



# General Meeting Minutes

January 30, 2023

6:00 - 7:30 pm

**Attendees:** Sarah Chi, Katie Caggia, Shannon McGowan, Carissa White, Carissa Ausenbaugh, Sarah Moore, Kristina Killian, Gloriann Favale-Austin, Paula Tilley, John Walker, Maiary Voltolini, Kirsten Verhein, Cassie Lagod, Katie Lopez, Lisa Kline, Alison James, Amanda Riccelli, Margarita Gayle, Melissa Schools, Melissa Cook, Shirin Maayah, Victoria Jager, Brittany Purdy, Erin Liles, Emily Boone, Danielle Ryser

**6:00 Meal + Community Time**

**6:15 Welcome and Introductions Carissa White**

**6:30 Treasurer's Report Kristina Killian**

- Income since last meeting:
  - Corporate and Spirit Nights \$393.49
  - Fun Run Total \$29,463.60
  - Spirit Shop - \$730.02 (mostly Friday shop)
- Two Cultural Arts experiences
  - Visiting Artists and March 2nd Dance - \$4644.47
  - Curriculum Support - \$1267.51
  - PBIS - \$321.57
  - Teacher/Staff Hospitality - \$732.55
- Overall expenses - \$16,412.78
- \$60,956.74 in bank account (still holding onto money from Covid years to help pad our budget - we are not currently raising enough to cover our expenses).

**6:35 Family Engagement Carissa White**

- Movie Night coming - 3/3/23



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- Also Read Across America week
- 5/3 - Spring Fling - International Theme
  - Coincides with teacher appreciation
- Friday Bulletin has a TON of information about family engagement opportunities.

## **6:45 Book Fair Updates**

**Carissa Aussenbaugh**

- Book Fair coming 2/27-3/3
  - Parent Night on 2/28
  - Student shopping days 3/1 and 3/2
  - Sign Up Genius coming for volunteers

## **Cultural Arts Update**

**Danielle Ryser**

- Current visiting artists are Anna Podris and Keith Norval who are facilitating a large mural, which will go in the AES cafeteria. Each student will paint a small tile which will all be put together for the mural.
- See Sign Up Genius in Friday Bulletin to volunteer to help out with the current visiting artist project.
- Ballethnic - dance group - mix of African dance with ballet coming on 3/2/23 at 2:00 pm

## **Advocacy Update**

**John Walker**

- Wake County Public Libraries and the Wake County Animal Center are partnering on a [new series of free pet care programs](#) designed to bring you closer to your furry friends. Sessions are a mix of in-person and virtual events, and they will be led by certified dog trainer and Animal Services Outreach Coordinator



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Meagan Thomas. In-person programs will be held at library locations throughout the county. Click [here](#) for more information.

## PTA Priorities Data Review Work Session

Carissa White

- [2023 AES PTA Survey Data](#)
- Groups were formed for each of the survey sections sent out to parents and staff members to discuss values, areas for growth, new ideas, and questions. Reflections listed below.

## Group Share/Report Back

### School/Community Engagement Events & Activities

After reviewing the survey results, it is clear that the Apex Elementary community values...

- Our community definitely values BIG, community-wide events.

After reviewing the survey results, we see opportunities for growth in...

- We need to bring the community together more and provide more opportunities for families.
- We also need to consider more before & after school clubs - especially incorporating parents as leaders.

What are some new ideas that might support our community's values? How would these ideas help our community?

- PTA partners with the PBIS committee to have celebrations
- Quarterly movie nights (gym/field)
- Field dance parties per grade level (maybe per quarter or PBIS)
- Family dance (like a sweetheart dance in February)
- Sidewalk chalk on weekends



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- Campus beautification on weekend
- Volunteer opportunities on weekends, like with Brown Bag Ministries

After reviewing the survey results, what questions do you still have?

- Are there roadblocks we are unaware of?

## Teacher/Staff Support & Appreciation Events & Activities

After reviewing the survey results, it is clear that the Apex Elementary community values...

- Supporting ALL staff.
- All the appreciation events.
- People are the heart.

After reviewing the survey results, we see opportunities for growth in...

- Starbucks treats for teachers.
- Other love languages - notes in mailboxes, "staff love notes", acts of service, quality time
- Mixing grade level teams - Monday night meet-up
- More Spirit Days incorporating Spirit Wear
- Read Across America Spirit Week
- International Day

What are some new ideas that might support our community's values? How would these ideas help our community?

- Happy teachers, happy kids
- Lunch duty for K teachers - once per month via Sign Up Genius
- Classroom materials prep help
- Beginning of the year grade-level classroom prep
- Morale boosting/team building/Wine & Design activities



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After reviewing the survey results, what questions do you still have?

- Can we get shade for the playground?
- Facility improvements
- Lounge for teachers in the copy/workroom

## Instructional/Classroom Supports

After reviewing the survey results, it is clear that the Apex Elementary community values...

- Curriculum support for teachers
- More for the library
- PebbleGo and Scholastic News

After reviewing the survey results, we see opportunities for growth in...

- Less budget for subscriptions
  - Studies Weekly
  - Tools 4 Reading

What are some new ideas that might support our community's values? How would these ideas help our community?

- Fewer toy prizes for positive behavior and more experiences like extra recess, PJ day, free gym day, dance party.

After reviewing the survey results, what questions do you still have?

## Fundraising

After reviewing the survey results, it is clear that the Apex Elementary community



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values...

- Family friendly events that everyone can attend that are also fundraisers
- Engagement for all

After reviewing the survey results, we see opportunities for growth in...

- Having a variety of fundraisers
- Attracting new volunteers
  - Food and in-person meetings seem to help with this.
- Spirit Night excitement and attendance
- Reminders in the bulletin about our website and Spirit Rock

What are some new ideas that might support our community's values? How would these ideas help our community?

- Listing the variety of volunteer opportunities early in the year so parents can see up front all of the ways they can contribute and potentially be more incentivized to join the PTA.
- More low-stress family gatherings to help people feel more a part of the community (especially earlier in the year).
- Teacher buy-in for Spirit Nights (maybe a competition where the teacher who has the most students attend gets a gift card).
- More branded items in the Spirit Shop and more opportunities for parents to buy them (movie nights, PTA meetings, etc.)

After reviewing the survey results, what questions do you still have?

- GoPlaySave - can we scrap? Can parents opt-in or opt-out?
- What would typical profit be for a wrapping paper fundraiser?
- What are other schools doing successfully?
- How can we increase membership and/or make it mandatory?
  - Class competition?
  - Reinforce a free option for families who need it.



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## Communication

After reviewing the survey results, it is clear that the Apex Elementary community values...

- Communication via Friday Bulletin

After reviewing the survey results, we see opportunities for growth in...

- Translations to other languages

What are some new ideas that might support our community's values? How would these ideas help our community?

- Translations
- Keeping flyers for Friday folders for families that don't read the emails (perhaps must opt-in)?

After reviewing the survey results, what questions do you still have?

- Could the Friday bulletin be attached to the principal's weekly update? It already is.

**7:30      Adjourn**