). Google form will go out for September and November

Website Traffic and Communication Strategies

- After-school clubs are the most visited section of the website.
- Website reduces email overload by serving as a central hub.
- Continue with newsletter.
- Bi-monthly staff appreciation events (e.g., Dunkin Donuts, apple bars, hot cocoa) continue.

Fundraising and Income Sources

- Projected Income: \$28,290
- Planned Expenses: \$26,685
- Adult social will be more low-key this year, with DJ, baskets, and teacher experiences.
- Policies may prevent requiring payment for teacher experiences, we will include a free raffle to offset.

Upcoming Events and Fundraisers

- Rita fundraiser scheduled for next Wednesday, 9/17/25.
- Family photo sessions in October 11 and 12th: \$70 per slot.
- Pie sale planned for November.
- After-school clubs are successful, with scheduling adjustments being considered.
- New clubs (pickleball, golf) may be added in spring.

Membership and Homeroom Parents

- Membership fees: \$60 per child, \$150 for three or more children.
- Zeffy platform now used for membership management and Directory Spot.
- Grade level reps introduced to streamline activities and resources.
- Party budget \$150/class.
- Homeroom parents still in charge of their class SUG for parties.
- Grade Level Reps:
 - Kindergarten - Meenal
 - 1st Grade - Rebekah
 - 2nd Grade - Stephanie
 - 3rd Grade - Kim
 - 4th Grade - Jen
 - 5th Grade - Lauren

Upcoming Events

- Bingo Night: September 25 @6:00PM
- Dad's Night Out: October 9 @ 7:00PM at 22 West
- Mom's Night Out: October 16 @ LaColina
- Trunk or Treat: October 24 — more volunteers and candy needed.
 - Candy contest for grade-level bins with prizes – Pech/student leaders
 - High school volunteers and sponsored trunks suggested.
 - Suggest linking amazon kits to create easy trunk displays, increase participation
 - Looking for a minimum of 25 trunks

Assemblies and Special Events

- Wild and Wacky Challenge: May 22.
- Earth Dome assembly: January.

- BJ Ward visit: June (4th & 5th grade).
- Holiday shop: December 2-3.
- Family Fun Day pushed to spring.
- Spirit Days planned throughout the year:
- September 19th- Wear Gold for Pediatric Cancer Awareness
- September 26th- Blue and Yellow Day
 - Grades K, 2, 4 = Yellow
 - Grades 1, 3, 5 = Blue
- October 1st- Crazy Hair Day
- October 17th- Central Spirit Day
- October 24th- Kick Off To Trunk Or Treat
 - Wear your Halloween Themed Clothing

Fifth Grade Activities

- 5th Grade event: June 2 at JCC — need a male volunteer. Rain Date 6/3
- Yearbook signing party and end-of-year celebration planned.

Chairs & Committees

- Back to School Teacher Luncheon – Jenna Stein & Lauren Severini – August 26
 - Thank you to Lauren for helping with this event again this year! The staff loved the food from Warren Deli and the coffee from Blue Cove!
- New Parent Breakfast - Liz Fradkin - September 9
 - Thanks again to Liz for taking this on!
 - Suggest combining this event with the first PTO meeting of the year to improve turnout.
- General Assemblies - Christina Lynch & Jenna Stein - Wild n' Wacky Challenge (Fall), BJ Ward (Grades 4-5), Prismastic Laser Show (Oct 8)
- Social Media Manager - Jenna Stein
- Library Volunteers - Janaki Patel
- School Spirit Days - Jenna Stein
- School Spirit Sales - Melissa Ulsaker
- Bingo Night - Melissa Castle & Christina Lynch - September 25
- Dads Night Out - Fahd Agha & Dwar Patel - October 9 @ 7:00 PM at 22 West
- Mom's Night Out - Mary Recio & Amee Shah - October 16 @ La Colonia
- Holiday Shop - Kristina Dealaman, Lauren Serveni & Melissa Rosenfield - December 2-3
- Book Fair - Christina Lynch & Melissa Castle - February 23-25

- Family Reading Night - Christina Lynch & Melissa Castle - February 24
- School Wide Dance - Jen O' Sheal, Janaki Patel & Meenal Patel - January 30
- Young Authors Day - Janaki Patel & Jenna Stein - End of March
- 5th Grade Event - Carmela Gramaglia & Nicolle Gameiro - June 2, 2025 @ The JCC
- Somerset Patriots - Jill Zambell & Melissa Castle - Spring, Date TBD
 - Working with the Patriots to lock in a date
 - District Wide we sold 1500 tickets last year!
- Lost & Found Coordinator - Jill Zambell
- School Courtyard - Danielle Kendricks
 - Thank you for the beautiful display for the walk through!
- Social Action - Jenna Stein
 - Going to continue to work with Ms. Pech about community outreach (stuffie drive and sports equipment)
- Cultural Committee - Jenna Stein -
 - Working with the committee to come up with brief lessons for our teachers to explain why we have off during the school year
- Teacher Appreciation Week - Lauren Serveni, Cindy Campbell & Janaki Patel - May 4-8
- Field Day - Melissa Castle & Stefanie Hollywood - June 5
 - Lunch - pizza

SEPAG and Special Education Resources

- Menal Patel (Amy Hermann)
- SEPAG revitalized with new president Katie Sanchez.
- Resources for parents of children with IEPs and 504s being developed.
- Facebook group and website in progress.
- Sensory-friendly activities, such as a shorter Trunk or Treat session, planned.

Volunteer Opportunities

- International Day (March 6) – Lauren Severini+ 1 more Co-Chair needed.
 - Stefanie to co-chair
- Family Fun Nights (Spring) - Need 2 Chairs if we want to have this
- Reminder: Even events with Chairs (like Bingo Night, Dads/Mom's Night Out, Trunk-or-Treat, Holiday Show, Book Fair, Dance, Young Authors Day, etc.) need volunteers to make them successful, please sign up when opportunities are shared!

Reminders

- Central is a nut-free school for snacks. Please do not pack peanut butter or other nut products for snacks during the day or after school in clubs. Nuts are only allowed in the APR during lunchtime.
- Please remember to sign up for lunch duty...volunteers always needed!

Opening of School Year

- Smooth school opening
- Chromebook program implemented in grades 1–4; grade 5 still resolving issues, teachers will communicate in Friday newsletter.
- Increase in new students, welcomed by peers.
- 298 students currently
- Next PTO meeting: October 13, 8:00 PM on Zoom.