

# PTA General Meeting

Apex Elementary School

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November 9, 2021 / 6:00 PM / [Virtual via Zoom](#)

**ATTENDEES - [Virtual Sign-In](#)**

## AGENDA

### Welcome & Introductions:

PTA President Carissa White

- Board Members
  - Avery Emery, VP Membership & Fundraising
  - Gloriann Austin, VP of Programs & Hospitality
  - Tamara Cosgrove, Treasurer
  - Sarah Moore, Interim Secretary
- Committee Chairs

### Updates & Reports:

- [Review & Approve Previous Meeting Minutes](#) Carissa White
  - 20 person quorum met at 6:02.
  - Previous minutes approved.
- Vote for new PTA Secretary Carissa White
  - Sarah Moore approved as new secretary (2 year term).
- Budget Report PTA Treasurer Tamara Cosgrove
  - Income
    - Fun Run is successful and has surpassed budget.
    - Chipotle Spirit Night raised \$126.95.
    - Amazon Smile and Lowes Food program still bringing in money.
    - Go Play Save has raised \$3,892.50 (almost hit budget).
    - Spirit Wear has raised \$5,498 but have not paid bill yet.
    - Spirit Rock has brought in \$80 over budget.
    - Membership dues are at \$1618.
  - Activities/Expenses
    - Cultural Arts
    - Curriculum funds have been utilized.
    - Instructional Support funds are almost at max (\$100 left).
    - Staff Recognition
    - Technology - \$8,000 budget will be used soon.
  - Move to approve budget. Approved.
- Admin Update Principal Caggia

- Staffing Updates
  - Jerry Decker is back as 50% counselor.
  - Several special education and IA vacancies.
  - Plan to add a couple extra months pay to interventionists.
- Celebrations
  - Mr. Olive received the first quarterly Peak STAR award for his service to the community and his role in keeping AES safe and clean.
  - Teacher of the Year finalists are Ms. Candice Truex (4th grade), Ms. Laurie Bell (AIG teacher), Ms. Margarita Gayle (5th grade) and Ms. Bridget Peacock (1st grade).
    - Ms. Gayle was awarded 2021 Teacher of the Year.
- The Apex Public School Foundation has opened up their grant cycle and several grants have been submitted.
- AES Staff has been enjoying playing Pickleball together.
- MTAC (Media, Technology Advisory Council) met and is deciding how to spend technology funds. Wake County is going to start replacing presentation technology in classrooms starting in January with interactive TVs.
- **Grade Level & Specials Updates** **Grade Level Chairs**
  - K - Heather Reagan
    - Enjoying the sensory walk and excited about the Fun Run.
    - Progressing with Letterland and phonemic awareness.
    - Science - investigating properties
    - Thanks to the PTA for their support.
  - 1 - Lisa Mitchum
    - Busy with Cougar Time and are now switching to small groups for remediation and enrichment.
    - Science - sun, moon, and stars
    - Language Arts - opinion writing
    - Math - facts to 10 and math story problems
    - Thanks to PTA for curriculum funds, Sunshine Cart, and replacing old technology.
  - 2 - Shireen Mehl
    - EL - fossils unit
    - Math - arrays and telling time
    - Finding lots of success with small intervention groups
    - Thanks to PTA for decodable books and letter tiles.

- 3 - Lauren Vionito
  - Finished CogAT (Cognitive Abilities Test) testing and some students will go on to take Iowa Assessments.
  - EL - module unit on frogs and poetry
  - Math - two step addition and subtraction
  - Bullying Prevention
  - Finalizing plans to bring in a scientist.
  - Looking forward to Fun Run.
- 4 - Jaime Thompson
  - Finished CogAT
  - EL - unit on animal defense mechanisms
  - Writing - choose your own adventure stories
  - Math - place value up to hundred thousands, will begin adding and subtracting with standard algorithm and multiplication and division with various strategies.
  - Science - Forms of energy
  - Had a great in house field trip about Native American culture which ties into a future social studies unit. Students helped to build a teepee in the gym and learned about shelter, food, clothing and other local resources Native Americans used.
- 5 - Margarita Gayle
  - Ms. Bornes planned two spring field trips (play about Harriet Tubman and the Agape Center for Environmental Education).
  - Science - new module on rainforests and our ability to make a positive impact
- Specials
  - Specialists have been reteaching school wide PAWS expectations.
  - Music - 4th graders will go on a symphony field trip in the spring.
  - PE - playing tennis
  - New book for Story Walk
- Committee Updates
  - Fun Run Avery Emery
    - Goal - \$20,000 / Raised - \$29,432
    - Silent auction ends Friday 11/12.
    - Fun Run is Friday 11/19 and parents are welcome.
      - 4th grade: 9:35-10:15
      - 5th grade: 10:20-11:00
      - 3rd grade: 11:05-11:45

- 2nd grade: 12:40-1:20
  - 1st grade: 1:25-2:05
  - Kindergarten 2:10-2:40
  - Ms. Caggia and Ms. Chi will be slimed on the 22nd.
  - Sign Up Genius still has a few spots open for volunteers.
- Food Drive for WWCM Gloriann Austin
  - Needed items in Friday bulletin and on Western Wake Crisis Ministry website
  - Food drive will run from 11/8 to 11/19.
  - Drop box in vestibule for caregivers to drop donations
  - Drop box outside of library for kids to drop donations
- Yearbook Photos
  - Ms. Stacey Johnson asked that any volunteers at school events take pictures for the yearbook.
- Committee Needs PTA VP Gloriann Austin
  - Will need a chair for Spring Fling but can wait on that.
  - Campus Beautification chair still needed.
    - The Campus Beautification chair will lead efforts to maintain school grounds and help keep the campus safe and beautiful.
  - Standing Committee Vacancies
    - Nominating
      - The goal of the Nominating Committee is to find future leaders to carry out the mission, vision, and values of PTA.
      - The Nominating committee is responsible for selecting officer candidates to present to the general membership for election.
    - Advocacy (Carissa currently fulfilling)
      - The goal of the PTA advocacy committee chair is to inform the membership about education issues and North Carolina PTA legislative goals.
  - Audit Committee
    - The Audit Committee just met and completed their audit and taxes were filed.
  - The Nominating, Advocacy, and Audit Committees are standing committees that must always exist per the PTA bylaws.
- Upcoming Events:
  - Hope Shines Through Writing Contest - Nov 1-15 for 4th and 5th grade students. Sponsored by Piedmont Laureate. Submissions should

include a 250 word or less essay about a challenge the student recently faced and how it was overcome.

- Fun Run - November 19th
- Spirit Night Erin Carpenter
  - December 15, 2021 - Defy
  - January 13, 2022 - Panera
  - February 8, 2022 - Red Robin
- Next PTA General Meeting - January 11, 2022 at 6:00PM on Zoom

## New Business & Discussion:

- Reading and vote to adopt resolution from [Wake PTA Council in support of Leandro Plan](#)
  - Background information was given about the Leandro Case and the lack of funding for public schools in NC.
  - The NCPTA, NC BOE, and the Wake County PTA Council have passed resolutions in support of the Leandro Plan urging the NCGA to pass a current budget that will adequately fund a basic, sound education for all NC students.
  - A budget has not been passed since 2019 so the NC State Constitution requires the state to revert back to that budget, which is not sufficient to adequately fund schools.
  - A court decision on 11/10 will either...
    - order state finance executives to move \$ 1.7 billion in unused funds to education agencies, bypassing North Carolina's general assembly, or;
    - decide to fine the NCGA daily until they pass a budget, or;
    - take no action because the NCGA will pass a budget.
  - Mr. Ferguson reminded the PTA that passing a resolution in support of the Leandro Plan is an opportunity for the AES PTA to set an example for other districts and states that are facing underfunding.
  - Carissa read the resolution and moved to adopt it. The motion was seconded and approved.
  - Carissa will edit the resolution to add AES PTA's name and send it to NCGA representatives.
- Any new business from members-at-large?
  - Ms. Jaeger asked if the PTA could inquire with the art teacher about if she needs any new supplies.

- Discussion on member's interests for PTA programming or unanswered questions about your child's education that the PTA might be able to answer.
  - Possible thoughts
    - Deep dive into AES history
    - family engagement
    - how to talk to kids about race
  - Ms. Jaeger inquired about receiving a notification and more information when a curriculum changes.
  - Ms. Mascherino would like more information about the library and how the library and its resources are leveraged at school.
  - Mr. Ferguson mentioned classroom temperature issues and wondered if there is a temperature control issue.
  - Ms. Mascherino would like more information about the cafeteria and the food program.
  - Ms. Moore asked about a timeline for possible upcoming changes in Covid protocols.
  - Ms. Jaeger mentioned it would be nice to get a summary in PTA meetings of WCPSS school board meetings.
  - Ms. Brunson-Nsubuga is interested in more information about the role of Diversity and Inclusion advocate and also suggested the PTA have a better plan for welcoming new AES parents to make getting involved a little less daunting.
  - Ms. Killian is also interested in getting more information and communication about how new parents can be involved, specifically more information about ongoing events (Spring Fling, Fun Run, etc.)
  - Ms. Johnson suggested more informal events to help build a sense of community and help parents meet each other.
  - Ms. Mathur seconded the idea of more specific information to help parents of first year students that don't have background knowledge about who the PTA is and what we're doing. She also inquired when and if Covid vaccines will be mandatory. Ms. Caggia said she expects more information from the WCPSS school board around January regarding Covid updates but there is no hint that vaccines will be mandatory.
  - Ms. Edwards said there may be some confusion about when PTA meetings are and how to join Zoom meetings. She suggested agendas be posted ahead of time and meetings be advertised on the AES website with Zoom link. Ms. Caggia said we could easily add meetings and links to the front page of the AES website.

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- Ms. Mathur suggested the PTA send a calendar invite with the Zoom link embedded.
- Meeting was adjourned at 7:20.