

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

Monday, February 27, 2023, 7:00-8:30 pm

Location: Online via Zoom

Meeting [Agenda](#)

Meeting Notes:

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

- Format of PAC meetings

7:05 pm Student Happenings at Central

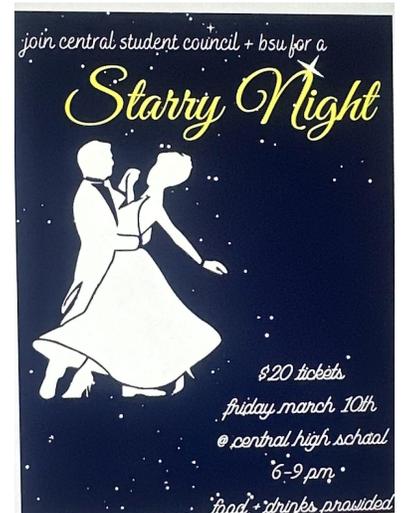
- **Ocean and Nasrin**, Student Council Representative,

Winter Dance

- The CHS Student Council and the Black Student Union is preparing for a Winter Formal Dance.
- Date & time: Friday, March 10th, 6-9pm
- Location: Central High School
- Tickets are \$20.00 and include food and drinks.
- Max number of students: 400 tickets sold only.

- **Kamaria Milton**, Ethics Bowl Team Representative

- Ethics bowl is similar to debate, but there are significant differences. It is more of an opinionated discussion with acknowledgement of opponents views/points.
- The Ethics Bowl Team has been winning! They won their



semi-finals. are advancing to nationals in late March, early April.

- There are 7 members of the Ethics Bowl Team. Mr. Cherin is the coach and chaperone.
- The University of Minnesota awarded the team a large grant to cover the majority of their travel costs. They are doing a [GoFundMe](#) for the last portion of the travel costs. Please help support this team!

- **Kimathi Kelly**, BSU Member, African American

Parent Involvement Day

- The Black Student Union has made a t-shirt: St. Paul Central Black Student Union “We are the Ones We Have Been Waiting For”.
- Created in the “Be the Change” class with Leon Wang.
- This t-shirt was distributed during African American Parent Involvement Day which was held at Central a couple of weeks ago.
- Coach Howell coordinated this event and PAC supported the event by providing food and funding for the shirts.



7:15 pm Leadership Updates — *Cherise Ayers, Principal of Central High School*

- We're in this T.O.G.E.T.H.E.R. - Trust, Outreach, Growth Empathy, Transparency, Holding space, Equity, Respect. Cultivating a Central where everyone thrives.
- Safety and Security
 - This is a big topic right now and it's been a big topic. During the African American Parent Involvement Day, Principal Ayers stressed this is work we need to do together. These are not “school problems” - these are community problems that are brought into school because school is a part of the community.
 - Students have a divine right to be educated and have a divine responsibility for participating in their own learning.

- Prevention is us working together. We need to be in conversation with our students about what it means to be safe, being aware of our surroundings.
- Our building is understaffed. All the school buildings are right now but that won't stop us from doing better. Moving forward we will not let our lack of staff prevent us from having presence in the hallways. We will not wait for the district to provide the assistance, we will do it within the building so things are running the way they need to.
- Can parents volunteer to be in the hallways and stairways? Yes - there would be training and background checks with the acknowledgement that not everyone can work with teenagers. Training would be needed. We need to have conversations with students to engage them, and remind them that they are capable and make sure they are *in class*.
- PAC can help you volunteer at Central. Please add your name here if you'd like to get more involved at the school:
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfrjSnUGGo-1o85QafwKqZGRgdppFfi5P2Ft9P7r6uX91FtaA/viewform>
 - (Also, PAC is seeking a volunteer coordinator - please reach out to katemccready1@gmail.com if you are interested in that role. It's about 1-2 hours of work a month and done on your timeline!)
- Central Showcase - This event was amazing. So positive with lots of parents and students showing up to give the best of themselves. They showed off Central in such a great way!
 - We don't know yet how many students have chosen Central for 2023-2024. But we'll report back.
- Questions for Principal Ayers and her staff
 - Question: What are you hearing from students? What do they like, what do they dislike, what are they excited about, what are they working on?
 - Excitement about the dance. The Student Council and Black Student Union worked on this today and they're excited.
 - Principal Ayers had to cancel a class on African American Studies. The students were so disappointed that Prin. Ayers is now teaching

the class called Dare to Be Real. Lots of joy and appreciation from the students.

- Class development: Working on developing a Critical Studies Pathways class for 9th grade on the History of My School. There are a great group of students working with Reconnecting Rondo that could work on this. Want to add indigenous studies class. Already have Critical Ethnic Studies, African American History, Womens studies, Asian studies.
- Can parents attend the PSEO Info Session on March 2, 6-7:30pm? YES, students and parents are both invited and encouraged to attend!

7:45 pm Community Happenings at Central

- **Coach David Albornoz**, Parent, Community Leader
 - Congratulations on being a Water Safety Champion award winner from the National Drowning Prevention Association!
 - Coach David is the soccer coach, the volleyball coach, and the swimming coach. He is a remarkable individual!
 - Coach David leads with compassion and respect - with students, parents, the opposing teams. He has an inspiring leadership style and with incredible discipline.
 - PAC expresses the heartfelt gratitude.
 - Coach David expressed his gratitude for being able to do the work he does. He loves his job and feels he's found his purpose. The Four Agreements Book is one that guides him. He gets his reward from working with the kids every day.
- **Alicia Ekegren**, Athletic Director and **Peter Hendricks**, Athletic Boosters
 - Finishing up winter sports season - Highlights
 - Nordic - Sent 9 athlete to state!
 - Alpine - Did a great job at Sections
 - Boys Swim and Dive - Stillwater this weekend had a great showing and are sending 2 individual participants and a relay

- Girls Hockey made a good run in sections --Many girls got academic, values, sportsmanship awards at the banquet on Sunday
 - Gymnastics - Won the Twin Cities Match
 - Wrestling - Three section participants
 - Boys and Girls Basketball Section Games Coming Up
 - - Reminder that no passes are accepted at Section games
 - - tickets are 10\$ for adults and \$5 for students
- Spring Sports are starting as early as next week.
 - Girls Badminton
 - Girls and Boys Track and Field
 - Boys Tennis
 - Softball
 - Baseball
 - Girls Lax
 - Boys Lax
 - Girls Golf
 - Boys Golf
 - Club Teams Boys Volleyball and Ultimate Frisbee
 - Central Athletic Website has more information about registration and what student athletes need to get into the athletic office to participate in a sport.
- Dion Ford Scholarship - 12th grade student athletes of color
 - Awarded to Gary Ales - 12th grade student athletes
- Awards - Triple A Award - Athletics, Academics, and Arts went to Drew Mosmean and Ai Matsumoto
- Sports boosters: Thank you to all the families that have been working with the new processes. The generosity of the community has been great. Title IX has an anniversary coming up. Central Sports Boosters are



looking for ways to celebrate and highlight girls sports. Anyone interested in being a thought partner to meet to collaborate on our athletics facilities to best serve our students should reach out to Peter Hendricks, pmhendricks@yahoo.com (651-285-0290)

- **Emily Punyko**, Career Pathways - Opportunity Fair
 - Opportunity fair had to be rescheduled. It will be Friday, 3/17/23 all day from 8:30 to 3pm in the Central Gym. If you are interested in volunteering, please fill out the form here:
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfiS59e6DPNWvTOzEhfR1w4PWmwvc9GFvAhQWbkR3ybQNeI-A/viewform>
 - A List of current participants is here:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1uwFozU5e2BGANPh91ahiCKzWEU4oLSumxY8XLxiE9_4/edit
 - Working to build up the community and trying to leverage the connections made in creating the opportunity fair. Ms. Punyko is working to
 - Coach David offered to participate in the Fair as well. His lifeguard training is here:
<https://www.stpaul.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation/aquatics/lifeguard-training>
- **Tricia Wencel & Lindsay Farwell**, Graduation Party
 - They are working on defining all the components of the party - decorating, casino, food, dance/dj
 - Still need: coordinator for the drawing
 - Working with Principal Ayers to set up a schedule for the night and trying to make it have community aspects
 - Trying to make it free for all seniors! If you have funds, please reach out to donate. Michelle Neal will be communicating about the fundraising work they're going to be launching soon! Watch for that chance to support this celebration.
 - Engaging the students in the planning for food, music, etc.
 - Please donate and volunteer to make this event a success!

- **Maggie O'Reilley, Transforming Central**
 - This has been such an inspiring meeting!
 - Transforming Central is having a meeting soon. They're looking at the last two weeks of March. Please reach out if you'd like to work with this group.
 - Parents, students, staff are all invited to attend.
 - Banner project is moving forward - The first round went up in 2015/16, the second round went up in 2018/19. The third round is happening this spring! All the old content is coming down and new content is being developed and then needs approval from the city. Looking at a May installation.
 - Naming the patio - Have received district approval and are now working with Roots and Shoots club to make it student led.
 - Needs to meet with Principal Ayers to reboot the Transforming Central curriculum. Suggestion from Anika to connect with the Ramsey County Master Gardeners.

- **Dr. Inas Raffit Elansary, Catering for staff in March**
 - PAC is providing food for the staff on March 10th as a way to support the teachers and support staff. They are providing Egyptian and Italian food.

8: 15 pm PAC Business Part of the Meeting

- Review of the 2023 Budget -**Heidi Van Schooten, PAC Treasurer**
- *PAC collected \$5000 for Harding High School support*
 - Lunch and banners were purchased. The remainder will be sent in a check to Harding. PAC kept that money separate but it is listed on our budget for transparency and accounting purposes.
 - Student requests and teacher requests are coming in. Any student group with teacher assigned to them can make a special request to PAC for funding support.
 - Here is the current status of the PAC budget. (This is also always available on the PAC website on Central's website.)

PAC 2023 (Calendar Year) Budget in progress

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	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1		2023 Calendar Year Budget					
2		Budget Items	Budgeted	Spent to date	Remaining	Spent	
3		Teacher Requests (Spring 23)	\$8,500.00	\$4,078.71	\$4,421.29	47.98%	
4		Teacher Requests (Fall 23)	\$12,500.00	\$0.00	\$12,500.00	0.00%	
5		Community Outreach	\$11,500.00	\$7,461.30	\$4,038.70	64.88%	
6		Teacher Appreciation	\$14,500.00	\$2,302.08	\$12,197.92	15.88%	
7		PAC Admin	\$5,000.00	\$1,826.00	\$3,174.00	36.52%	
8		Student Group Grants	\$5,000.00	\$699.00	\$4,301.00	13.98%	
9		Class \$	\$10,000.00	\$1,010.00	\$8,990.00	10.10%	
10		Grad Party	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00	0.00%	
11		Arts Funding Be The Change Class Materials	\$7,500.00	\$0.00	\$7,500.00	0.00%	
12		Emergency Relief Fund	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00	0.00%	
13		Principal Ayers Bringing Joy	\$2,500.00	\$0.00	\$2,500.00	0.00%	
14		Be the Change (carry over from 2022)	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	0.00%	
15		Special Harding Funds	\$4,873.24	\$3,275.88	\$1,597.36	67.22%	
16		Total	\$101,873.24	\$20,652.97	\$81,220.27	20.27%	
17							
18		Current Balance:	\$87,287.32				
19							
20		Account Balance 1/1/2023		86,411.05	84,885.36	(carried forward)	
21							
22		2023		Transactions	Reconciled Transactions		
23		Unreconciled from 2022		\$500.00			
24		Expenses		\$20,652.97	\$18,416.67		
25		Deposits		\$21,378.63	\$20,818.63		
26		Balance		\$87,136.71	\$87,287.32		
27							
28					\$2,236.30		

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

- Question: Can exchange students walk on graduation day? They wouldn't get a diploma, but can they walk in the procession?
 - No, they can't. Only students receiving diplomas can walk.