# NOTES for FAMILIES Central Parent Advisory Council (PAC) Meeting Agenda Monday, October 14, 2024, 7:00-8:30 pm

Meeting Agenda: October 2024 Central Parent Advisory Council Meeting Agenda

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

- Central Homecoming 2024 slides Display of pictures taken at the photobook at the dance. Lots of fun!
- Format of PAC meetings 4 times per year: one meeting per quarter
- What is PAC? Who is PAC? Where is PAC?
  - 501(c)(3) Organization
  - We do fundraising to meet our goals
- Why do we need a PAC?
  - We provide services for teachers, students
    - Teacher meals
    - Special events
    - Support for the student organizations
    - Teacher grants

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

- Principal Ayers and Co-Chair Anika are joining us remotely as they are bringing
  their sons students for the Historically Black Colleges and Universities [HCBU]
  college tour organized by Progressive Baptist Church. They take students from
  all over the Twin Cities to tour Historically Black Colleges and Universities.
  (There was a time where black students that graduated from high school weren't
  allowed into some other schools because of the color of their skin. These schools
  have always been integrated, but they were founded in order to offer higher
  education opportunities to Black stents
- Anika Introduced Principal Ayers: What are you excited to share tonight?
  - The learning that is happening. This is Principal Ayer's 3rd year. The majority of the admin team is also in their 3rd year. They are really settling into systems and they've figured out how to really make the school run. Focus: More students in classrooms engaged in learning.
  - She sees herself as a time traveler because she gets to see the future everyday - our students are the future and the future is so very bright.
    - Thank you for trusting us with your babies! We're appreciative of this partnership (Central + PAC) you showing up here on a Monday night makes for a very strong community.
    - PAC is a big backbone of support for our school. Thank you all for your involvement.
- What is new?

- Mission statement for PAC. A Central where everyone thrives. As an English Teacher, she loves Acronyms.
  - 1st year: We're in this 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. Focus has been to work to heal harm that you may not have caused. It's important to recognize that hurt people
  - 2nd year: WHALE: We Have Aligned Learning Expectations. Teachers can be on the same page.
  - 3rd year: HEAL: Means two things: Helping Everyone Along Lovingly. Holding Everyone Accountable Lovingly.
- There is a strong push to intentionally shift the culture from all perspectives - admins, students, teachers. All of us in how we engage with one another and how we show up in our shared space.
- What is going on at Central High School?
  - New Cell Phone expectations are going very well. Teachers love it. A
    parent reported that her student said: "You know, I actually like these new
    cell phone expectations. Easier to meet people."
  - o Hard to implement and there are some spaces that need
- Lead clerk: Mary Beth Redmond was the lead clerk for 25+ years. She retired last year and it was a big loss to our community. We now have a new lead clerk! She's absolutely fantastic. Her name is Sara Stensaas and she can be reached at sara.stensaas@spps.org
- German Delegation visit tomorrow! 25th year in partnership with a German school in Neuss, Germany. Central students visited Alexander Von Humboldt Gymnasium school in Nois this past June. Now the administrators of the German school are coming to Central tomorrow. They'll have a meet and greet in the German immersion classroom. They'll get a tour of the school. They love Snoopy! So, they'll get some connections to Peanuts.:) These are all adults but there are German exchange students currently attending Central. The French exchange students were here for two weeks.
- Q and A with Principal Ayers
  - Question: Concern about vaping in the bathroom. How can we address this and how can the PAC help?
    - Answer: These are diabolical because these are harder to track and harder to catch kids who are vaping. They have additional staff by the bathrooms and walking by the bathrooms. An immediate response: If your child sees someone, they can send an email to their grade level administrator or grade level intervention specialist. Note the time that they've sent it out. The admins can check on the cameras.
      - Punishment: 1st offense: Take the vape and call the parents. 2nd offense: Student is sent home.
      - We need a push against these products from being marketed to kids.

- Discussion with the kids: What is this chemical doing to your body and your mind? Is this helping you grow?
- Idea: Have PAC host some wellness sessions PAC could help students learn more about health and fitness?
- Question: Any updates on art teacher staffing? Our student is in a painting class and sounds like they have had a substitute for the class so far this year. Related Question: Same question but for Mind Body Fitness. My student says there hasn't been any teaching the entire year so far and now they have a different substitute.
  - Answer There are 4 classes without a permanent teacher:
    - Special Education
    - Art They are working on hiring. The HR process is complicated, but they are working actively to get people through the process into the classroom. Licensed teachers with the right qualifications. The other teachers are creating the content.
    - Mind Body fitness has been hired. They're doing Aurora Holms. She's working in two capacities: TA and as an hourly teacher for the Mind Body Fitness class. She has a BA in sports psychology.
    - Culinary Arts
  - There is learning happening in these classes but they know it's not optimal.
  - They have a good handle on the hiring process and are moving forward as quickly as possible.
- Question: Can you explain enrollment this year?
  - Answer: Original staffing plan was based on the 1570 enrolled students as of May 2024. The enrollment changed during the summer to over 1700. This gave them an additional allocation that allowed them to hire 2 additional teachers: Art and Science. The Art position didn't get posted until just before school started. They were a little behind in hiring because of that.
- Question: Are there any plans to support students in understanding how to navigate social media, algorithms, and gain critical thinking skills. I remember a curriculum that was part of advisory once, but don't know if it's still happening. Along with balancing a budget and applying to college, this could be one of the top things school can do to prepare young adults for life. We only have to look at the election cycle or other polarizing issues that there is a serious issue.
  - Answer:
    - Social media yes. That is talked about in advisory. They are involving their student leaders to help in the 9th grade advisories. Advisories are like homeroom. It is 30 minutes long. They do grade checks regularly. A good point of contact for students. It helps someone monitor how they're

- doing in their classes. You walk with your advisory class and your advisor at graduation.
- MN State statute is requiring a personal finance class for students entering as freshman this year. This will happen in Jr year. There is a business class that can be taken by non-freshmen.
- Question: What is the maximum allowed class size at Central? My student is in multiple classes with close to 40 students.
  - Answer: The maximum is 38, but some classes are over 40. They have a class size meeting. That entails meeting with a parent, the teacher, a union representative, the administrator, and others to decide if an exception is warranted. It is a very involved process.
- Question: What can the parents do to support Central?
  - Answer: Listen to your children. Talk with them, but listen to them. Get them out of their rooms. Tell them you love them, give them hugs, tell them they are amazing. It's important for them to know.
    - We can be critical. We see the very best they can be and we have expectations. Accountability with support. Start with love and appreciation for being their parent.
- Question: What is the best way to communicate with you, Principal Ayers?
  - Answer: Email. Then she can go back to it. If I don't get back to you within 24 hours, please send me a nudge.
  - Also, reach out to your student's grade level administrator. She may refer you to them if appropriate. The whole admin team is working in collaboration with each other.

### 7:45 pm Bulletin Board of Awesomeness!!!

- 1. GOTV Student Leadership Get Out the Vote
  - a. Amazing group of young people working with Parent/Educator Leon Wang. It is in partnership with the Right Track internship. Lifts up student activism and gets young people engaged in voting. Non-partisan group. There are 6 students participating. They're posting art at the school.
  - b. Sunny shared a video that the students created as part of Homecoming.
- 2. Invited all the Booster groups to talk about their work
  - a. Theater Boosters Jenia Strom
    - The Central Theatre Boosters: Parents and community members who are working to support the theater program (3 events each vear
      - 1. Fall Musical. This year: Hades Town which was performed last weekend.
      - 2. Musical review (a cabaret that is student organized)
      - 3. Spring Play
    - ii. There are hundreds of ways for students to get involved, and for parents to get involved. The boosters support the directors of the performing arts

- 1. Provide lunch on rehearsals
- 2. Do fundraising for the rights of shows, build the sets, make the costumes. They don't want to charge students a fee to participate to make it accessible to all students.
- 3. As with every organization: They're looking at how they can grow and do more. Expand more opportunities for students:
  - a. Bringing in guest artists
  - b. Taking students to see performances
  - c. Bringing in middle schoolers to see the performances.
- 4. All are welcome! Reach out via the QR code on the slide if you'd like to get involved.
- 5. November meeting is a social gathering



#### MISSION STATEMENT:

The mission of the Theatre Boosters is to assist in the on-going production of Central High School theatre arts performances for the benefit of all Central High School students and the larger community, in collaboration with the CHS Director of Theatre Arts, including through:

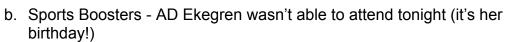


For more information, check out our website or contact us at stpaulchsdrama@gmail.com

- volunteer support for theatrical productions;
- marketing and fundraising activities;
- activities to foster the theatre community; and
- support to students.

Boosters meet monthly (rotating virtually and in-person) and are open to parents and community members.





- i. They need a new treasurer. Please consider volunteering! Full description has been shared in the Central Newsletter.
- ii. Winter sports registration is up! Get your kids registered.
- iii. Musket game is on Wednesday (Highland vs. Central) see more below on that.
- c. Minutebots Boosters Mark Christenson
  - i. Robotics team. They meet a lot and build incredible robots. The students do all the building, the programming, and then they compete at events.
- 3. Football & PSAT testing, Scott Howell

- a. Big rivalry! The national rivalry series is going to broadcast the Central vs. Highland game. They make a donation to the sports program. They give away an academic scholarship.
  - i. Game time is 4:30pm. They're playing for the Musket! Central currently has possession.
  - ii. There will be food trucks starting at 3pm. And that food can be brought into the game. Each person that pays can get a wristband that gives access.
  - iii. Supposed to be a beautiful day!
  - iv. They will send out the link to watch the game and more info about the organization that is supporting our sports!
- b. Homecoming game: Breast Cancer awareness. Support was great. So many people in pink!
- c. PSAT: First test of the year is on October 22-24. IT is for 11th graders. 10th graders can take it but they need to pay a fee.
  - i. They've been working to get everyone scheduled correctly. Lots of scheduling work was needed.
  - ii. If there is an 11th grader that is taking the test that hasn't heard from Coach Howell, please reach out.

# 4. AP and IB Testing -

- a. AP Joleen Armstrong along with co-coordinator with Lisa Hodek. Email either Joleen or Lisa with questions
  - i. Complete AP Information: https://central.spps.org/academics/ap-advanced-placement
  - ii. There are 632 students signed up to take over 1400 exams. It is a big effort. There is no cost to the student to take the exam.
  - iii. Deadline for registration is November 15th. If you're registered for the class, you're registered for the test.
  - iv. If students DON'T take the test, there is a fee.
  - v. Awards that Central has been given:
    - 1. Silver: 59% of the class of 2025 took AP tests
    - 2. Gold: 38% got a 3 or higher
    - 3. Platinum Award: For 18% of students taking 5 or more AP exams.
  - vi. 9th & 10th grade students may take the following AP exams: World History (exam only status), and AP Human Geography and AP Environmental Science through those courses. The rest are for 11th and 12th graders.
- b. IB Program: Rick Ley IB Diploma Program
  - i. IB exam information will be shared in IB diploma program classes.
  - ii. During the month of May lots of work on the exams!
  - iii. Deadline for IB exam registration is by October 16th! Registration form has been out for a couple of weeks now and lots of students have already registered. Errors can be fixed up until November 15th.

- iv. No cost to students but if they register, we pay for the exam so it's important that they take the test if they register.
- v. Yes. IB Diploma Program exams are for grade 11 and 12.
- 5. Counseling Department Wendy Eidem not able to attend but Lisa Beckham from the district is working at Central currently. She's hiring a Career and Counselor Coordinator for Central. Hoping to have someone in the position full time later this month.
  - a. Conferences are tomorrow night.
    - i. Virtual from 4:30 to 5:30. And, in-person in the evening.
    - ii. Dr. Wendy Robertson a wealth of knowledge on the college application process. She's a gem! She's coming tonight to talk with families about this topic. This session will be recorded. It will have great information and myth-busting to help you consider the wide array of options. Lisa will be presenting as well.
    - iii. Lisa is hosting college application help.
      - 1. Students should go to room 2026 for help with college applications, essays, etc. Lisa will be there to help with that.
      - 2. See Schoology and the newsletter for a lot more information from the Career and College Readiness program.
- 6. All Night Graduation Party!
  - a. Looking for a new chair for this party. There are a lot of resources available to help. There are a lot of co-chairs for the different sections. This job is SO important and makes a HUGE impact on the student's graduation experience.

## 8:00 pm PAC Board Business - Kate McCready, PAC Secretary

- Come join us! PAC Board opportunities
- PAC Committees in need of help:
  - Fundraising
  - Volunteer Coordination
  - Communication
  - Sign up here! Big or small we can help find a way for you to get involved.
- New bylaws. PAC supports Central by
  - 1.) encouraging a culture where student voices and perspectives are at the center:
  - 2.) providing financial resources and human-based support to facilitate learning and augment equitable outcomes in educational activities, programs, and materials;
  - 3.) promoting transparent communication between school staff and student families in order to improve academic performance, foster mutual accountability, and ensure the high academic achievement of all learners;
  - 4.) creating partnerships that empower students, families, educators, and community stakeholders to build a more equitable and prosperous Central High School community.

# 8:10 pm Financial Report — Heidi Van Schooten, PAC Treasurer

- We work off a school year budget. We carry forward money each year to create a buffer while our fundraising kicks off.
- Budget is \$62K this year. Teacher requests are one of our largest funding areas, along with teacher meals, and community outreach.
- In less than a month we'll be kicking off our big fundraising effort of the year. We appreciate any resources time or financial to support this endeavor.

2024 - 2025 Fiscal Year Budget (July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025)			
Budget Items	Budgeted	Spent to date	Remaining
Teacher Requests 2024-2025	\$20,000.00	\$2,050.74	\$17,949.26
Community Outreach	\$10,000.00	\$931.49	\$9,068.51
School Spirit	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00
Teacher Appreciation	\$15,000.00	\$2,735.05	\$12,264.95
Special Grants	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00
Student Group Grants	\$5,000.00	\$748.26	\$4,251.74
PAC Administrative Costs	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00
Total	\$62,000.00	\$6,465.54	\$55,534.46

Meeting Ended at 8:35pm.