Central Parent Advisory Council (PAC) Meeting Minutes
Monday, October 6, 2025, 7:00-8:30 pm

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

- Format of PAC meetings
- What is PAC? Who is PAC? Where is PAC?
- Why do we need a PAC?
- Student Council and Homecoming - Berenice
    - Central Student Council president; just completed a week of homecoming events
    - Student Council activities: pep fest, spirit week, made signs, lots of student engagement
    - HC Dance: Lots of people attended; decorations were impressive; photo booth was a big hit
    - New Central mascot: Francis; project with Central Creative Collective to make a change within the community; reenvisioned what a good symbol for Central would be
    - CCT students selling t-shirts and sweatshirts on Fridays during lunch

7:05 pm CHS Principal Updates *— Anika Ward, PAC Co-Chair and Cherise Ayers, Principal*

- Start of the school year: What's going well?
    - Completed accreditation for the high school; this is the 100th year of accreditation for Central
    - Central is a school of distinction. There are only 24 out of 1350 schools to get that designation
    - IB visit: Got favorable remarks from the IB diploma program. Visited over two days, met with students, staff, and parents.
    - Homecoming was a great success; there may have been 1,200 students at the dance (last year 800); dance restricted to only Central students as a way for students to get to know each other early in the year
- Phone Policy: How is it going so far?
    - It has been going well so far; students are participating
    - Staff collect phones if they see students with them and students pick them up at the end of the day
    - Rarely have student pushback
    - Nice to see kids looking up and talking to each other in the hallways and at lunch
    - Working to involve student leaders in the future with decisions
    - Treating cell phones as an addiction for some students; looking to involve social worker in these conversations
    - Parents can continue to hold students accountable and support them; parents should email students to contact them the day or call the office
    - Smart watches: Only taken if students are distracted

- Accommodations: if students have a smart phone use allowed for in their IEP/504, they can have access to it. Students can still use their ipads for coping strategies.

7:30 "Phones, School, and Families: An Essential Partnership" - Conversation

- Xiaoran Sun, Assistant Professor, Department of Family Social Science, University of Minnesota
- Jodi Dworkin, Professor and Extension Specialist, Department of Family Social Science, University of Minnesota
  - How we got here: Strong algorithms are strongly addictive; teen brain is still developing and especially susceptible to this
  - Surgeon general is warning of risks to mental health, calling on schools to restrict phone use; and families should also be working to create cell phone free zones
  - State law mandated that school districts develop cell phone policies; schools are approaching it differently
  - Some states are doing full bans (like Central); it's a big shift
  - Research: How do adolescents use their smartphones during school hours?
    - Tracked national sample, 13-17 y.o. Continuously for 6 months
    - From 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., on average cell phone use is 1hr 10 min (range = 0 to 3hr 47min)
    - Number of sessions (reflects activating phone): average 41 sessions/day during school hours (range= 0 to 454)
    - Mainly spent on social media apps; Instagram, YouTube, Snapchat, TikTok (off task apps)
      - Only about 5 minutes/day on educational apps
    - Findings suggest importance of restrictions
  - Ways families can support their students? Talk to students about what it's like to not have their phones; how has their experience in class been different? How is your concentration? Goal is to help students manage social media use. Talk about ways to create "no phone spaces" at home
  - What happens at the college level? Policies are new; college students are also addicted to their phones without policies; have students track their use of cell phones and report back; that can be insightful

8:00 pm PAC Volunteer Coordinator — *Kerri Miller, PAC Volunteer Coordinator*

- Volunteer opportunities: Kerri will organize volunteer signups when there are events like staff lunches, etc.
- Volunteering at Central is fun and gives parents' a different view of students
- Anything we can do to make it easier for the teachers and admins is worth the effort

8:05 pm Booster Clubs - *Sunny Kase, PAC Co-Chair*

- Several booster clubs at Central
- Theater Boosters: Jenia Strom; boosters support the theater program; 140 students are working on fall musical, Mamma Mia; all the sets and costumes are created by students; music is performed and directed by students; there are volunteer opportunities around the production; next booster meeting, Oct. 22
- Sports Boosters: raise money for all the sports at Central (Sports boosters had a scheduling conflict, so could not present)
- Minutebots Robotics Team: student club that meets throughout the year
- Music Boosters for choir, orchestra and band
- Debate Boosters for Debate Club

8:10 pm PAC Fundraising & Financial Report *— Heidi Van Schooten, PAC Treasurer*

- Financial report from end of 2025 school year (see attachment for detailed report)
    - $50,000 goal of fundraising this year; we are halfway there
    - Each teacher and staff person can be reimbursed for $250 for things that go right into the classroom
    - We create a budget and stick to it
    - Will participate in Give to the Max day in November
- Student group funding
- Teacher and staff funding: meals at PD days
- Special request funding

8:20 pm Vote Yes for SPPS campaign - *Teresa Mozur, Campaign Manager*

- School board approved a levy proposal to make up state funding shortfalls; extending the current levy
- Referendum for $37 million
- Some volatility in federal funding
- Without the levy district will look at cutting the things that schools are not required to fund
- Website for more information: https://www.yesforspps.com/
- There are volunteer opportunities

8:30 pm Meeting ends

2025 - 2026 Fiscal Year Budget (July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026)			
Budget Items	**Budgeted**	**Spent to date**	**Remaining**
Teacher Requests 2025-2026	$15,000.00	$0.00	$15,000.00
Community Outreach	$10,000.00	$1,908.47	$8,091.53
School Spirit	$2,000.00	$0.00	$2,000.00
Teacher Appreciation	$12,000.00	$1,609.32	$10,390.68
Special Grants	$5,000.00	$0.00	$5,000.00
Student Group Grants	$5,000.00	$0.00	$5,000.00
PAC Administrative Costs	$1,000.00	$0.00	$1,000.00
Total	**$50,000.00**	**$3,517.79**	**$46,482.21**

		Reconcilled
Checking Account Balance 7/1/2025	$34,541.86	
PayPal Balance 10/5/2025	$23,785.00	
Carry Over Checks from 24-25 Budget	-$1,802.74	$0.00
Expenses	-$3,517.79	$2,317.79
Unreconcilled Checks		-$1,200.00
Deposits	$1,793.75	
Balance Less Unreconcilled Checks	$56,000.08	
Current PAC Balance	$54,800.08	

2024 - 2025 Fundraising			
	Goal	**Raised to Date**	**Remaining**
Individual Donations	$50,000.00	$25,578.75	$24,421.25
ACTUAL		**$25,578.75**	