



MEETING MINUTES

PINEY BRANCH ELEMENTARY PTO

Date: September 16, 2026
Time: 7-8 PM
Meeting Type: Membership Meeting

IN ATTENDANCE

Board: Chris G., Stephanie D., Sara A., Maria C., Emily F.

Members: K. Stark, J. Passafaro, I. Ornelas, A. Merriman, M. David, M. Callender

Virtually: M. Howland, M. Callender, B. Roth

Motion to Open

- Sara motioned to open; Stephanie seconded.

May Meeting Minutes Review

- Sara motioned to adopt; Sara seconded.

Carnival Success

- Smashing success!
- Increased number of activities received positive feedback from community in helping reduce waiting time.
- Becoming a permanent fixture on PTO calendar
- Increased costs overall due to additional activities and general cost increases to concession item purchases
- Jessica commented on the cost of the parent wristband and wondered if we would consider a separate cost for parent wristband.
- Ivette acknowledged PTO support of sponsorship students and families.

Upcoming Events

- Reviewed upcoming events through November
- Still discussing how PTO can support Literacy Night which is a PBAC sponsored event.

Spirit Wear

- New design this year!
- Hope to have orders in time to distribute at Back-to-School night.
- New approach this year is to open the online store several times during the year for one week period vs. two longer periods except for November when we will leave store open for 2 years.

Watch D.O.G.S. (Amber)

- Sign up link for current school year is live on the PTO site.
- Amber described what the program is and what a Watch D.O.G. does at the school during the day.
- Kristina suggested a special Watch D.O.G.S. event where dads bring their kids with them and the sign-up link is shared there to promote sign-ups.

Teacher Appreciation (Kristina S.)

- A full committee this year!
- Have the full year already covered with the exception of Teacher Appreciation Week
- Maintaining a comprehensive calendar of staff recognition events, such as Security Appreciation Week and School Counselor Appreciation Week, to help ensure all employee groups receive appropriate recognition throughout the year.
- Stephanie indicated that the teacher appreciation budget increased from \$250 to \$300 per month to cover additional staff and overall increased costs.

Yearbook Committee (Chris on behalf of Celina)

- 3 new volunteers and a first meeting this week.
- Additional volunteers are welcomed.
- Flyer provided to Ms. Noland regarding cover drawing competition.

Color Craze Committee

- 2 volunteers identified- Charissa West and Jamie Whitacre
- Volunteers will help with the day of and with prize coordination.

Square 1 Art Fundraiser

- Sara provided description of program.

- Volunteers needed
- Volunteers help gather art and send them to Square 1 so they can set up the ordering website.

Winter Dance

- Volunteers needed

Bingo

- Won't host this fall since Carnival is now a permanent event, otherwise the calendar gets too loaded.
- Additional paperwork and red tape needed and hosting only in Spring will give us additional time to gather it.

Silent Auction (Maria)

- Looking for volunteers to help with ideas for businesses that we can reach out to for donations.
- Looking to do the entire auction bidding online this year. More information to follow.

Color Craze

- Sara described the fundraiser and the fun run.
- Biggest fundraiser of the year
- Proceeds will benefit literacy and STEAM.
- T-shirt and additional participant cutoff are 10/9.
- Fundraising cutoff is 10/30.
- New this year- a catalog of prizes for winners to choose from

Financial Review

- Stephanie reviewed current account summary.
- Opened a CD with the "reserve fund" and have it on auto-renew until needed.

Membership Feedback

- Ivette acknowledged PTO support of sponsorship students.
- Kristina suggested social media posts to gather volunteers- describing committees and what is entailed.
- Suggestion to incentivize volunteers.

Motion to Close

- Chris motioned to close; Sara seconded.