

August PTO Meeting Minutes
6 p.m. August 12, 2025

- I. Introductions and Welcome There were 28 people in attendance! Everyone introduced themselves and their connection to the school.
- II. Treasurer's Report - Hannah
 - A. Vote on proposed 2025-2026 budget Hannah briefly described the budget and the changes made this year. Everyone in attendance voted in favor of the budget. 28-yes, 0-no.
- III. Old Business
 - A. Welcome Back Breakfast Lindsay shared that Clayton from TVA Sponsored a Cracker Barrel breakfast for the staff on 8/4 and Office Depot donated a chair for a staff giveaway - Mrs. Driskell won the new chair.
 - B. Teacher Classroom Donations & Library Donation PTO provided each classroom teacher & Ms. K \$250 for classroom supplies as well as a library donation of \$2000. This expense is a large portion of our budget each year.
 - C. Meet the Teacher Night We set out a table with older t-shirts all priced at \$5. We made \$150 from this. Erica, a new parent to FCE, shared positive feedback of how welcomed she felt compared to an experience she had at a different school.
 - D. Review Committee Chair Positions There was a sheet passed around with the chair positions decided in the Spring and a sign-up for anyone interested in helping with the different committees.
- IV. New Business
 - A. 2025/2026 PTO Calendar (distributed) Our plan for the year is listed on the Master Calendar. Book Fair, Art Show and Field Day still need to be added as dates were not yet set. All 3 events will be in the Spring. The Google Calendar will update if changes are made, so it is recommended to join the shared PTO calendar.
 - 1. Link to join will be shared in GroupMe
 - 2. If link doesn't work, email fountaincitypto@gmail.com to be added manually
 - B. GroupMe set up for Volunteer/Event Coordinating Our goal is to keep the conversations focused on PTO. It was shared as a reminder that both parents and staff are part of the GroupMe.



C. Membership Drive

1. PTO in morning car line 8/14 & 8/27 Shannon suggested switching 8/14 to 8/21 b/c calendar magnets haven't come in yet. 8/27 will stay the same. 8/21 is the same day as Boo Hoo breakfast so it will not be possible to attend both and Kindergarten parents should not sign up for either so they can enjoy the Boo Hoo breakfast.
2. Top-selling individual and class prizes Individual top sellers will get to be Principal for a Day (one from K-2 and one from 3-5). Top selling class will get to turn their teacher into an ice cream sundae at the following Pep Assembly.

D. Sponsorship Drive Hannah has initiated a sponsorship drive to go along with the membership drive this year to try to get our sponsorships up front to support all events throughout the year instead of constantly looking for sponsors just before each event.

E. Fundraising Ideas

1. Pepcat Suit Our suit is long overdue for an upgrade.
2. New microphones for gym Mrs. Cook approached us about this issue and many agreed that it is a problem and a definite need for the school.
3. Shade Structures We hope to work some shade structures into the Siddiqi grant purchasing for the K-2 playground, but it isn't clear if that will be allowed or not since the grant money is supposed to be used for things that promote physical activity. They have not said yes, but also have not said no. If we cannot use the grant money for shade structures, then PTO will fundraise for this.
4. A room divider was requested by Mrs. Webb and Ms. Golden who share a room in the portables. The cost would be \$500.
5. Melissa shared that Mr. Spencer asked about new backboards for basketball nets in the gym. We will look into this.

F. Siddiqi Update

1. K-2 Playground Improvement Options

The current grant balance remaining is \$21,873.80. There were 7 playground options shared and voted on. Cassie will go through the results to get an idea of preferences and then reach out to KCS for the all-in price including shipping and installation to see how much we can accomplish with the remaining grant money. The goal is to get it ordered

ASAP so Fall Break could be a potential install week. Mrs. Alsip and Mrs. Kramer attended and shared valuable feedback about the K-2 playground needs. They said the swings also have lines if it is possible to add more. They were nervous about injuries from the climbing dome. We must receive approval from Siddiqi before ordering anything.

- G. Grounds Day - August 16th Hallie shared that we had a grounds day before school started that Heather Garrison's Husband and A Church Called Home helped with. Thress's Nursery donated mulch for it. We didn't have a lot of FCE support at the first one, so it would be great to have more support for this second event. We hope to add landscape timbers for one of the flower beds this time and if it goes well we may consider it for other areas. The second group helping is Operation Inasmuch United Fountain City. The group will begin at 9am and stay through 12 or 1pm this Saturday. Hallie has made a work plan that will be shared.
- H. New Merch this year Kristen shared that we will have all new merch this year - t-shirts, hats, crew necks, and eventually some other items. We hope to have items for open house, but it is a maybe right now. If they are not ready in time for open house we could set out images to do a pre-order instead.
- I. Open House - need more volunteers for K-2 night If any 3-5 parents are available to help with the K-2 night, it would be helpful as the newer families often have questions and would be more likely to purchase merch if available.
 - 1. Grades K-2: Monday, August 18th at 5pm
 - 2. Grades 3-5: Tuesday, August 19th at 5pm
- J. Kindergarten Boo Hoo Breakfast - August 21st
 - 1. 7am in the cafeteria with coffee, pastries and tissues. Parents are invited starting at 7:15am. Hannah is organizing this and there were several that signed up to help her.
- K. Teacher Appreciation Dr. Cottrell surveyed the staff and 62% preferred treats over school supplies. Lindsay set up a Cruze Farm treat for teachers on 8/22. She was planning to do a supply depot in September, but based on teacher feedback it doesn't sound like supplies are needed as much as we thought. She received a donation from Little Debbie and that will be in the works for a September teacher treat.
- L. Fall Festival
 - 1. Co-Chair Needed Shannon asked that we start reaching out trying to get volunteer support. We likely won't get much help from Central students because there is a football game that night. Kristen Carter

agreed to help co-chair. The event will be Friday, October 17th from 4:30-7pm. Shannon was concerned about the heavy load that has been placed on the families that donated and set up the food the last few years. Cassie is going to reach out to Amanda Townsend for feedback to see if they want to continue with the "Dog House" or if it might be better to come up with other ideas.

M. Picture Day - Individual Pictures - Friday, August 29th

1. 2 Volunteers Needed - 8:00am-11:30ish Melissa Cox, Candice Hinkle and Hannah Loomis were all willing to help.

Mrs. Peterson suggested getting shirts for all 5th graders (~75 shirts) with all of their signatures on the back as an end of the year gift. A rough estimate of the cost was ~\$1000 for the shirts. The idea was well-received. We will make a decision about this once we see how the membership and sponsorship drives go this month since this was not included in the planned budget.

Mary Lee Herron shared that her husband is starting All Pro Dads at FCE. It will be the 1st Wednesday of every month before school will likely include a breakfast treat, engaging presentation and possibly a raffle prize for Father figures and children to meet and have meaningful conversation before school. Feel free to reach out to her or her husband directly with questions. They are both in the PTO GroupMe.

- II. Principal Remarks: Dr. Cottrell shared that Mr. Akins agreed to be the staff sponsor for the All Pro Dads. He also became a Dad this evening! He shared that Mrs. Whaley has started off strong and is working hard to implement the new website. She is also available to help with Parentsquare messages as needed throughout the year. Mrs. Whaley shared that she is thrilled to be at FCE this year. Her kids attended FCE and she feels like she is back at home.

** Next PTO meeting Tuesday, September 9th at FCE in the Library at 6pm.