

Central Parent Advisory Council (PAC) Meeting Notes for Central Families

Date: Monday, October 2, 2023, 7:00-8:30 pm

Meeting held online via Zoom, 52 participants.

Agenda:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1sMHDGHQ7km16BebLwf2cInB5EHys5oDtwB33hkG-gGM/edit>

Sign in Sheet:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd24c1xaVbWfFtpS0KyUBDHiafTHx_vL_SXNCoYsx_A8NwcAQ/viewform

NOTES

7:00 pm Welcome — *Sunny Kase, PAC*

- What is PAC? Who are PAC? Where is PAC?
 - PAC is the Parent Advisory Council. The members of the Board are Sunny Kase, Anika Ward, Heidi Van Schooten. Jessica Ostrov provides communications support.
 - HUEmys: Special committee of the PAC. Goal: Eliminating barriers for students of color and building a strong community of all stakeholders at Central.
- Format of PAC meetings
 - We use the chat
 - We provide translation services
 - We have monthly meetings on Zoom. We polled the community and many people liked having the meetings online. But some would like to have the meetings in person! We're going to try to be flexible and try to do both throughout the year.

7:05 pm Student Sharing - Student Council Members

- Homecoming Update
 - Shared pictures of the Homecoming football game. Shared pictures of the decorations and activities at the dance. It was a great day!

7:10 pm Staff Sharing - Emily Gill, Theater Teacher

- Little Mermaid Production - Fall Musical!
- Theater Production Team: Mason, Ann, Jenie, Ama, Finlay, Tani, Freya.
 - The production team has been working on the production since before the school year started. Learning the music now with the Choir director. Currently working on the transformation of Ariel (main character). Other transformation and special effects situations are being figured out right now
 - Dates of the production:
 - November 17 & 18 at 7pm

- November 19th at 2pm
- Tickets will be for sale at the door and in advance!

7:15 pm CHS Updates — *Anika Carter Ward, PAC and Cherise Ayers, Principal*

- T.O.G.E.T.H.E.R. - We are in this T.O.G.E.T.H.E.R. Cultivating a culture where everyone thrives. Trust, Outreach, Growth Empathy, Transparency, Holding space, Excellence, Respect.
- Great day at Central! Girls Volleyball Game is happening tonight!
- Enrollment & staffing
 - Last year we had 2, but this year we have 6 intervention specialists - grade level (credit recovery, professional development)
 - Enrollment is in flux. Right now: Current enrollment is 1577. 396 freshmen, 402 sophomores, 439 juniors, 340 seniors. 2nd largest high school in the district (Harding is first). Many people are calling to ask for transfers into Central so it is still changing.
 - Some positions that were recently filled & some still in need:
 - Construction & Drafting - teacher absence due to illness, but they've found a long term sub. A second sub is joining soon who is part of the MN Trades Assoc.
 - Family and Consumer Science & Clothing Tech teacher- They've learned cleaning, sanitizing, and spices, but the full time teacher has started.
 - Looking for a ½ time French teacher.
 - Still have 7 openings for TAs; they are interviewing this week but are looking for more.
 - Postings are on the district web page
- Student Engagement
 - Just finished Homecoming! Won the game. The dance was very fun and initially planned to be held in the cafeteria, but was moved to the Gym. It became a "sneaker" ball. All had fun.
- "Eating the Whale" - Part of "we're in this TOGETHER is": *Cultivating a Central Where Everyone Thrives*.
 - The unfortunate news is that not everyone currently thrives at Central. White students are doing well, but Students of color are not having the same predictable outcomes. Outcomes should not be predicted by race.
 - The problem of racially-predictive outcomes is bigger than high school. But, we need to disrupt that within our school and our community.
 - It's a whale of a problem. Eating a whale is impossible for one person. It's a community problem. If we all eat the whale together, we can change thing and not have outcomes that are disproportionate
 - WHALE: We Have Aligned Learning Expectations
 - We want to engage our students in this as well.
- Questions for Principal Ayers and her staff
 - What is the plan for Thursday's Open House:

- Time: 6:15pm start.
 - Presentation in the auditorium. Ability to meet with staff and teachers.
 - Students are welcome, but parents are encouraged to come whether students can make it or not.
 - Some teachers are not able to make it but Central will let families know who will be there and who won't through their communications channels.
- When are conferences?
 - October 12th: Central will be holding these at the mid-quarter this year.
- What should parents do when they get an absence call from school?
 - Schoology should list what class has been missed.
 - Some students come to school, but not to class...
 - Sometimes there are errors if they come to class late or leave early.
 - Email the school counselor or grade level administrator if there are problems that need to be addressed.
- Grading changes: There will be a session soon about the changes that the district announced last spring.
- Transcripts - Problems should be handled at the district level.
- Central will be sending home report cards at the mid-quarter and at the end of the quarter with the students. Parents will be asked to sign them and send them back.

7:45 pm Programs at Central - Jessica Ostrov, PAC Communications

- Scott Howell, Title One Coordinator
 - Homecoming! Thanks to PAC & volunteers for Homecoming! The food trucks and volunteers were very appreciated. Community members who have ties to Central are
 - Asian culture club was selling eggrolls. PAC bought the eggrolls and handed them out to the folks who were waiting in line to get into the football game.
 - All the vendors for the game made their prices more affordable for Central families.
 - We're looking to build on these successes.
 - Please reach out to Coach Howell with other ties to Central.
 - Dion Ford Scholarship - Dion was an athlete at Central who was tragically killed. They are looking to raise money through the sports activities to raise money for this scholarship fund.
 - Title One program - PAC underwrote the tickets to allow all students and families to attend the game and dance regardless of financial status
 - Annual meeting is coming up. Dates will be announced soon
 - Parents Right to Know.
 - Family engagement plan: 2023-2024 plan is posted on the website.
 - Lunch Forms - The survey should be filled out to all families! Central gets money based on how many forms get filled out. Central lost over \$1mil in the last couple of years. We are missing out on a lot of money that we could really use at

Central! Fill it out whether you qualify it or not! Form is here:

<https://www.spps.org/Page/34308>

- Every Meal Program: Starts this Friday. Anyone who wants one, gets one. Everyone qualifies.
- Hennepin Medical Center: Talent Gardener Program. Students of color who are interested in the medical field can participate. Paid internship at HCMC working in all areas of the hospital and they can get their EMS license. See Title One website for more information.
- Peter Hendricks, Central Sports Boosters
 - All volunteer, nonprofit, 501c3.
 - Support all the teams except hockey (which is a cooperative), and Dion Ford Scholarship.
 - This Friday the Girls (5:30pm) and Boys 7:30pm). The game isn't sold out! Tickets available here:
<https://www.spps.org/site/default.aspx?PageType=3&DomainID=4&ModuleInstanceID=32741&ViewID=6446EE88-D30C-497E-9316-3F8874B3E108&RenderLoc=0&FlexDataID=209551&PageID=1>
 - The tickets are free and the district is working on fixing their digital ticketing system. If you want to share your frustration, please don't share it with Central staff - send it to the superintendent Joe Gothard, and the Athletics lead.
 - Central Sports Boosters: Community meeting on 11/2/23 will be in person. Invites to follow!
- Coordination of GiveMN Fundraising communication (Kate McCready, PAC Secretary)
 - The main booster clubs and PAC are working to coordinate our messaging regarding fundraising during GiveMN
 - Look for a shared website and shared communications providing information to families about all the ways that they can help financially support the work of Central High School. We're making it easier for families to support Central HS!

8:00 pm Community Partnerships

- Jay Wahi, Community Organizer, St. Paul Federation of Educators
 - Former SPED teacher at Central on on release to the Union
 - Will be hosting community conversations about the teacher bargaining
 - Their goal is "Bargaining for the common good."
 - Jay's email is jay@spfe28.org
 - RSVP for the Community Conversations at:
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe0SU5rSitqxO8E1OvQkif8ASZqqmDf9lpSHUKkmdBSq1J2Ng/viewform>
 - RSVP because: In person meetings will have a meal, and the virtual meetings will require a link.
 - They are working on environmental, social, and opportunity gap issues.
 - 10/12 Union Meeting Location: 360 Colborn Avenue

8:05 pm PAC Committees - Sunny Kase, PAC Co-Chair

- PAC is looking for you to join in building community! Sign in here to let us know what you're interested in:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd24c1xaVbWfFtpS0KyUBDHiafTHx_vL_SXNC_oYsx_A8NwcAQ/viewform
- PAC Standing Committees
 - Staff Appreciation: Teacher meals, support for the teachers in their special projects. We need a coordinator for this work!
 - Communications & Marketing: Sharing the information about the great work that PAC does!
 - Grad Party: Lindsey Farwell is the chair. They are looking for a co-chair for the 2024 Grad Party. They need lots of people to help pull off the special night for the students. They need coordinators for decorations, wayfaring, drawing, vendors, communication, registration, etc. If you are interested in helping out, please reach out to the grad party email at: centralgradparty@gmail.com
 - Last year the party was free of charge for all attendees! They will be raising money in the new year to make that available again to all students this year.
 - Fundraising: Amy Cram Helwich is helping lead and she could use a few more people to help. We have a BIG goal this year! \$70,000! Last three years of fundraising brought in less, and now we have used up our extra reserves. We are looking for a \$100 gift from every family per student to raise as much as we can to support the work of PAC. It is a huge commitment to run a PAC that supports a Central that thrives. Asking every family to give that can. Please also consider giving for those who cannot afford to do so!
- **Donation form here:**
https://www.paypal.com/donate/?campaign_id=YS4T9BCHZL2YY&source=url
- Volunteer Coordination: We would love to have someone come forward to help coordinate our volunteers!

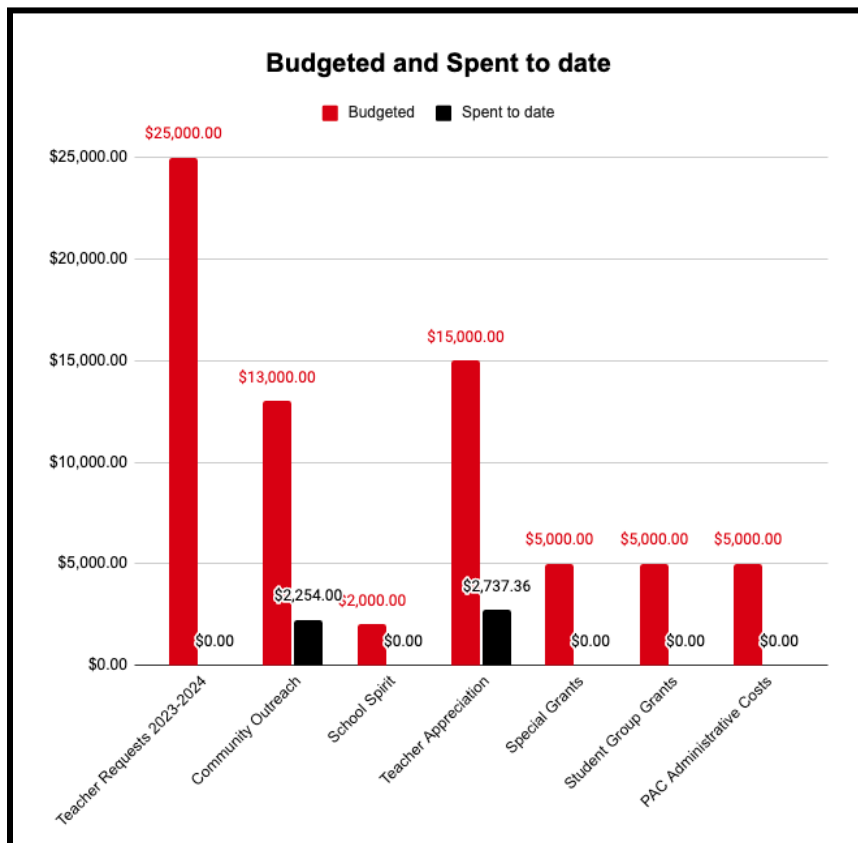
8:10 pm ByLaws & Decision Making - Kate McCready, PAC Secretary

- *We are updating our bylaws to align our work with our current goals for equity and inclusion. The new bylaws will be shared at the November meeting.*

8:15 pm Financial Report — Heidi Van Schooten, PAC Treasurer

- Overview of the Budget: Heidi shared the budget:

2023 - 2024 Fiscal Year Budget				
Budget Items	Budgeted	Spent to date	Remaining	Spent
Teacher Requests 2023-2024	\$25,000.00	\$0.00	\$25,000.00	0.00%
Community Outreach	\$13,000.00	\$2,254.00	\$10,746.00	17.34%
School Spirit	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	0.00%
Teacher Appreciation	\$15,000.00	\$2,737.36	\$12,262.64	18.25%
Special Grants	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00	0.00%
Student Group Grants	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00	0.00%
PAC Administrative Costs	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00	0.00%
Total	\$70,000.00	\$4,991.36	\$65,008.64	7.13%
Current Balance In Checking:	\$27,029.02			



- Heidi will provide updates at every meeting to provide updates about the budget.
- It's annual fund time. Please donate if you are able! We are asking everyone to donate \$100 per child to make our budget work.

- **Donation form here:**
https://www.paypal.com/donate/?campaign_id=YS4T9BCHZL2YY&source=url

CLOSING

Use the PAC email to ask for time at the PAC meetings. We're here for you! Email Address:
centralHSPAC@gmail.com