

# Central Parent Advisory Council (PAC) Gathering Notes for Central Families

Monday, January 23, 2023, 7:00-8:30 pm

## January 2023 PAC Meeting [Agenda](#)

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### Notes:

#### **7:00 pm Welcome** — *Sunny Kase, & Anika Carter Ward, PAC Co-Chairs*

- Format of PAC meetings
  - Zoom meeting. Use the chat for questions.
- Introduction of Principal Ayers
  - Anika Ward: Expressed of appreciation for the work of the administration and staff at Central

#### **7:05 pm Leadership Updates** — *Cherise Ayers, Principal of Central High School*

- Happy to be here. Last few days have been challenging. Working to catapult the school to better. “Normal” wasn’t working for everyone in the past so we’re not going back to “normal” but we’re going to move to \*better\*. She’s very appreciative of the work that PAC does and grateful for to know that PAC will support the staff and teachers. (Example she provided: PAC provided lunch on Thursday during the “reset” day.) Other colleagues at the other high schools don’t have a parent advisory council and she’s tremendously grateful for the parent involvement we have at our school.
- T.O.G.E.T.H.E.R. - We’ve been leaning into these all year:
  - Trust. Outreach. Growth. Empathy. Transparency. Holding space. Equity. and Respect.
- Communication
  - Most of the communication in the last week has been about the tragic incident at Jimmy Lee/ Oxford Rec Center.
  - Reminder that the administration is very limited in what they can say - even when the media is sharing information. They are not trying to be lacking in transparency, but they need to protect data privacy and information about other people’s children.
  - Acknowledged that she is behind in responding to emails. Asked for patience and wants everyone to know she will respond to you as she is able. If it was a long email you sent, she’ll probably call you instead of emailing.
  - Common Questions:
    - What is a “Hold in Place”? -

- That means that we want all students to remain where they are (e.g., in their classrooms, in the hall they're in, etc.). Most often it's because there is a medical emergency and they want to ensure that there is access for medical professionals, and room for staff to get to the students. There has been one hold in place for a fight, but that has been rare this year.
- Safety and Security
  - Tragedy of what happened can make people feel unsafe and have questions. She always tells people: Central is a microcosm of society. Danger exists everywhere but Central is a safe place. Two of Principal Ayers children are currently at Central and she feels they and she are safe during the school day. What helps improve safety and security is relationships. The school has been working to get students to share information with trusted adults. This is a partnership with parents. She encourages all of the parents to ask their students to ask about their lives, ask who their trusted adult is for them that they can go to with concerns. Please tell your students that they can turn to Principal Ayers for advice, for sharing information, for snacks, etc.
- Questions for Principal Ayers and her staff
  - How do you handle fights, and fights during the school day?
    - Anyone involved in a fight is sent home and not on the grounds at dismissal time. Most fights do not cause a lockdown nor a hold in place. Sometimes we know that students are having a disagreement because they come to their trusted adult to ask them to mediate. Sometimes students want to try to resolve their problems with physical violence. Some students choose to save their fight until after school when they won't be suspended. Sometimes the school admins are in-the-know and they share information with Jimmy Lee staff. Central staff are not allowed to go over to Jimmy Lee to address situations over there. They are working with Jimmy Lee staff to keep communication lines open.
  - Do you have a vision for how the city, county, state departments can assist with violence in our community and support SPPS.
    - Principal Ayers has been in conversation with leaders and families. We need to talk to our kids, tap into mental health resources. Violence in our community is not unique. Listening to the kids about what they need is key. Example: The walk-out planned on Friday was disorganized and didn't have a strong purpose. Some students didn't walk out and she heard them express that what they need is *\*already\** at the school. She talks to the students directly and asks how to stop the fighting, how to prevent the violence. Encourages students to share what is troubling them to help them find the resources they need. Listening to the students is so important. They want to hear from us too, to hear our wisdom. She has

planned some listening sessions for the student body that will be announced soon.

### **7:40 pm Dynamic Duos at Central**

- Alicia Ekegren, Athletic Director and Peter Hendrick, Athletic Boosters
  - Dion Ford fundraiser
  - \$26,000-27,000 was raised during Give to the Max. Most teams will be getting new uniforms next year!
  - Coach openings: Please share and recruit members!
    - Boys tennis team
    - Boys & girls track team
    - Girls soccer
    - Boys & girls cross country
  - Volunteers needed!
    - Ticket takers, clock workers, etc. We can hire students as well. Please have them come see
  - Encouraging more engagement with the sports boosters.
    - Coach Howell started this group. Any family member is welcome to join. It is a 501(c)(3). It's there to support the work of the sports at Central.
    - Need: Someone to help redesign the St. Paul Central Website. Please contact [pmhendricks@yahoo.com](mailto:pmhendricks@yahoo.com) if you have the talent and interest to help!
- Tory Waggoner, Achieve Twin Cities and Emily Punkyo, Career Pathways - Opportunity Fair on February 24th!
  - Work based learning & College and career coordinator
  - Opportunity Fair - 75 business signed up. US Bank Stadium signed up today. Looking for volunteers.
  - Lot of interest from the business community, but we'd love to have more families participate.
  - Brochure can be found here:  
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/12zldEndGhidmaO0nv7oVrbGhP4y9Hlbz/view>
  - Use this QR Code or this link (<https://forms.gle/P5FW6JVkyiHwdyHw6>) to get more information.



- Working with local businesses to find volunteer opportunities in the community, to learn from mentors in the community, and strengthen relationships in the community.
- Contact Tory ([twaggoner.ach@spps.org](mailto:twaggoner.ach@spps.org)) or Emily ([emily.punyko@spps.org](mailto:emily.punyko@spps.org)) to be part of their work!
- Tricia Wencel (absent) & Lindsey Farwell, Graduation Party
  - The party happens the night of graduation - Monday, June 12th. Students stay overnight in the school starting at 10pm and they stay until 5:30-6am. They've had one planning meeting so far, but they're recruiting other people to be involved.
  - Volunteers needed:
    - Food planner
    - Casino games
    - Decorations
    - Other vendors
    - Night of - registration
  - There is a role for everyone! Please volunteer if you have younger kids! It is a "pay it forward" situation. The PAC provides funds to keep the costs low. All students can attend and we are working to remove barriers.
- Patty and Henry Radoc, Cabaret
  - Student directed and performed.
  - Dates: Feb 9 at 7pm, Feb 10 at 7pm, Feb 11 at 2pm and 7pm.
  - Dr. Palmen is the sponsor.
  - Link for buying tickets is here: <https://m.bpt.me/event/5707636>
- Coach Scott Howell and Sunny Kase, National African American Parent Involvement Day: All families are invited! Monday, February 13th.
  - Mayor Carter will be there with Principal Ayers
  - School tours will be given by students
  - Breakfast and lunch provided. It's an opportunity to meet your student's teachers and the school administrators.
  - Every Meal audit
    - Over 750 bags of food have been distributed.
    - The link is on the [front page of the Central High School website](#) to sign up.
  - Title One Information
    - Rondo night celebration - It is Free! It will be held at Thurs, Feb 2nd at the Landmark Center.
    - More information here:  
<https://www.wintercarnival.com/events/rondo-night/>
  - Open House Thursday, January 26th - This Thursday!- 5:30pm to 7:30pm - Central Showcase!
    - Presentations by administrators, IB, Career Pathways,
    - Tables: student groups,

- Central Singers will perform.
  - If you'd like to help:
    - Get the word out to other families about the Central Showcase!

**8:10 pm PAC Business Part of the Meeting**

- Fundraising Report -Sunny Kase, PAC Co-Chair
  - Give to the Max Fundraising Day. We have an amazing community! Gifts were from alumni, grandparents,
    - 264 donors participated. Central PAC raised over \$38,992!
    - Another \$8000 came in before the end of our fiscal year.
    - Thank you! We have an amazing, generous community!
  - One of the biggest needs this year is food for events and for food insecurity issues.
- Approval of the 2023 Budget -Heidi Van Schooten, PAC Treasurer
  - Proposed budget:

2023 Calendar Year Budget				
Budget Items	Budgeted	Spent to date	Remaining	Spent
Teacher Requests (Spring 23)	\$8,500.00	\$1,085.52	\$7,414.48	12.77%
Teacher Requests (Fall 23)	\$12,500.00	\$0.00	\$12,500.00	0.00%
Community Outreach	\$11,500.00	\$0.00	\$11,500.00	0.00%
Teacher Appreciation	\$14,500.00	\$2,302.08	\$12,197.92	15.88%
PAC Admin	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00	0.00%
Student Group Grants	\$5,000.00	\$699.00	\$4,301.00	13.98%
Class \$	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	0.00%
Senior Lock-in	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00	0.00%
Arts Funding Be The Change Class Materials	\$7,500.00	\$0.00	\$7,500.00	0.00%
Emergency Relief Fund	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00	0.00%
Principal Ayers Bringing Joy	\$2,500.00	\$0.00	\$2,500.00	0.00%
Be the Change (carry over from 2022)	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$97,000.00</b>	<b>\$4,086.60</b>	<b>\$92,913.40</b>	<b>4.21%</b>
<b>Current Balance:</b>	<b>\$97,677.71</b>			
Account Balance 1/1/2023		86,411.05	84,885.36	(carried forward)
2023		Transactions	Reconciled Transactions	
Unreconciled from 2022		\$781.36		
Expenses		\$4,086.60	\$1,345.65	
Deposits		\$14,138.00	\$14,138.00	
Balance		\$96,462.45	\$97,677.71	

- Student group grants, teacher grants (\$250), money for building community within the grade levels, senior grad party, Be the Change arts funding, emergency relief supplies
- Student groups are made aware of the funding possibilities through the Central administration. Groups that exist (Student government, Black Student Union, Music governance, etc.) can ask for funding.
- The 2023 PAC budget was approved with 21 votes in support and 0 votes against.
- ByLaws & Decision Making - *Kate McCready, PAC Secretary*
  - The PAC Executive Board is working on developing a new vision, mission, and goals. We will bring this back to the community for engagement in Feb. or March.

### **8:00 pm *Be The Change* - Leon Wang**

- Be The Change studio is a brand new class being offered for this spring semester. This is an intensive art/design studio focused on amplifying your inner voice, cultivating your problem-solving process, and making an impact in your world.
- Class time is 4th period/B-day, Spring Semester '23 (eligible for elective credit)
- The studio is led by Leon Wang of LOVE HOPE RISE
- For more info contact Ms. Joleen Armstrong [joleen.armstrong@spps.org](mailto:joleen.armstrong@spps.org)
- Sign-up form for the “Be The Change” studio is here: [BeTheChangeStudio Form Spring '23](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeNAUEAEuwZnBX6CTOhQ9Ugy-l-e-hqj4l_J3Etc0l6CxzAKcw/viewform) [[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeNAUEAEuwZnBX6CTOhQ9Ugy-l-e-hqj4l\\_J3Etc0l6CxzAKcw/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeNAUEAEuwZnBX6CTOhQ9Ugy-l-e-hqj4l_J3Etc0l6CxzAKcw/viewform)]. The deadline for sign up is extended to Wed. 1/25.
- More information can be found on these slides: [BeTheChangeCentralS23PitchDeck](#)

### **8:15-8:30 pm *Designated time for questions with Principal Ayers***

- Would a return to regular bussing help with safety and security?
  - Would love to have buses. Don't know if that will solve that problem since it existed before when there was regular bussing. Students want to go to the rec center to participate in their programming.
- Would it be possible to have a forum with leadership from the City, SPPS, and SPPD?
  - That is a good question. Mayor Carter is a great Central supporter. He was in the building last week. Principal Ayers will investigate and report back.

### **8:25 Closing with the [“Why Central” Video](#).**