

Piney Branch Elementary

PTO Meeting

October 15, 2025



*Motion to
Open*



Agenda

- Motion to Open
- September Meeting Minutes
- Upcoming Events
- Spirit Wear
- Color Craze
- Committee Updates
- Fundraising Goals
- Financial Review
- Open Questions & Discussion
- Motion to Close



September Meeting Minutes

Date: September 17, 2025
Time: 7-8 PM
Meeting Type: Membership Meeting

IN ATTENDANCE

Board: Chris G., Sara A., Jamie W., Maria C.

Members: Candice Wade, Rachel Bintz, Biswas, Susie Bacus, Kelly Grayson Thomas, Tiffanie Rand, Pooja Dahal, Myles David, Pamela Salony, Jill Redreck, Vivian Vargas, Mary Allen, Emily Freeborn, Kristina Stark, Brandon, Jennie Nichols, Ivette, Adam Bacus, Steven O'Brien, Amber O'Brien, Raksha, Anthony Maiorano, Monica Sobers, Amber Merriman, Steve Thorne

Motion to Open

- Chris motioned to open; Sara seconded.

September Meeting Minutes

May Meeting Minutes

- Chris motioned to adopt; Sara seconded.

Carnival

- Chris expressed appreciation for community's feedback; will help with next year's planning
- No parking issues- yay!
- More cotton candy next time
- Appreciate the volunteers
- Intend to make it a back to school event moving forward
- Fundraising initiative was stage lighting and risers
- Carnival did not replace movie night, which is being moved to end of year; no admission event as a year-end "thank you" to the community

Upcoming Events

- Baroody registration opened today
- Spirit Night tomorrow at Urban Air
- Fall bingo + 50/50 raffle
- Color craze
- Square 1 Art Fundraiser
- Piney's Got Talent
- Spirit Night (Good Fellas Pizza)
- Winter Dance
- Heritage Night + PTO Passport Program
- Finding Nemo musical
- Spring bingo + silent auction
- Spring Spirit Night (TBD)
- Teacher Appreciation Week
- Movie night

September Meeting Minutes

Spirit Wear

- Online store is open through Sept. 22; will be here in time for pick up at Back to School night
- Small inventory to sell at events (t-shirts and hoodies)
- Pre-orders best way to get what you want at the best price

Bingo Committee Updates (Susie B. & Amber M.)

- Several teachers and staff signed up already
- 3 sign up slots left- PTO to request blast to teachers to encourage sign ups
- NJHS volunteers needed for concessions
- Pizza and popcorn concessions
- Grand prize possibilities: 3D printer (\$200) or VR headset (\$299); Chris indicated either would be within budget
- Pre-orders to open 2 weeks ahead and close Wednesday before the event
- Chris requested a run sheet from committee to explain how 50/50 will work

Square 1 Art Updates (Jamie W.)

- Kinder and 1st have started building their art
- Early stages

Piney's Got Talent

- Will hold "auditions"- anyone who wants to participate, can
- Tiffanie Rand volunteered to chair committee

Winter Dance

- Stacie Reynolds volunteered to chair committee

Teacher Appreciation Committee Updates (Kristina S.)

- Monthly appreciation events
 - o Cupcake Heaven (September)
 - o Time 4 Bagels (October)
- Working with as many local small businesses as possible
- Sara requested pictures to advertise within our community
- Committee members welcome; especially for May Teacher Appreciation Week

September Meeting Minutes

Yearbook Committee

- Celina Gallegos to chair
- ~425 copies sold through school and another 40 directly from Candid
- Proceeds used to purchase PTO camera that can be used for events and can be checked out to teachers/staff for field trips
 - o Request form will be made available via Google form

Watch D.O.G.S. Updates (Adam B. & Brandon M.)

- Goal this year is to expand the program; last year there were ~10 D.O.G.S.
- Sign ups available Tuesday-Friday
- Starts Oct. 1- sign up genius will be available on PTO website and will be included in Nest
- Will have table at Back to School Night
- Wall of Fame- every dad that comes in gets a pic on the wall with the kid
- Dads are introduced in the news
- Chris suggested putting together a promotional video to play over news
- Adam requested PTO purchase a handful of t-shirts
 - o Chris suggested providing a free t-shirt to the first 10 that sign up as marketing strategy to boost memberships

Color Craze Fundraiser

- Biggest fundraiser of the year
- Fundraiser runs through 10/25
- Color Craze run on 10/31
- Each student opens a fundraising page via [Donately](#), shares link, and gets credit for contributions
- October 10th 5pm deadline to order a shirt and register additional participants
- October 25th fundraising deadline for grand prize
 - o Top fundraisers from each grade get lunch with Mr. Thorne and Ms. Sobers
- Weekly prizes based on grade level; whichever class raises the most money gets a popsicle or s'mores party plus extra recess

Fundraising Goals

- Carnival- stage lighting and risers
- Color Craze- STEAM initiatives
- Bingo/Spirit Nights- Greenhouse
 - o Tiffany expressed interest in a school garden
 - o Jill applied for a grant for a garden .
 - o Jill offered to put in a request to Master Naturalists for help in maintaining garden
 - o Mr. Thorne suggested that we may be limited in terms of where we can dig for a greenhouse; also parental concern re: outdoor classroom due to tick activity

September Meeting Minutes

Financial Review

- Balance as of 9/15/25- \$70,723.58
- Reserves- \$43,750.00
- Net Balance- \$26,973.58

Open Questions & Discussions

- Mrs. Nichols- 221 students have auditioned for musical!
- Everyone who auditioned will have a role in the musical and student selection be going home this week

Mr. Thorne's Updates

- Happy with Carnival turnout and thought the field had adequate space to support event
- School is doing great in terms of staffing but budget is stretched
- Encouraged people to continue to volunteer and be involved in membership meetings
- Encouraged participation in PBAC; fist meeting scheduled for next week

-Closing Remarks

- Chris thanked members for their participation and reminded everyone that childcare would be available at all meetings; please help spread the word!
- Anthony Maiorano won ~~Sbux~~ gift card raffle!

Motion to Close

- Chris motioned to close; Sara seconded.

Next Meeting

- October 15, 7-8pm

Upcoming Events

SEP - NOV

- ✓ • Baroody Camp Registration
- ✓ • Spirit Night (Urban Air)
- Fall Bingo + 50/50 Raffle - **10/24**
One volunteer slot open!
- Color Craze Run - **10/31**
- Square 1 Art Fundraiser

DEC - FEB

- Spirit Night (**Chipotle**) - **12/3**
- Piney's Got Talent - **12/12**
- Winter Dance - **1/30**
- Heritage Night + PTO Passport Program - **2/17**

MAR - JUNE

- Finding Nemo Musical - **3/5-7**
- Spring Bingo + Silent Auction - **3/13**
- Spirit Night (TBD)
- Teacher Appreciation Week - **5/4-8**
- Movie Night - **6/5**



Pssst: We've got a little something up our sleeve for teacher workdays!

Spirit Wear



Due to popular demand, online store will RE-OPEN this Saturday, 10/16-24!

+ Limited t-shirt availability for purchase at Bingo Night.



Color Craze Fundraiser

\$15,421

GOAL: \$2

**Fundraiser
closes on
10/31**

(10/25 for prize eligibility)



Color Craze Fundraiser

Weekly Prizes

Each week we will recognize a classroom that has helped promote and raise funds for PBES. The classroom that raises the highest donation amount (in dollar value) up to the week assigned to their grade level will be awarded the prize.

 Winner's Choice of Prize: Ice Cream/Popsicles Party + Extra Recess – or – S'mores Party + Extra Recess

Week of...	Grade	 Fundraising Deadline
September 15, 2025	5th Grade Class	September 21, 2025
September 22, 2025	4th Grade Class	September 28, 2025
September 29, 2025	3rd Grade Class	October 5, 2025
October 6, 2025	2nd Grade Class	October 12, 2025
October 13, 2025	1st Grade Class	October 19, 2025
October 20, 2025	Kindergarten Class	October 25, 2025

Ms. Larimore

Ms. Vaughan

Ms. Lockwood

Ms. Jimenez

Color Craze Fundraiser



Pizza Party for Top Fundraisers by Grade! The student from each grade who has raised the most funds for Color Craze will be invited to join a pizza party with Mr. Thorne and Ms. Sobers.

Chick-fil-A Party for Top Fundraising Class! The classroom who raises the most funds for Color Craze will be rewarded with a Chick-fil-A party with their teacher, Mr. Thorne, and Ms. Sobers.

Fundraising for grand prizes ends October 25th!

Winners will be announced on November 7th!



Fundraising Goals

Carnival

- Stage lighting & risers

**Stage Lighting and
Risers will be
ordered by October
31, 2025!!!!**

Color Craze

- STEAM initiatives
- Art Room Renovations
- Teacher Stipends

Bingo/Spirit Nights

- Greenhouse?



Committee Updates

- Bingo Committee - Susie Bacus & Amber Merriman
 - Color Craze Committee - Charissa West
- Square 1 Art Fundraiser Committee - Jamie Whitacre
- Piney's Got Talent Committee – Tiffanie Rand & Kelly Thomas
 - Winter Dance Committee - Stacie Reynolds
 - Teacher Appreciation Committee - Kristina Stark
 - Yearbook Committee - Celina Gallegos
- Watch D.O.G.S - Adam Bacus & Brandon Merriman



Financial Review

PINEY BRANCH PTO ACCOUNT SUMMARY

SEPTEMBER 16, 2025 - OCTOBER 14, 2025

DESCRIPTION/REFERENCE	AS OF OCTOBER 14, 2025
Account Balances as of September 15, 2025	\$70,723.58
Credits:	
Carnival Night, Color Craze, Year Book Fundraising, PTO Dues, Interest	\$17,701.87
Debits:	
Teacher Appreciation SpiritWear, Vending Machine, Running Club Shirts, Teacher Stipends, Color Craze Expenses, Watch DOGS expenses	-\$13,006.78
Balance as of 10/14/25	\$75,418.67

RESERVES/PENDING TRANSACTIONS	
PTO Reserves for PBES (Playground Fund)	-\$40,000.00
Vending Machine Reserve (\$125 monthly)	-\$875.00
Teacher Appreciation Reserve (\$250 monthly)	-\$1,700.00
Color Craze Reserve	-\$500.00
Fall Bingo Reserve	-\$250.00
Pending Expenses as of 10/14/2025	-\$43,325.00
NET BALANCE	\$32,093.67



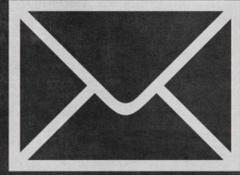
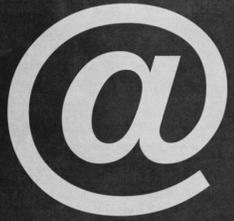


Open Questions & Discussion

***Motion to
Close***



CONTACT US



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WEBSITE

<https://pineybranchpto.com>

Thank you!

Next Meeting: January 21, 2026

