



TROY ATHENS PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION

Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, September 24, 2025

Time: 7:00 PM – 7:41 PM

Location: TACC

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM

Attendees:

- 5 Board Members (Sam Irani, Angela Whitmore, Judy Bunao, Janice Rae and Erin Lilly)
- 4 Parent Attendees
- Mr. Vernon Burden (Principal)
- Mr. Beregszaszy

2. Additions/Deletions to Agenda

- None reported

3. Reports

a. Principal's Report – Mr. Vernon Burden

Staffing & Leadership

- Administrative team remains consistent for the past 2 years
- Mr. Burden is now in his 3rd year as principal
- **Staffing Overview:**
 - 94 instructional staff
 - **11 new teachers**
 - 2 paraprofessionals

New Building Project

- **Groundbreaking:** April 2026
- **Completion:** 2028
- **Phase 1:** Centrally located media center and **classroom enhancements**
- Current 9th graders will be seniors when the project is complete

Facility Enhancements

- New turf installed on the softball field
- New 75-foot varsity baseball field

Policy & Culture Updates

- **New Cellphone Policy:**
 - No phones allowed in classrooms
 - "Cellphone hotels" provided in classrooms and main office
 - Phones may be kept in bags or stored in the hotels
- **Tardiness Rates:**
 - ~5% tardy to 1st hour
 - ~2% tardy during the rest of the day
- **Athens Family University:**
 - First session: **Tuesday, Sept 30 at 6:00 PM at TACC**
 - Hosted by Positive You: "*Digital Detox*" presentation
- Late pass policy in place for unexcused tardies

Academic & Student Life

- Successful Homecoming week
- Parent University collaborations underway
- **Career Wall:** QR codes linking students to local organizations and apprenticeships
- **\$300,000 Grant** awarded for welding & pneumatics curriculum
- **3 National Merit Finalists**
- **AP Exam Success:** 87% scored 3 or higher (largest AP group to date)
- **Media Center:** 2,000+ books checked out; Bean stack reading challenges active

b. Teacher Representative Report – Mr. Beregszaszy (Co-chaired with Mr. Dufresne)

Homecoming Events:

- Exciting Powderpuff game
- Parade had strong community energy
- Dance featured a well-received snack and water station — thanks to all donors and volunteers

Upcoming Events & Opportunities:

- **Blood Drive:** December
- **Charity Week:** Applications open in October — completing the application is the first step to get involved

Athens Abroad Trips:

- Thailand (Spring Break)
- Europe (Summer)
- Spain & Portugal (2027)
- Australia (2028)

AP Art History Field Trips: Chicago and New York (tentative)

Clubs & Service Initiatives:

- *Ambassador Club* helped clean up after Homecoming parade
- *Empower With Trust Club* is creating period care packages for the Detroit homeless
- *National Honor Society* honors students with GPA of 3.5+

Media Center:

- 9th grade orientations completed
- Over 2,000 books already checked out

Parent-Teacher Conferences: October 9 & 10

Hawk & Hornet Invitational (Science Olympiad):

November 15 — All-day event

Hosted at Athens High School

58 teams from 34 schools across Michigan and Ohio will participate

Supply Drive:

- PTO will purchase and deliver supplies in October

c. Secretary report

Judy coordinated with Lisa regarding the transfer of email access. She also welcomed two new parents, both attending their first PTO meeting. Both parents expressed a strong interest in getting involved, despite the demands of their travel jobs.

d. Treasurer's Report

Budget Updates:

- Square service fee: **\$117.41**
- Donations to date: **\$7,085** (as of 9/24/2025)

e. Vice President's Report

- **Upcoming Fundraiser – Ford Drive 4 UR School:**
October 3 | 4:00–7:00 PM
Earn **\$30 per test drive** (with completed survey)
One test drive per household; participants must be 18+

f. President's Report

- **Staff Dinner:** Scheduled for **October 9 at 3:30 PM**
- **Staff Grants:**
 - In progress
 - Google Form to be sent out by **mid-October**
- **Leftover Funds:** Will be reallocated as needed

4. Open Discussion

- Communication platforms reviewed: Facebook page, school website, and email subscriptions
- PTO meeting calendar and times reviewed

5. Committees and Chairs

- Committee chair roles still being filled
- **Staff Appreciation Week** is fully staffed
- Most board roles filled; seeking **parent volunteers** to chair individual events

6. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn passed at 7:41 PM

Committee / Event (In approximate order of timing)	Committee / Event Chairperson (s)	Board point of contact
Staff Fall Conference Dinner		Erin
Giving Tree		
Staff Appreciation Week	Laura Saleski	Judy
Student Appreciation Day		Sam
Spring Supply Drive		Sam
Charity Week Carnival Booth		Angela

Upcoming PTO Meetings (*held at TACC unless otherwise noted*)

November 12, 2025

January 14, 2026

March 11, 2026

April 8, 2026