

# Central Parent Advisory Council Meeting Notes for Central Families

Monday, February 5, 2024, 7:00-8:30 pm

Meeting Agenda Here:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1SjVvGtgCnMvIrkB44OaVDLFM13rC-hPWY98Mvtho4Y/edit>

**7:00 pm Welcome** — *Sunny Kase, PAC Co-Chair*

- What is PAC? Who is PAC? Where is PAC?

Sunny provided an introduction and mentioned that we are short staffed so there's no sign in sheet.

- Format of PAC meetings

Sunny provided information about the format of PAC meetings. She mentioned interpretation options and the fact that there are interpreters working live and please speak more slowly.

Parent attendees: Brinsley Davis, Lindsey Farwell, Brenda VanDyck, Wendy Caucutt, Jean Robert, Janelle Tangonan Anderson, Nancy Reszetar, Astride Knott, Margy Schult, Bimi

PAC Board of Directors: Sunny Kase & Anika Ward Carter (co-chairs), Heidi Van Schooten (treasurer), Kate McCready (secretary)

PAC Communications Lead: Jessica Ostrov

**7:05 pm**

- **Central Student Council Winter Dance**

- Sunny mentioned that there is a student representative in attendance.
- Student council is working on a winter formal dance. The theme is a masquerade, catered by Link stop and fund raising is a rose sale. \$5 for three, \$2 for one. You can add a note to it and during advisory on Valentines they will deliver the roses to the recipients.
- How can students buy tickets and roses? Tickets for the dance are only online. The dance tickets are \$20. There are QR codes around school. The roses are cash only during lunch. Sunny asked to post information on social media.
- How can parents support the project? Students appreciated the help last year and having help from PAC would be great. Sunny suggested helping with food, setup and take down.

- **Central Showcase and tours**

- Last Thursday night students came out to support the school. Sunny summarized the night and showed a photo of a panel of parents and students that shared their insights about the school. They spoke from the heart, and represented many aspects of the community. The students gave advice to incoming freshman to take chances and try new things. The students said bold things and gave powerful and emotional responses that were insightful explaining how they see

their school. There is a powerpoint used at the showcase which Sunny showed because there are helpful information items on that powerpoint, such as assistant principals by grade, counselors, a schedule of events, a list of clubs (each eligible for \$250 grants from PAC), curriculum opportunities, career Pathways Center, Opportunity Fair, AVID, arts opportunities, athletics and club sports, students gave incredible tours. There is a clip showing what students looked like when they were welcoming families into the school. There was even a choir singing at the entrance.

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

- What is going on at Central High School? Q and A
  - Anika asked Principal Ayers for any updates on what is new at Central.
    - State champs in debate. Some of these things went out in the newsletter but it bears repeating.
    - Math team is doing well, top three right now.
    - The showcase went very well, wonderful turnout and prospective students were excited about Central. When she talks to families about Central she explains the parents are top notch and care about not only their own kids but all of the kids at Central.
    - Tours are going well. Seniors do tours on Tue/Thur. Groups of 20-25 are not uncommon. They're going to extend them through February due to the fact that the deadline for priority registration has been extended.
    - There was a newscast about the new menstrual products in the bathrooms which are being used properly.
    - Student council is working effectively.
    - African American Parent Involvement Day is Monday. Unfortunately P. Ayers will not be in the office but she will record a message and there will be substitute leadership ready to represent the school. She will miss the whole week. Ms. Neil will do an amazing job for the week.
    - There have been some questions from students about passes, being in the hall. There was a message before Winter break explaining the procedure in the event that a student is found without permission. There was some static about some students regarding their rights, which Principal Ayers listened to. Students do get passes to go to the bathrooms. A student had written a letter to the Superintendent with a complaint that there may be a need for more than two visits to the bathroom. P. Ayers reminded that she is available, as is the grade level admin. If a student needs more than two passes, let's hear about it. Encourage students to raise their voice and be an activist but let's start with the admin in our building first. She wants to hear what students have to say.
  - Anika: status of registration?

- Ayers: late March or April. The deadline for priority enrollment is pushing other registration deadlines back.
  - Anika: cell phone usage
    - Ayers: we don't have a policy, but rather a practice. It's as effective as the teachers want to implement. Sometimes students are strong willed, and teachers want to move on with the lesson. She reminds students to be responsible with cell phone use. For example, during the showcase, one of the students explained that you're expected to put your phone away. If a student has a phone out and a teacher asks to put it away, the expectation is that will happen. There may be a need to bring the family into the mix if it's a problem, to ask if the phone can stay home. There may be a more strict policy like some of the other middle schools utilize. It is easier to enforce in smaller schools. It's important to determine whether the policy can be adhered to with fidelity. In advisory students have been watching videos of cell phone use. She wants students to have a voice in the process.
  - Ayers: We had an Education Assistant that went to another school, and she spoke with them about how nice it is to have the PAC at Central, including the \$250 that can be used by teachers for students.

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

- Coach Howell "African American Parent Involvement Day"
  - Sunny shared a slide about this day and the agenda starting at 8:30 until 12:30 including breakfast, classroom visits, tours, Q&A with staff, meet our BSU Students, Title 1 presentation, catered soul food lunch.
- Ms. Punyko "Opportunity Fair" and Internships
  - Punyko: also in the newsletter, there's a spring intern program. They have tripled the number of interns working and being paid. MN Dept of health, Express Bike Shop, Wilder, and finding other networking opportunities. The opp fair is March 1st. There are 110 businesses registered. There is still a bit of space. Health care, design, video production, creative businesses are desired. Welcome volunteers to fill out the form, please check out the needs. There is a student group that will provide input both to volunteer and get out into the community. Build your network, find job shadowing, mentoring. We focus on recruiting alumni. The link is in the chat. There is a summer internship program through Right Track for 80 - 90% of Central students. There's an income requirement (not limited to low income per se and allows most of the students). See newsletter for more information. 11th graders: Genesis Works, in a lot of big cities. If they're flexible schedules during and after school students can do an internship with Best Buy/Ecolab...a 7 week internship plus senior year. In the morning they are in class and in the afternoon they work. Students can make up to 16,000 working for some high connected company and people. Earn as you Learn is an option to earn industry certification in things like in CPR, health care and are paid for time and classes and tests, plus a \$300 gift card. All students eligible.

### **8:00 pm**

- Margy, Schultz, Teacher's Union Representative
  - Ms. Schultz: St. Paul Federation of Teachers is in negotiations for a new contract. Ms. Schultz share slides and explained some high level items among the union goals: lower the ratio of mental health team professionals to student ratios, proposed reduction of class sizes at secondary sites, fair wage increase to reflect cost of living increases, including a percentage based contribution for insurance (vs a set dollar amount), they want to encourage the establishment of parent site councils similar to Central's PAC at all schools, offer more services for students including food shelf, dental office, housing assistance and more, and creating more green attributes at school buildings. There is a zoom meeting for partners which meets the first Wednesday of the month 6:30 - 7:30 on Zoom, the next meeting is Feb 7th. Micha Langenberg also shared an update on the progress of the negotiations. There are still 86% of the proposals that are not agreed to. There may be a strike vote next week, but there may not be a strike vote. If the union votes next week, they may strike, in which case the strike would not start for 10 days thereafter. They hope that they do not need to strike, they are working hard to achieve the goals they are fighting for to avoid the need to strike. If that were to happen there will be information shared in various channels and news outlets. Here's the bargaining team for the union contact email: [bargainingteam@spfe28.org](mailto:bargainingteam@spfe28.org)

### **8:10 pm**

- Lindsey Farwell, Graduation Party
  - They've filled out most of the core team. They're looking for volunteers for a fundraising committee. If you'd like to participate, contact [centralgradparty@gmail.com](mailto:centralgradparty@gmail.com). Will meet with senior council and get their feedback on what they'd like to see for the direction of the party.

### **8:15 pm PAC ByLaws & Decision Making - Sunny Kase, PAC Co-Chair Discussion, Vote**

#### Presentation:

- We have hired a lawyer, Jennifer Urban, Legal for Good. She is a specialist in nonprofit organizations. She has written new [Articles of Incorporation](#) and new [Bylaws](#) for the Parent Advisory Council.
- Tonight's goal: hold a vote to approve these. We're happy to wait until our March meeting, planned for March 4th, if folks would like to look at them more closely.
- If you're looking at them, you can see that they are much more formal than the previous bylaws were. Our goal was to update the bylaws to align the practices of the Board with the governing rules. We are primarily an organization that raises money, and then redistributes that money toward specific purposes. But, we have limited resources and We are striving for integrity between our actions and our documentation.

- The updated Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws help us move forward by:
  - Clarifying our purpose, our mission, our vision and our goals.
  - Clarifying decision making, roles, responsibilities. Each Board of Director Role is outlined, with clearly assigned duties.
  - Creating a better process for elections: Staggers elections w/ good succession planning
  - Creating a standing, regular schedule for the year: Annual Board meeting, Annual Community Engagement meeting, 4 regular Board of Directors meetings
  - Standard procedures for holding meetings, creating agendas, and
  - Clarifying our fiscal calendar to align with the school year instead of the calendar year.
- The current Board of Directors has the authority to change these bylaws without community input but we wanted to bring them to you all to get your thoughts and reactions. Please raise your hand if you'd like to make a comment and we'll unmute you, or you can also put comments in the chat.

Vote:

- Jessica made the motion to approve the changes in the bylaws. Motion was passed through unanimous consent. (All in favor, no nay votes)

**8:20 pm Financial Report — Heidi Van Schooten, PAC Treasurer**

- Discussion, Recommendations
  - Sunny provided a budget summary. The goal was \$70,000. The PAC raised 60,000, which was a great achievement. There is still 36,302 in the checking account remaining. Largest items were teacher and staff requests (25k budgeted, 6,230 spent to date but most of those requests are made toward the end of the year, so we expect to spend the budgeted amount), community outreach 13k budgeted, 4,560 spent to date, teacher appreciation 15,000 budgeted, 7,682 spent to date, 5,000 special grants budgeted, zero spent to date, student group grants 5,000 budgeted 985 spent to date, PAC admin costs 5,000 budgeted 2,163 spent to date, school spirit 2,000 budgeted, less than 1,000 spent to date.

**CLOSING**