

Henry PTO
General Meeting Minutes
9/8/25
7 pm

Type of Meeting: General Meeting

Invitees: Christine Eckstein, Jessica Banner, Samantha Stirling, Michelle Swatske, Angie Phillion, Lauren Evans, Alicia Goyal, Kari Roehr

- I. **Call to order-** Samantha Stirling
- II. **Speaker:** Amanda Stanec. Amanda is the owner of Move, Live, Learn. She is the author of Protect the Joy: A Positive, Collaborative Approach to Youth Sport. She is also a Parkway parent.
- III. **Attendees:** Christine Eckstein, Jessica Banner, Samantha Stirling, Michelle Swatske, Angie Phillion, Lauren Evans, Alicia Goyal, Kari Roehr, Jodi Oliver, Louis Smith, Danielle Terranova, Linda Howard, Ben Margalski, Katie Kiefer Margalski, Peter Stirling, Sreevu Dandanudi, Lisa Carson, Steven Le, Jacqueline Le, Milena Korovyakovskaya, Andrew Phillion, Chethana SB, Elena Simcox, Poonam Prakash, Shashi Prakash, Camille Howard.
- IV. **Principal Update**
 - a. **Welcome & Thanks** – Thank you to our PTO and families for your incredible partnership. It has been a fantastic start to the school year.
 - b. **Enrollment/Staffing** – We currently have 473 students enrolled. This is a decline in our enrollment (508) since the end of the school year last year, which was expected due to a decline in live births which is how enrollment is determined at the school level.
 - We welcomed one new classroom teacher: Mrs. Heather Kramer, who transferred from Shenandoah Valley Elementary, Mr. Nate Banderman, counselor, Mrs. Erica Rochester, Reading Specialist, and Mrs. Jalie-Ann Colona, strings teacher.
 - We also welcomed a whole new office staff, Mrs. Kellie Steko, Mrs. Carol Westlund, Mrs. Jeannie Cham, and nurse Mrs. Jen Baker.
 - Special Educators: We also welcomed Christa George as an SLP and Ann Matoushek Special Education Administrator.
 - Welcome to Emma Lacey, Teacher Assistant who was replaced as long term building sub by Josh Suich.
 - Our newest bulldog was welcomed by Mrs. Kelsh on August 30, Remi Lynn Kelsch.
 - c. **Character Education** - Core Values - Kind, Responsibility, Inclusive, Perseverance
 - 5th Grade Character Councils - School Spirit, Beautification, Core Value Teaching, School Service

- Bulldog Ambassadors - 1 student per class that will be chosen by their peers in grades 3-5 - this crew will be our Henry Action News anchors, plan whole school assemblies around our core values, and help with school tours
- d. **Curriculum Night** – We held curriculum night on Thursday, August 28 which was earlier than normal after gathering some feedback from parents last year. We offered a new format and are gathering a bit of feedback from parents in the Henry Happenings this week in a poll to determine how parents attended. Please take the time to respond, if able!
- e. **Celebrations** – Our first author visit by Aaron Reynolds was amazing! Thanks to the PTO for purchasing a book for every single grade level classroom in our school! Bulldog Brags are off and running to celebrate our students who are demonstrating our core values.
- **Upcoming Events** –
 - September 10: Half Day - 1:05 PM Dismissal
 - September 17: Picture Day
 - September 26: Family Bingo Night @ 6:30 PM
 - September 28: Soccer Night w/City 2
- **School Projects:** Black top resurfaced with newly painted playground games, AC units automation system upgraded and replaced mid-September (2022 bond issue HVAC automation system upgrade), updated fiber internet cabling, rock garden near main entrance, playground has been scheduled for summer of 2027 (2022 bond issue)
- **Closing** – We're grateful for this strong home–school partnership. Together, we're building a safe, joyful place where our kids thrive.
- c.

V. Officer Reports

- a. **President** – Samantha Stirling (10th year at Henry and 6th on the board) & Angela Phillion
 - i. Welcome & Introduction. Recap of our 24-25 PTO year:
 1. In September the library hosted Mark Twain Nominee author Jasmine Warga for 4th and 5th graders. PTO purchased a book for each of these classrooms.
 2. We were able to fix the swinging bridge on the playground, thanks to a board member finding out it was under warranty and was able to get the part to be fixed.
 3. Fall/Spring Beautification. PTO decorates the front and back of the school for each season.
 - A parent mentioned that there is a grant from MO Botanical Gardens for beautification. PTO we will look into this.
 4. Trunk or Treat- Hosted on a Friday and moved to the front of the school.
 5. PTO also provided book fair donuts, conference night dinner, fine dining day, restaurant nights (such as Culvers), One School One Book books and incentives, fall and spring classroom parties.
 6. STEAM night at Made- 2 sessions were held in December.

7. Winter Entertainer- Babaloo came to perform for 2 sessions on the half day before winter break.
8. Hassle Free Fundraiser- raised \$6000 in 24-25.
9. Teacher Grant Requests- These are grants that teachers ask for throughout the year. Some examples are: summer slide, money games, write on flip charts, etc.
10. Teacher appreciation week-the entire staff at Henry was able to enjoy!
11. PTO purchased recess equipment, supported the welcome breakfast, supported the family emergency fund, provided funds for abilities awareness week, multicultural night, two Marcus movie nights.
12. Stock the Lounge- Monthly stock the lounge for snacks and drinks for teachers was organized by PTO and funded for items not stock.

Questions: Elena Simcox is wanting to do a community picnic for the school and will meet with Jessica Banner to plan this.

- ii. 2025-26 PTO calendar- Our calendar was sent home in Friday folders and shared in the Henry Happenings. Once the website is able to be updated it will be housed on the website as well.

iii. Website update

1. Samantha Stirling updated the PTO website in June, and then Parkway did an update to the website in July for the entire district. When doing this it was not consistent on what was moved to the new platform (for PTOs, schools, etc). PTO is unable to change anything on the current website. PTO is going to hopefully get the password in the next few weeks to be able access and update the website. There is a PTO meeting on 9/15 that the Board is going to.

b. Treasurer – Kari Roehr. Kari has been a parent at Henry for 10 years, 2nd year as treasurer.

i. Treasurer's report

1. We currently have 89,994.70 in our account, and are planning on using around 26,000 on cafeteria tables.
2. Currently received 15,037.22 from the fun run, still waiting on around 7,000 more.
3. The Teacher's Lounge received a refresh and \$2,778 was spent on that.
4. Recess equipment was purchased (\$585).

ii. Proposed 2025-26 budget and changes/vote to approve- **Budget Approved**

1. Kari presented the 25-26 budget including projected income and expenses.
 - a. PTO tries to keep around \$40,000 in the bank in case there is another Covid-like situation.
 - b. Questions :
 - *Lisa Carson asked who picks the books for One School One book?* Dr. Oliver explained that there is a committee at the school made of teachers, staff, librarians and administration that choose the book and runs the program. PTO provides the funds for the books.
 - Elena Simcox asked can there be toys instead of candy at trunk or treat. Yes, PTO plans to have some small toys and will look into more.

- *Lisa Carson asked about the cafeteria Tables- Who picked these tables?* Dr. Oliver explained she has a running list of needs and wants at Henry. PTO partnered with Dr. Oliver, and PTO chose to move forward the new cafeteria tables as what they are raising money for. Dr. Oliver got bids for the tables from Parkway's preferred vendor. There were two options for tables (plain tops and design) and PTO chose the less expensive tables with plain tops. The tables will fit in our space and all students will be able to use them.
- *Elena Simcos asked about lunch timings and why her child has such an early lunch.* Dr. Smith addressed how lunch timings are assigned. K-2 students usually have early lunch times since they do not have strings.
- *Lisa Carson asked about the gym blinds and why they were not installed last year.* Dr. Oliver explained that we got a bid from Parkway's vendor for blinds. We went forward with the bid, they came to install the blinds and one set was up. As they started the second set there was an issue with installation and it was an OSHA violation. The vendor said blinds could not be installed, the money was refunded to us from the vendor, and we met as a board and voted for another window covering. The new window covering has been installed, and the difference in price was applied toward the new Art Tables for the Art Room.

c. **Co-VPs of Fundraising** – Michelle Swatske & Christine Eckstein

i. Booster Bulldog Dash update

1. We have raised over \$20,000. There will be company matches as well. Last year we had a hassle free fundraiser and raised \$6,800 for the year. 76% of the students registered, and 260 students got donations. Last year with hassle free we had 60 students/families participate. We were able to reach a bigger population of donors with this fundraiser as well. We had Booster employees at Henry from 8:30-4:40 each day for 8 days. Booster pushed into the classroom each day and tied into our character values, made flags with the classes and got the students excited. Booster ran the fun run for us as well. Many local schools are also using Booster including Parkway Schools.

ii. Restaurant Nights

1. Papa Johns night on 9/17. This is the Valley Park location only!
2. Culvers Night will be October 14th.

iii. Charleston Wrap

1. Wrapping Paper sales at the end of November. This was booked a year in advance.

d. **VP of Community Events** – Jessica Banner (11 years at Henry, 4 more years to go).

i. Working on a monthly calendar of Community Events

1. Picnic? Maybe in September, Jessica will work with Eliana Simcox to schedule this.
2. Trunk or Treat (Oct 24th)
3. Skate Night (Nov 12th from 6-8)
 - a. Only Henry students, \$12/child, 6-8 pm. Quad skates are included, and inline skates are \$4 more per person.
4. Zootopia 2 in December- date TBD
5. Jan TBD- Ultimate Ninja is scheduled for January 9th.
6. Trivia night is January 6th, and STEAM night is February 10th and 11th from 6-8 pm.
7. Cat in the Hat movie night TBD, Chuck E Cheese night on March 25th.
8. Multicultural Night in April, date TBD.
9. May TBD

e. **VP of Communications** – Lauren Evans

- i. Facebook pto and grade level parent pages
- ii. Instagram page

- VI. Next PTO Meeting: **November 10th, 7pm 2025 in the Henry Library.** The speaker is Sarah Dull at Here to Help advocate for IEPs. The speaker will be first, followed by the General Meeting.
- VII. Motion to adjourn- Made by Samantha Stirling. Seconded. Meeting adjourned.