

**Central Parent Advisory Council (PAC) Meeting Notes for Families**  
**Monday, April 30, 2024, 7:00-8:30 pm**

**Location: Zoom Conference Call**

Agenda: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ceqkZ7vhf-HobVuw7abPv7aZhaokWwfWxVJMH7nrhww/edit?usp=sharing>

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

- What is PAC? Who is PAC? Where is PAC?
  - Vision: A Central where everyone thrives.
  - Mission: We use a racial equity lens to invest in the vision, voice, and talents of students – as they work to create a more prosperous and equitable Central High School community. We activate creative partnerships that empower youth, educators, parents, and community members to contribute to a Central where everyone thrives.

**7:05 pm Bulletin Board of Awesomeness!!!**

**1. Prom, Taylor Kuramoto**

- a. Quick facts:
  - i. It's this Sat, May 4th from 7-11pm; Doors close at 8:30pm. Must arrive before then. If you leave, you can't come back in.
  - ii. Location: Landmark Center.
  - iii. Last day to buy tickets is Wednesday!
  - iv. If your student is bringing a guest, they need to fill out the guest form.
  - v. PAC has supported Prom by making sure that special needs students can attend.
  - vi. Link to buy tickets:

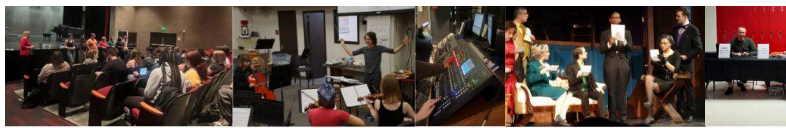
**2. Music: Upcoming Concerts**

**For Your Calendar**

- May 8 | Spring Orchestra Concert, 7:00 pm
- May 9 | Spring Band Concert, 7:00 pm
- May 14 | Senior Recital, 7:00 pm
- May 16 | Spring Jazz Concert, 7:00 pm
- May 21 | Spring Choir Concert, 7:00 pm

**3. Theater Boosters, Jenia Strom**

- a. Three big productions: Little Mermaid, Cabaret in the winter, and Clue in the spring.
- b. So many kids are participating - The Theater Boosters work to support these efforts.
- c. Thank you for all your support!



## CENTRAL THEATER BOOSTERS

### 2023-2024

THREE PRODUCTIONS: *THE LITTLE MERMAID*, *A WINTER CABARET*, & *CLUE*

CAST: MERMAID - 34; CABARET - 17; CLUE - 16

INSTRUMENTALISTS: MERMAID - 13; CABARET - 4, CLUE - 1

CREW: MERMAID - 59; CABARET - 6; CLUE - 45

CREATIVE TEAM (ADULT): MERMAID - 9; CABARET - 3; CLUE - 4

STUDENT LEADERSHIP: MERMAID - 12; CABARET - 9; CLUE - 3

VOLUNTEERS: 53 (MIX OF ADULTS & STUDENTS, MANY AT MULTIPLE PERFORMANCES)

AUDIENCE: MERMAID - 2750; CABARET - 600; CLUE - 1050

**BOOSTERS FOCUS ON BUILDING COMMUNITY & STRUCTURES TO SUPPORT PRODUCTIONS AND GROW THE CENTRAL THEATRE PROGRAM FOR THE BENEFIT OF CENTRAL STUDENTS & OUR WIDER COMMUNITY**



#### 4. Sports Boosters - Kate McCready on behalf of Amy Nelson

Reach out to Amy Nelson if you have questions or want to get involved.

[amybridgettenelson@gmail.com](mailto:amybridgettenelson@gmail.com)

## St. Paul Central Sports Boosters



### ★ THANK YOU - CENTRAL VINTAGE SALE = HUGE SUCCESS!

- Close to 300 transactions
- Raised funds for Central Athletics
- Central Spirit is showing up all over town!
- Great Community Builder and so much fun!

### ★ Interested in getting involved next year - contact Amy Nelson [amybridgettenelson@gmail.com](mailto:amybridgettenelson@gmail.com)

#### About Us:

The Central Sports Boosters is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting Central Athletics.

- ★ The Sports Boosters provide administrative support to individual teams. Individual accounts are maintained for 27+ sports, debate and the Dion Ford Scholarship.
  - Funds raised for specific sports are designated to those accounts and are spent according to individual team needs.
- ★ Sports Boosters also raises funds for the overall athletic program by raising funds for coaches, the purchase and replacement of uniforms, and the purchase and upkeep of equipment/facilities -working in collaboration with the Athletic Director.

#### 5. Title One, Scott Howell

- a. Thanks to PAC for supporting the Spring Festival event! The weather even cooperated enough . It was amazing.

- b. Over 400 ice cream sundaes were served!0
- c. Food Trucks - have ties to Central. All food was free for students who stayed after. Dion Ford Food Truck - Supposed to serve 75-80, they served 125.
- d. The Vintage sale was going well.
- e. Incoming freshman families were invited and many showed up.
- f. Principal Ayers was even dancing. ;)

#### 6. AP and IB Testing, Joleen Armstrong

- a. Please volunteer! It's easy and benefits the students at Central tremendously.
- b. Sign up form here:  
[https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E49ADAA2FA7FEC25-49315322-apandib?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTEAAR2cQDv92fnxf-dzzv6ggCu1WEM1t4UtyyN5\\_gHnY-d8XQK7Cw2wVMR\\_gfA\\_aem\\_AchUsXR41iOS6lg-\\_SaUqXhcQ54loQnyK1gSdYPOoMdxNhjt\\_yhOWxnSXIjRKBKgLufch2Pe-TYr4Zla8hYPyFBaC#](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E49ADAA2FA7FEC25-49315322-apandib?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTEAAR2cQDv92fnxf-dzzv6ggCu1WEM1t4UtyyN5_gHnY-d8XQK7Cw2wVMR_gfA_aem_AchUsXR41iOS6lg-_SaUqXhcQ54loQnyK1gSdYPOoMdxNhjt_yhOWxnSXIjRKBKgLufch2Pe-TYr4Zla8hYPyFBaC#/)
- c. Over 1300 students will be taking the AP tests! IB Tests are taking place as well.
- d. Caveat: You can't proctor a test that your student is taking. Obvs... ;)

#### 7. Drumming Residency, Kim Colbert

- a. The National Education Association supported the Drumming Residency. Kim Colbert
- b. PAC works to partner with something already happening at school. The event on 4/26/24 was great! See the flyer below.
- c. **Upcoming!** The Ordway is hosting a Taiko drumming festival on May 13th. They provided tickets and buses. The first 250 students who sign up get to go. Look for news of that soon.

Saint Paul Central High School Presents

# **Cultural Drumming Festival**

*One Heart Many Rhythms*

April 26th 2024

Performances:

10:15-11:00 - David Hinjosa: Middle Eastern Drumming w/Central Percussionists

12:25-1:10 - Taiko Midwest with Central 10th Graders

2:00-2:45 - Duniya Drum and Dance with Central 10th Graders

3:00-3:30 - Meet and Greet/Drum Circle Followed by Central's Spring Social: DJ & Food Trucks



## **8. Court of Appeals Oral Argument event, Stephanie McCleerey**

- Last week, Central HS hosted the MN District Court Oral Argument event.
- Each judge and legal expert needed a student to be their guide and host.
- The event was student centered and a huge honor!
- Ms. McCleery is working to get the information about the decision that she will share out.
- Food, drink, and decorations were provided by PAC

## **9. Ethnic Studies Meeting - PDF**

# Community Discussion

## **SPPS Critical Ethnic Studies Course Evaluation Report with UMN RIDGS & SPPS Ethnic Studies Department**

Wednesday May 1, 2024  
4:00 - 6:00 pm

Johnson High School - Cafeteria  
1349 Arcade Street  
St. Paul, MN 55106

Food & Language  
Interpreters will be  
provided.



Read the report now!  
([z.umn.edu/CESeval](https://z.umn.edu/CESeval))

*Join us to learn  
more about the  
CES course and  
research findings.*



Questions?  
Please contact the SPPS Ethnic Studies  
Department at  
[ethnicstudies.dept@spps.org](mailto:ethnicstudies.dept@spps.org)





## GROUNDBREAKING

Please join us to celebrate the groundbreaking for Hidden River Middle School's remodeling! The event will include speakers and a groundbreaking ceremony with a visual display of featured spaces.



All are welcome!

**Thursday, May 23 from 4 to 5:15 p.m.**

**Where: 1700 Summit Ave., St. Paul**

The event will start inside the school; enter by the parking lots through door 1 on Grand Ave. or door 4 on Summit Frontage Road

**Find out more: [spps.org/hiddenriver-builds](https://spps.org/hiddenriver-builds)**

Questions: (651) 293-8860 | [wendy.caucutt@spps.org](mailto:wendy.caucutt@spps.org)



**7:30 pm CHS Updates** — *Anika Carter Ward, PAC Co-Chair and Cherise Ayers, Principal*

- **What is going on at Central High School?**
  - **Prom! Lots of excitement!** Ticket sales and making sure the students who are eligible to buy tickets are the ones who are buying tickets. The event is for Central Students. Guests are allowed.
    - What can parents do to help make sure it's a safe, beautiful time to remember? Please have open and honest conversations with your students! There is a lot of driving. Drinking, vaping, drugs, etc. it can lead to bad outcomes. Have the hard conversations! We want to create special, beautiful memories.
      - Suggestion: have a safe word for your child. If your child calls or texts and says that word, you know it's time you to go help them make a safe exit.

- **It's Budget Time:** Principal Ayers gave a thorough presentation. Slides are here: [https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1t9pPtnodVZL5xcz5DWPnhVgVco3b8zwgrK0HeCMZdFA/edit#slide=id.g267353e09af\\_0\\_226](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1t9pPtnodVZL5xcz5DWPnhVgVco3b8zwgrK0HeCMZdFA/edit#slide=id.g267353e09af_0_226)
- Unfortunately there are a lot of cuts happening, and it's happening statewide. As a school, Central is faring better than other schools in the district.
- Presentation - Purpose
  - Tom Sager - Executive Chief of Finance video presentation
    - We are facing a budget shortfall largely because of the lack of pandemic-related funds from the federal government.
    - The state of MN is giving more \$, but also more mandates.
    - Watch the 10 min video for more details.
  - Enrollment: Highest was at 1580. Currently it's at 1539. The decline is due to juniors and seniors shifting to alternative programs (e.g., Gordon Park's program)
    - Projection for next year: 1571
  - Staffing:
    - Administrators: Will hold steady at 5 administrators
    - Teachers: General Ed (not special or ELL). Includes all core and elective.
      - School Year 2024 - 63 FTE (Supply funds used for +1.3 FTE)
      - School Year 2025 - 60 (Supply funds used for +1.3 FTE)
    - Student support Staff
      - School Year 2024 - 24
      - School Year 2025 - 21.5
  - Supplies: Central receives \$175 per student, plus \$110,000 stipend for extracurriculars (this is a set amount for each SPPS high school). Can be used for supplies, field trips, and other supports
  - Central no longer qualifies for Title One funding. This was cut for School Year 2025. This will be a loss of approximately \$184,000. Individual students and families can still get the benefits, (e.g., ACT vouchers, reduced fees, etc.)
  - Discretionary dollars are used for:
    - Additional staff (e.g. lunch supervision)
    - Theater: annual musical, play, etc.
    - Music Ensembles (jazz band, orchestra, choir)
    - Supporting student organization
  - School-specific goals
    - AP and IB school registration and educational supports
- **How can you help?**
  - Advocate for education at the legislative level.
  - Continue to support our booster organizations: PAC, Music Boosters, Robotics Boosters, Sports Boosters, & Theater Boosters

- Help identify and write grant proposals.
- Help purchase supplies! Science supplies, art supplies, photography paper, woodshop supplies, autoshop, etc. are expensive.
- **Q and A with Principal Ayers**
  - Did any other schools lose Title One funding?
    - Principal Ayers did not have the answer for this. She surmised that some might have, but others might have increased their enrollments in students who qualify for free and reduced lunch. Central is at 45% which is lower than some other schools in the district.
  - Are class sizes increasing?
    - Yes, this will likely be a consequence of the budget shortfall and the goal to continue providing a wide variety of course offerings.
  - What is bringing you hope?
    - PAC, the parents, all the people that volunteer and show up for Central. The students are amazing. So much gratitude for all the contributions that are made! We are Central Strong and we're building this T.O.G.E.T.H.E.R.

**8:00 pm - Graduation Party - Lindsey Farwell, Graduation Party Planning Chair**

- Help make this a great party!
- Want to make this free for all to attend. Looking for \$20,000 to support this event.
- Working to get donations from local businesses.
- Please support this! Give today:  
<https://www.gofundme.com/f/2024-central-high-school-graduation-party>
- There will be a SignUp genius for volunteers to help staff the party.
- There is poker, hypnotist, food, music, etc.
- This is a signature Central High School experience! For everyone who doesn't have a senior, pay it forward! Your student will have this soon enough.
- This class didn't get to start at Central. These pandemic kids have built their connections that will be celebrated at the party. Please help any way you can!

**8:15 pm PAC Board Positions - PAC Board**

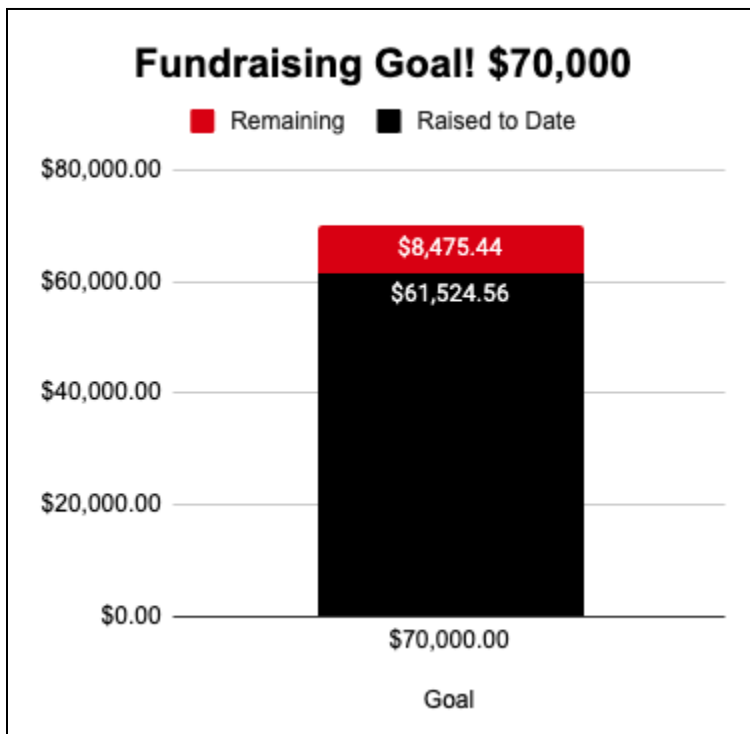
- Come join us! Several of the PAC Board members have students who are graduating next year. If you'd like to shadow in a role for a year, please reach out!

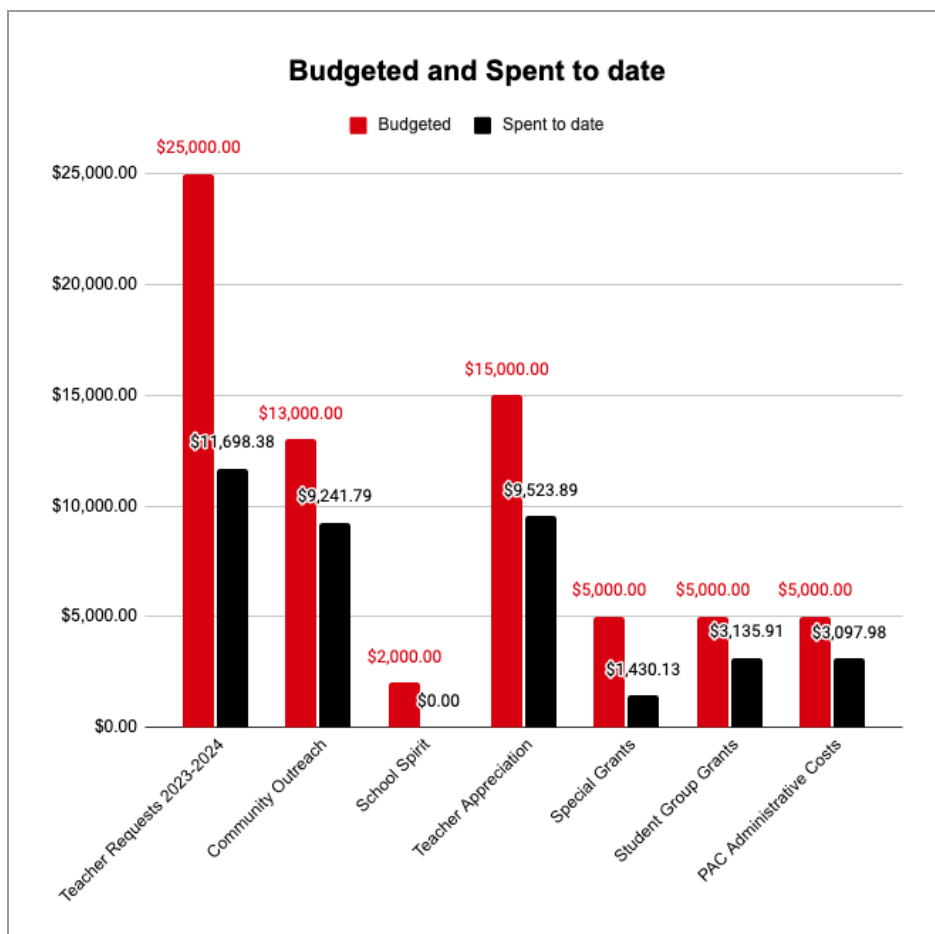
**8:20 pm Financial Report — Heidi Van Schooten, PAC Treasurer**

We are transparent in our financial accounting. Please ask questions.



2023 - 2024 Fiscal Year Budget (July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024)				
Budget Items	Budgeted	Spent to date	Remaining	Spent
Teacher Requests 2023-2024	\$25,000.00	\$11,698.38	\$13,301.62	46.79%
Community Outreach	\$13,000.00	\$9,241.79	\$3,758.21	71.09%
School Spirit	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	0.00%
Teacher Appreciation	\$15,000.00	\$9,523.89	\$5,476.11	63.49%
Special Grants	\$5,000.00	\$1,430.13	\$3,569.87	28.60%
Student Group Grants	\$5,000.00	\$3,135.91	\$1,864.09	62.72%
PAC Administrative Costs	\$5,000.00	\$3,097.98	\$1,902.02	61.96%
Total	\$70,000.00	\$38,128.08	\$31,871.92	54.47%
Pass Through Funds	\$38,969.72	\$31,450.21	\$7,519.51	
		Transactions	Reconciled Transactions	
Checks cashed from 2023 SHORT budget		\$3,104.85	\$3,104.85	
Checks uncashed from 2023 SHORT budget		\$447.37		
Expenses		\$68,603.83	\$43,539.09	
Deposits		\$82,603.37	\$82,603.37	
Balance Less Unreconcilled Checks		\$41,573.38	\$67,085.49	
2023 - 2024 Fundraising				
	Goal	Raised to Date	Remaining	
Individual Donations	\$70,000.00	\$61,524.56	\$8,475.44	
Total	\$70,000.00	\$61,524.56	\$8,475.44	





- New this year: We supported student groups by funding them at \$250 each
- Teacher and staff funding - We supported many individual teachers, but also teachers that grouped together for larger purchases
- Special request funding - These “special grants” were for larger requests.
- All money have been in support of the student voice, and student engagement.
- Understanding the budget will help guide PAC in how the money will be used. PAC serves the whole school! Please partner with us to support the school.

See you all next Fall!

Notes by Kate McCready, PAC Secretary