Van Raub Elementary PTO
8776 Dietz Elkhorn Road
Fair Oaks Ranch, TX 78015

Van Raub Elementary School
2026 - 2027 PTO Board Meeting
October 1, 2026, 10am – 12pm
VRES Campus

1. **Call to Order: 10:05 AM**

2. **Roll Call:**

(X) Brittney Walker, Principal
(X) Krista Kimball, Faculty Representative
(X) Sam Cooke, Co-President
(X) Lisa Hernandez, VP Merch
(X) Laine Beatty, Co-President
(X) Tia Flournoy, Treasurer
(X) Rebekah Sallot, Secretary
(X) Mara Barry, VP Sponsorships
(X) Elizabeth Duenckel, VP Membership
(X) Miranda Ramirez, VP Events (PHONE)
(X) Ashley Rowlett, VP Volunteers
(X) Maureen Hensley, VP Staff Appr
(X) Erica Cepeda, VP Communications
(X) Natalie Samson, VP Fundraising

Additional Attendees:
Laurie Wolff, Merch

3. **President Remarks / Opening Comments -** Sam Cooke & Laine Beatty
    a. Re-visit expectations for the year Sam opens the meeting, welcoming the board.
    b. General Housekeeping Items
        i. As a reminder, each VP should send written updates for their area of responsibility to Sam and Laine no later than each Friday prior to the monthly board meetings. This allows Sam enough time to add the items to the meeting agenda. **Updates for the November board meeting are due Friday, October 23rd.** Reminder that the next meeting has been moved up to Oct. 29.
            a. Please be on time. This includes allowing time to check in with the front office, get your visitor badge and be in the portable by 10am.
            b. Please be ready to jump in - come prepared with actual updates for your area of responsibility.
            c. Do your best to help us stay on track so we can be respectful of everyone's time. Side conversations distract the group quickly. If you have a question or a point to make, please bring it up to the group as a whole.

d. Be sure to check the monthly meeting minutes for assigned action items! During the month (between meetings), Rebekah will follow up on those action items weekly. Please don't wait to begin working on your action items until she follows up.

c. Our bylaws are listed in the about section of the PTO website (under the meeting minutes). I would encourage you to review them for awareness. www.vrespto.com/bylaws

d. Update on General PTO Meeting held on Friday, September 25th. Meeting was held last Friday with a good turnout, around 40 attended. More details under the volunteer section of the agenda.

e. Review of Educational Grant Requests - $15,000 for this expense in the approved budget. This usually includes 3 technology subscriptions we purchase for the entire school, costing around $7,500.00 of our $15,000.00 budget. We review usage reports of these subscriptions to make sure they are good choices. PebbleGo (normally costs $2,000.00) is no longer approved by the district due to security protocols not matching up with BISD protocols so we will not be renewing at this time. We've researched a comparable program on the schools list, there is one that Sam is working on. The teachers use PebbleGo and have asked the district to work with them to have it returned. For now we have it as a placeholder in the handout, however we will most likely be purchasing a different program. UPDATE: The district confirmed Friday (10/2) that they've met with Pebble Go on 4 occasions and could not come to an agreement. They don't anticipate a change in their decision. Mrs. Polk also reached out to Sam on Friday (10/2) on behalf of Mrs. Walker to discuss World Book Kids. Mrs. Polk said it is on the BISD approved technology list, but we'd have to submit a request through the district to add this platform to our school. The request would need to detail what it offers that we don't already have available through current resources. The district would need to approve the request and then the PTO would make payment to the district and the district would set up the subscription and monitor it. Sam had a follow up conversation with Dr. O'Hare on Monday (10/5) and it seems we need to follow this same process for our current subscriptions with Generation Genius and Brain Pop. **General Background Info on the Grant Process (for new board members):** We do not give a lot of criteria around what qualifies as an education grant to the teachers, we just ask that they submit for things that enhance the classroom/educational experience. Sometimes items are submitted that do not fit our criteria but it can be moved to other areas of the budget to be considered if funds allow.

i. Separate handout

i. Not all requests meet guidelines for educational grants. Those that don't are highlighted in grey. The first step in the review process is for the co-Presidents to meet with Mrs. Walker and determine if each item would be approved by the district. We also discuss if she is comfortable with the items, as well as if the items meet the few criteria that are set by the board. Then the co-presidents work with the board to review submissions and vote on the spend.

a. Items submitted, but that will not be considered by the board today:
    i. $1,427.30 for portable neck fans for recess duty and care line duty – does not meet criteria of educational grants. Will not consider spend through other budgetary means and there are concerns about longevity, etc.
    ii. $3,966.48 for shade structure and turf for gaga ball pit, as well as correct gaga balls – does not meet criteria for educational grants. Will move to list of campus improvement projects to be considered at a later date. Can use portion of Dick's certificates for the balls if Coach Miles is okay with the purchase. Mrs. Walker approves of the purchase of the balls.
    iii. $50 for Xtra Math Subscription – not approved by the district
    iv. $1,400 for reset stations for teachers – does not meet criteria for educational grants. Will not consider spend through other budgetary means as there were concerns over whether the items would actually be used. The PTO did tell Mrs. Walker that maybe we could support a Wellness Wednesday initiative instead.
    v.
ii. Can determine if we just want to deny those requests or move them to other areas of the budget to be reviewed if/when funds allow. Sun shade and turf for the gaga pit will be added to future campus improvements to consider. The board agrees with this.

ii. Vote on each individual item and/or how we will spend the allotted $15,000
We are under budget with current requests.
We did not get a request for Brainpop however the school does want it and the annual subscription is $4,500. We will review PebbleGo replacement options, remove Xtra Math subscriptions (not approved by district per Brittney), deny portable neck fans, move shade/turf for gaga pit to future campus improvement requests, deny $1,400 request from Ms. Maloney. We may increase spending on "aerobic steps" requested by Mr. K, per Brittney multiple classes actually would benefit from this upon her review through campus. We will increase Mrs. K's request so it covers all of 3rd grade. Brittney requested that we remove Science World subscription as it is outside of grade level.

Elizabeth made a motion to approve educational grants based on the above notes.
Tia seconds the motion.
Board approves unanimously

iii. Discuss timing of grant process for next year

i. Mrs. Guerra (5th Grade) requested that we move our process to fall after BEF finalizes their annual grants, which takes place in early November typically. The biggest issue is the timing of technology subscriptions, we may have to make this into a two part process: A technology subscription grant separate from educational grants. Brittney asked the teachers to let us know if they submitted the same requests to both the PTO and BEF.
-Krista mentions it would be helpful to move Amazon teacher grants (PTO membership drive perk) a little earlier.
General board consensus was to keep the current deadlines as-is (within a week or two), but if the full budget isn't depleted, then maybe do a second round of requests (with remaining budget) in the spring.
For awareness - the software programs (Brain Pop, Generation Genius, Pebble Go) that historically have been funded by PTO through the educational grant process come due for renewal in early to mid October. If we move the process to the fall, we would need to re-visit the entire process, taking this into consideration.

4. **Treasurer Update –** Tia Flournoy

Notes:

- Exceeding in sponsorship revenue, specifically in the Gold sponsorships. The last bronze sponsorship check will be deposited and that line item will then meet budget.
  - Sponsor banners are costing less than expected
- Membership revenue exceeded by $4,000+
- McDonalds cash back night was $1,400
- Spirit Wear: ~$1,000 less than where we were at this time last year
  - $1,509 on 9/11 ($1,932 in 2025)
  - $1,754 on 9/14 ($1,785 in 2025)
- Paid for 2nd grade field trip
- Paid for 3 new cabinets in the female bathrooms
- 104 Amazon transactions waiting for categorization (assuming they are related to teacher membership grants)
- $2,199.60 payment to be made to Gandy Ink for new teal shirts

Deposits to be made:

- $232 for spirit stick cash (net of $182)
- $250 check from Wildey for sponsorship

a. Financial Statement distributed as separate handout. Let us know if you have any questions! Great job on sponsorships/memberships, exceeding budget! Spirit Wear is $1,000 less than what we were last year for profit.
b. Outstanding Receipts (Tia)
   i. Try to submit receipts to Tia as soon as possible after the spend occurs. Receipts can be submitted via text, e-mail or hard copy. Continue to send in receipts. Unidentified transaction through Frost: Service Charge Fee $6 debit on the account? No one on the board is aware of what this is, Tia will research further.

5. **Sponsorship Update –** Mara Barry
   a. Committed Sponsorships & Trade Sponsorships Exceeding expected income as we've had 4 new sponsors, and a 5th one this morning! Blank area below is Little Gym of Boerne (Bronze level).

CONFIRMED/PAID:				
Sponsor Name	**Sponsorship Level**	**2026 - 2027**	**NOTES**	
Belden Automotive	Bronze	$ 250.00		
Grey Moss Inn	Bronze	$ 250.00	*New sponsor for the 26 - 27 school year	*
Cooke Funeral Homes	Bronze	$ 250.00		
Jumpn Boerne	Bronze	$ 250.00	*New sponsor for the 26 - 27 school year	
	Bronze	$ 250.00	*New sponsor for the 26 - 27 school year	*
Living Water Chiro	Bronze	$ 250.00	*New sponsor for the 26 - 27 school year	
VV Orthodontics	Bronze	$ 250.00	Reduced from Platinum (last year) to Bronze	
Wagmore Pet Resort	Bronze	$ 250.00	Sponsor in prior years, but not last year	
(Place Holder - Need company name - Lauren T's Family)	Bronze	$ 250.00		
Wildey Pediatric Dentistry	Bronze	$ 250.00		*
Southwest Children's Pediatric (Hill Country	Silver	$ 500.00	*New sponsor for the 26 - 27 school year	
Edward Jones (Blake McAnelly)	Silver	$ 500.00		
Bricks & Mini Figs	Silver	$ 500.00		
Ford of Boerne	Silver	$ 500.00		
Leon Springs Modern Dentistry	Silver	$ 500.00	*New sponsor for the 26 - 27 school year	
Kids Zone	Silver	$ 500.00	*New sponsor for the 26 - 27 school year	
Rise Property Group	Gold	$ 1,000.00	*New sponsor for the 26 - 27 school year	*
Alamo City Law Firm	Gold	$ 1,000.00		
Ancira	Gold	$ 1,000.00	Increased from Silver (last year) to Gold	
Frost Bank	Platinum	$ 1,500.00		
Halo Contractors	Platinum	$ 1,500.00		
Fair Oaks Emergency	Platinum	$ 1,500.00		
Randall Dowdle, CPA	Platinum	$ 1,500.00		
Yarito & Wolfe, PLLC	Platinum	$ 1,500.00	*New sponsor for the 26 - 27 school year	
		$ 16,000.00		
*Sponsorships received after September board meeting.				

TRADE SPONSORSHIPS:			
Sponsor Name	**Sponsorship Level**	**2026 - 2027**	**NOTES**
Snowflake Donuts	Bronze	$ 250.00	
Nothing Bundt Cakes	Silver	$ 500.00	*New sponsor for the 26 - 27 school year
HEB	Silver	$ 500.00	*New sponsor for the 26 - 27 school year
Blume Haus Flowers	Bronze	$ 1,500.00	Increasing to Platinum based on value of items received.
TXRH	Platinum	$ 1,500.00	
Card My Yard	Platinum	$ 1,500.00	
		$ 5,750.00	

b. Verbal Commitments and/or Strong Leads: Elite Vision is writing a check soon, Prime Time Sports Cardz is not responding now. Tia states you should go in person for a better response per her experience. Mara will continue to follow up.

VERBAL COMMITMENT (or Interest):			
Sponsor Name	**Sponsorship Level**	**2026 - 2027**	**NOTES**
Prime Time Sports Cardz		$ 1,500.00	Expressed interest in platinum level
Elite Vision		$ 250.00	
Vetra Apartment Complex			
		$ 1,750.00	

TRADE SPONSORSHIPS:			
Sponsor Name	**Sponsorship Level**	**2026 - 2027**	**NOTES**
Parker's Ice Cream			Sam & Natalie to meet with Hali in early September to discuss. Verbal commitment of support.

Mara shared her spreadsheet in the GroupMe chat for the Board. Please reach out to her if you have any leads or ideas for possible sponsors. New sponsors can be added at any time!

c. **CONGRATULATIONS!** To Mara for exceeding her $15,000 paid sponsorship budget for the year and for bringing on so many new sponsors!
d. Sponsor Benefit Status:
    i. Marquee is running with logos as scheduled All completed.

ii. Logos are appearing in the weekly newsletter each Friday (effective 9/4)
iii. All banners are up, except businesses that have not submitted logos yet. Mara is ordering a second round of banners. We've liked the new banner vendor as they are cost effective and good quality.
    i. Who is missing, what is the status of their logo/banner?
    ii. Status of being able to give Nothing Bundt Cakes a social media shout out? They will not be creating their own Boerne Instagram so we are not waiting on this specific SM handle.

6. **Membership Update -** Elizabeth Duenckel
    a. **CONGRATULATIONS!** to Elizabeth for raising $18,525 during the membership drive and exceeding her fundraising budget by $4,125 and exceeding last year's amount raised by $2,340.
    b. Amount Earned:
        i. Family Memberships $17,550
        ii. Staff Memberships $ 975
    c. Population Represented:
        i. Home Room Teachers 100% Amazing teacher involvement that we have not seen in recent years.
        ii. Total Staff Members 73%
        iii. Student Body 55% (395 students) Sam and Elizabeth are already discussing adjustments to this for next year. They are considering doing classroom parties and rewards for the membership drive as results come in so we can keep the student body involved and excited while they are still able to join the PTO and possibly win for their classroom.

		COUNT	DOLLAR VALUE
	MEMBERSHIP LEVEL	**26 - 27**	**26 - 27**
$25	BEEP - BEEP	116	$ 3,000
$50	ROADRUNNER	68	$ 3,400
$100	RAUBIE	26	$ 2,600
$150	MARATHON	19	$ 2,850
$300	SPEEDSTER	5	$ 1,500
$500	ONE & DONE	7	$ 3,500
$15	STAFF	62	$ 975
	GIFTED (added on to family membership)	7	$ 175
	SPONSORED (separate transaction)	25	$ 525
		335	**$ 18,525**

    d. Classes to Reach 100% Membership – all celebrations complete:

	HOME ROOM TEACHER	GRADE	% MEMBERSHIP	CLASS PRIZE AWARDED
1	KATIE KALAPACA	THIRD	121%	Pizza, Ice Cream Sundaes, Extra Recess & $75 Amazon Grant
2	ERIN TORRES	THIRD	116%	Pizza, Ice Cream Sundaes, Extra Recess & $75 Amazon Grant
3	HOLLI ECONOMIDIS	FOURTH	105%	Pizza, Ice Cream Sundaes, Extra Recess & $50 Amazon Grant
4	VICTORIA KLEIN	LIFE SKILLS	100%	Popsicles & Extra Recess
5	PATRICIA PORTER	LIFE SKILLS	100%	Popsicles & Extra Recess
6	KRISTA KIMBALL	FIRST	111%	Popsicles & Extra Recess

e. Seven One & Done Memberships! All membership class prizes/parties for one & done memberships and 100% participation are complete as of Friday, 10/2.

f. Sixty Amazon Grants delivered yesterday (9/30) - $3,500 Krista shared that the teachers were so excited and grateful for this.

GradeLevel	Teacher	Class Party
Kindergarten	Lauren Pyle	Ice Cream Sundaes
2nd Grade	Anna Micheletti	Snow Cones
2nd Grade	Brystal Payne	Snow Cones
2nd Grade	Ioana Borza	Ice Cream Sundaes
4th Grade	Elizabeth Cooley	Snow Cones
4th Grade	Hannah Palomo	Snow Cones
4th Grade	Taylor Munoz	Snow Cones

7. Fundraising Update - Natalie Samson

a. Spirit Nights

b. Update on Chipotle Spirit Night Chipotle wasn't the biggest success as the wait time for orders was very long. Unsure of cause. Natalie does not have an in-person contact to get better feedback from them. She will reconsider for next year. Feedback on food was positive, pre-order was not very successful.

i. Future Spirit Nights – nothing scheduled for October because of Boo! Grams. We are going to try Altitude on Good Friday instead of Arrows this year. Tia mentions we should include BMSS. Erica will see if they will share our post on their social media.

			2026 - 2027	
MONTH	DATE	TIME	LOCATION	EARNED
AUGUST	8/6/2026	5-6:30PM - MTT	CHLOE BELL'S SHAVED ICE	$ 77
AUGUST	8/27/2026	5 - 7:30PM	MCDONALD'S	$ 1,415
SEPTEMBER	9/16/2026	5PM - 9PM	CHIPOTLE	$ 277
OCTOBER			N/A - BOO GRAMS & APEX	$ -
NOVEMBER	11/10/2026	3PM - 10PM	TEXAS ROADHOUSE	
DECEMBER	12/12/2026	2PM - 4PM	KENDRA SCOTT	
JANUARY	1/28/2027		PARRY'S PIZZA REQUESTED	
FEBRUARY	2/24/2027	11AM - 10PM	WILLIE'S GRILL & ICE HOUSE	
MARCH	3/26/2027	10AM - 10PM	ALTITUDE TRAMPOLINE PARK	
APRIL	4/20/2027	3PM - 10PM	TEXAS ROADHOUSE	
			YTD TOTAL	$ 1,769
			Annual Budget	$ 2,100
NOT YET CONFIRMED			LTG	$ 331

c. Spirit Sticks Should we skip October due to BooGrams? Board mostly thinks we should still do it, but we need to be very aware of separating BooGrams from Spirit Sticks for online ordering.

i. YTD Sales and Future Month Schedule & Volunteers

			SALES $$		
DATE	VOLUNTEERS		CASH	PRE-ORDERS	TOTAL
MEET THE TEACHER SALES					
GRANDPARENTS DAY SALES					
	10am - 12pm	12pm - 1:30pm			
	Miranda Ramirez	Tia Flournoy			
AUGUST 28th	Carolyn Kearns	Ashley Rowlett	$ 162	$ 195	$ 357
		Tia F/Mara B			
	Rebekah Sallot	Amanda Godfrey			
SEPTEMBER 25th	Natalie Samson	Ashley Rowlett	$ 182	$ 200	$ 382
	Tia Flournoy	Natalie Samson			
*OCTOBER 30th	Natalie Samson	Laine Beatty			$ -
	Maureen Hensley				
	Shauna Tressler	Maureen Hensley			
**DECEMBER 4th	Lauren Tijerina	Shauna Tressler			$ -
	Tia Flournoy				
	Shauna Tressler	Tia Flournoy			
JANUARY 29th	Carolyn Kearns	Shauna Tressler			$ -
	Rebekah Sallot				
FEBRUARY 26th	Shauna Tressler	Shauna Tressler			$ -
	Natalie Samson	Natalie Samson			
***MARCH 19th	Sam Cooke	Sam Cooke			$ -
	Tia Flournoy	Natalie Samson			
APRIL 30th	Natalie Samson	Laine Beatty			$ -
YTD TOTAL			$ 344	$ 395	$ 739
			47%	53%	100%

*** OCTOBER - We will be selling Boo Grams earlier in the month (for Delivery 10/31) and the Apex fundraiser is 10/26 - 11/6**
**** NOVEMBER - Thanksgiving break includes Friday, 11/20 and Friday, 11/27**
*****MARCH 26th is Good Friday Holiday**
******Last Day of School is May 27th. All Pro Dads is Friday, May 21st.**

Annual Budget	$	1,500
LTG	$	761

*Increased by $300 from prior year to adjust for addition of Boo Gra

ii. **Good Practice:** Volunteers selling spirit sticks should ask the cafeteria monitor to announce pre-sale names first so there is less confusion and less opportunity to over-look those students.) Board member who volunteers last that day needs to take a photo of the spreadsheet and send it to Lisa.
    i. Natalie created a Spirit Stick Sales Cheat Sheet – copy in PTO closet with spirit sticks
    ii. No cash, no spirit stick, no exception! Kids will try and so will some staff members, but "floating" anyone just creates more issues in the long run. Please don't do this. A good response is "We'll be back next month! Try to remember to bring your money then."
    iii. The Pre-K teachers are asking to be e-mailed on the morning of spirit stick sales to let them know who (if any) of their students have pre-paid spirit sticks.

d. Boo! Gram Sales Pre-orders starting today. Natalie and Erica working together.
    i. On Sale October 1 – 23rd
        i. Sold online only via Cognito Form, sold individually only (no option to purchase for entire class)

ii. $3/each and includes 1 spirit stick, 1 squishy, 1 snack pack 0.5oz organic YumEarth halloween fruit snacks in a cellophane holiday bag with to/from tag (no note/message).

ii. Tag – To/From only (no note/message)
    i. Where are we with formatting cognito download and printing into tags? Laine and Natalie working together on this.

iii. Fulfillment and Distribution
    i. To be delivered to individual classrooms on 10/29 and teachers will distribute to the students at their discretion on 10/30.

e. Apex 10/26 – 11/6 (11/5 Roadrunner Dash Day)
    i. Pre meeting with Brandon (Apex) , Mrs. Walker, Natalie & Sam on Wednesday 9/23.
        a. Normal timing of the Teacher's Huddle is proving to be difficult with BOA the week prior and fall break the week prior to that.
            i. Will do a 7:05 morning huddle with homeroom teachers and CAMP teachers on Friday, 10/23.
                1. PTO is working with Fair Oaks ER to provide breakfast that day. FOER confirmed they will provide breakfast for the 38 homeroom teachers, plus the 6 CLAMP teachers and Mrs. Walker. They will have breakfast delivered directly to the school at 6:45am on 10/23.
            ii. Will need to recruit 5 volunteers (Dad's on Duty style) to cover morning duties for the CAMP teachers. We need 6 Dad's on Duty from 7am-7:35am to help cover as teachers will be in the huddle (confirmed number of volunteers with Brittney). Should we have Brittney send a separate request out through ParentSquare for this volunteer opportunity?
    ii. Changes to the Program this year
        a. $4/transaction fee (still optional as in prior years)
        b. Apex no longer retains 5% for 90 days (in case of chargebacks)
        c. ApplePay is now a payment option
        d. Asked to raise the threshold from $3/obstacle to $4/obstacle for pledge amounts that need to be verified before being cleared as a donation.
        e. Discuss the % passed back to each classroom. Historically each classroom has kept 10% of what they earned. We write a check to the school once the fundraiser has ended and we get all necessary reporting from Apex. This is usually around $10,000 total, with the highest earning classroom receiving around Krista's input was this could drive a very healthy competition among the teachers. Board agreed to this change.

i. 20% for highest earning class
ii. 15% for 2nd and 3rd highest earning classes
iii. 10% for all other classrooms
iv. Average classroom earnings get passed back to each CAMP teacher (usually around $250)

Team Name	Grade Level	Team Pledges	Amount Collected	Teacher 10%	**20%, 15%, 15% Tiered**
Brixey	2nd	$126.53/Obstacle	$4,798	$479.80	$479.80
McClure	2nd	$131.75/Obstacle	$4,797	$479.70	$239.85
Castillon	1st	$98.47/Obstacle	$3,695	$369.50	$184.75
		ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL EXPENSE TO PTO			**$904.40**

iii. Live Pep Rally Monday 10/26 at 1:45 to kick things off!
  a. Apex will be on campus starting around 11:30 to get set up. We will need some board members on campus that afternoon (prior to the pep rally) to help distribute the student lanyards to the classrooms.
iv. We would like to have more board involvement (on campus) during these 2 weeks Last year we had some hiccups so we may need some more PTO involvement this year so we are present to help out. Brandon gave some ideas to Natalie and Sam, they need to talk to Brittney about that and then they can send out more formal requests for board involvement if need be.
v. Current budget includes Tom's Coffee Truck for all staff members
  a. Sam working with Tom's to schedule - e-mail sent 9/19, confirmed they will attend on 9/23, but we are awaiting official booking confirmation
vi. Sam and Laine will manage purchasing and distribution of class flags
  a. Flags, Dowel Rods and Zip ties ordered and received. Will distribute to the classrooms the day after the Apex Pep Rally.
vii. Natalie to work with Ashley on SUG for Dash Day
  a. Can remove "Nurse" from SUG. Valerie Gomez has agreed to be our nurse for the entire day.
viii. Natalie to request link for pre-check from Mrs. Walker

f. Other Fundraising:
  i. Chick-fil-A Day (Lunch) "FUN"draiser We will discuss this at future meeting. Tia has first hand experience from middle school. Update: child nutrition spoke as a BISD meeting on 10/5 and confirmed their department is impacted by these fundraisers. They understand why we do it and they want to support us, but they just wanted an awareness around the fact that they are impacted by them.
    a. November or December?
    b. Parents would order/pay online
      i. Option to purchase meal for a staff member
      ii. Option to purchase meal for a blessings student

1. Would need Ms. Maloney's assistance to coordinate with parents/students.
2. The PTO would use proceeds from this event to ensure all remaining blessings students were sponsored

ii. Minted Holiday Stationary & Gifts – did not have time to discuss.
   i. Supporters get 20% off holiday stationery and gifts
   ii. Minted donates 10% back to the PTO

iii. Penguin Patch Holiday Store - – did not have time to discuss. Penguin Patch called Sam on 10/5 and needed an answer, so we told them not this year, but we'd reconsider for next year.

8. Principal Update – Mrs. Walker

a. Brittney is requesting help with yard signs next week. Per Sam we can help, but it would have to be Thursday as we have several others scheduled already. Based on the current schedule, we decided to forego a safety yard sign.
b. Brittney was unable to find a maintenance form for campus improvement requests, previous form from Summer does not work. Sam and Tia discussed with Brittney.

Krista Kimball update

As of now she has two requests for BOA sponsorship. Will likely be 3 students that need financial assistance, but maybe 4. She will let us know once she has a final count. (The funds are already in the approved budget for this.)

9. Merchandise Update – Lisa Hernandez

a. Update on Grandparents Day Sales Great success on sales for Grandparents.

1. **Grandparents Day (Sept. 11 and Sept. 14)**
   - Sales: $1,544 on Friday and $1,718 on Monday ($3,262 total). The new shirt sold out in many youth sizes.
   - Socks: They didn't arrive in time, so we're holding off on buying them.

i. New Merchandise for these two days – feedback on limiting merchandise sold to focus more on the newer inventory (Remaining Comfort Color t's, hats and 2 New t's from MTT, plus new shirt) and ordering new merchandise to roll out at this event.
   i. Sold 29 of the new teal shirt on Friday and 21 on Monday
   ii. Sold 23 of the new Spurs shirt on Friday and 26 on Monday
   iii. Sold 5 of the new cream shirt on Friday and 8 on Monday (youth only)
   iv. Socks – were not able to get in time for Grandparents Day. Do we still want to order? Socks did not make it in time but Lisa thinks we should do it for the holidays (we only have to order 36 so we can experiment). We would have to sell at $20 in order to make money. Sam asked if we can get this to the $15 price point that we previously agreed to in September. Laine will discuss and research this with Lisa.

ii. Any issues with BISD Guest Wi-fi?

b. All other items:

2. **First Day Supply**
    - We received a $740 credit from the 2026–27 school supply program.
    - We're looking into more school-supply fundraising options for next year.
3. **Overall merchandise**
    - We are considering a clearance sale and looking at other opportunities to sell merchandise during the year.
    - We'll email teachers to order Roadrunner Dash shirts, with a deadline of Friday, Oct 2, 2026.
4. **Committee notes**
    - The committee will take a merchandise inventory on Oct 5, 2026.
    - We're down to our last 5 hats and have started discussing the next design.
    - Socks are expected to sell well. The minimum order is only 36 pairs, and they could be ready for the holidays.
5. **Continued exploration**
    - Selling merchandise at Fiesta this year
    - The next hat design
    - Socks Purhcase for holidays

c. Roadrunner Dash
    i. One shirt per student and staff member – update on data collection
        i. Did we confirm cost/shirt with vendor?
            a. Paid $5.77/shirt last year. Are they willing to honor that same price this year? They are going to adjust the price to match last year's pricing.
        ii. Shirt Timeline Adjustments made on the shirt to include the "R" in "VR".
            a. Gathering size/qty data from each teacher – deadline for submission is Friday, October 2nd. Have we received most submissions? Mostly received, still watching and following up.
            b. Placing order – order should be placed by Tuesday, October 6th.
            c. Distribution Process – distribute to teachers 2 days before dash day. Be sure they understand NOT to send the shirts home with the students. The students will change into the shirts at school the morning of the dash.
        iii. Merchandise Sales
            a. Is a clearance sale worthwhile? If not now, when? We sold last year at RoadRunner Dash, had mostly sweatshirts and misc. shirts. Historically we've done a clearance sale on this day. Maybe we only sell clearance at Fiesta, not sure if the profit is worth having volunteers all day at Apex. Lisa would rather do a social media campaign at some point in the year.
                i. Last year we sold appx. $350
d. Spirit Stick Pre-Orders Lisa asks if the Spirit stick form from last week is in the closet. Sam states she has it and will get it to her. Reminder to the board members that they need to take a picture of the spreadsheet and send it to Lisa at the end of spirit stick sales.
    i. Link went live Wednesday afternoon 9/16 and was included in Mrs. Walker's newsletter on 9/18.
        i. Delayed posting to social media (posted Tuesday 9/22 morning)
    ii. Link closed Friday morning 9/25 – did this give Lisa enough time to create the list and get it to school, or should we reevaluate the timing? She will close the link off Friday at 8:00 am moving forward.

i. Any issues with creating or using the excel file for September sales? Any feedback on the file from the spirit stick volunteers that day? Natalie, Laine and Lisa discussed this at the Spirit Stick sale.

10. Campus Improvement Update – Sam & Laine Nothing new per Sam.

a. Proposed budget includes $65,000 for Campus Improvements.
   i. Main focus this year will be the new shade for the playground. This will, likely, cost around $65,000 and we have $45,000 saved from last year's Apex Fundraiser. This year's fundraiser will be ear-marked as "remaining funds for sunshade and other campus programs" (to account for any overage).
      i. Discussed with Mrs. Walker in September Principal/Co-President Meeting. Would like to formally submit the Sun Shade request to BISD to begin the process on requesting bids and gaining approval from BISD. Would be ideal to be able to have new sun shade installed over winter break so that it's in place for the Spring and we won't have to wait for the summer for installation. – Sam sent request (with details) to Mrs. Walker on 9/22.
   ii. If we have funds available, we can review with Mrs. Walker for potential new ideas and/or re-visit remaining ideas from prior year:
      i. Courtyard Enhancements
      ii. Additional Shaded Benches for Playground
      iii. Additional safety window coverings for classrooms that face the drop-off / pick up loop in the front of the school
      iv. Installing privacy fencing (similar to PK playground fence) along the back field / walking path to Front Gate. (To keep anyone from passing items from walking path through the fence to students. Could also prevent some pictures from being taken. There were also recent issues with 3rd graders having an allergic reaction to overgrown plants/weeds on the Front Gate side of the fencing).
      v. Other possible ideas not yet reviewed:
         a. Filtered water (hot & cold) station for teacher's lounge
         b. Water refill station/drinking fountain for outside (Mrs. K's e-mail) – Reviewed this idea with Mrs. Walker in August Principal/Co-Presidents Meeting and it was well received. Need to investigate further with BISD. (Sam)
         c. Adding sun shade and turf under the gaga ball pit – reviewed with Mrs. Walker in September meeting. Needs board discussion. Will also look into adding shade structure as per request in the teacher grant.

11. Staff Appreciation Update – Maureen

a. Monthly Staff Appreciation Events – Update on Nacho Average Staff – Nacho Bar from Las Palapas on 9/17 Las Palapas provided a lot of food! Per Krista, they ate it days after in the teachers lounge but feedback is that they loved it!
b. What's Coming Up?

i. Thursday, October 22nd – Char-BOO-terie – Charcuterie Station w/ Boxes for self-packing Repeat from last year, had great success.
    i. **Moved to Thursday, October 29th** to accommodate 2nd grade field trip scheduled for 10/22. Maureen will be handling this and unable to attend the next board meeting.
ii. Thursday, November 19th (pending approval – alternate date is 11/12)
    i. Black drip coffee with fun toppings and festive cups or Keurig set up to allow for more flavor options. Will incorporate pie in some way, HEB gift cards. Committee currently working on this.
iii. Thursday, December 10th (pending approval)
    i. Popcorn with sweet and savory toppings (build your own) and Bubblr

c. Monthly Recognition Days - October Are we okay with doing "general" gift cards like Walmart vs individual favorite stores to save the committee the time of going to 5 different stores when we are celebrating larger groups on a specific day – example: custodians? Per board feedback, Walmart, HEB, or Amazon are always good options.

- Custodian Appreciation, Friday, October 2nd (gift card to their favorite store, a snack from their favorite list, handwritten card)
- CAMP and Instructional Coach Day, October 5th and 6th (gift card to their favorite store, a snack from their favorite list, handwritten card)
- School Lunch Week, October 12-16 (gift card to their favorite store, a snack from their favorite list, handwritten card)
- National Principal Month, October [redacted] we will celebrate with a sign for Principals' Day in May.

d. Staff Holiday Party – Any updates?
e. Do we need an additional debit card holder on this committee? Hilda (committee) currently has a card, but it doesn't get used regularly. Should we cancel her card and get a card for another committee member? If so, who? This would require Board vote. Maureen will consider adding another credit card user. Per Tia, having this card is useful mostly during teacher appreciation week. Committee members can submit receipts, Maureen has offered to meet at the stores, etc. to circumvent the credit card issue for now. The board will continue this conversation as needed. We should also consider if we need to cancel Hilda's card if she is not as active in the committee this year.

12. Is it okay to send event flyers to Melanie? Per Sam, she doesn't believe that is an issue.
13. Wellness Wednesday - Can we sponsor this in the spring, maybe a goat yoga event? Mara will see if she can get some donations/sponsors for this.

14. Events Update – Miranda Ramirez

a. Kinder Playdate – How did it go? We had 47 students (plus family members) attend and everything ran smoothly.
b. Grandparents Days – How did they go? A lot of grandparents loved how organized everything seemed. Great feedback!
c. What's coming up? Considered January event but due to budget we will stick to February. Committee is thinking of doing Western theme instead of Glow Party this year.
    i. Plan for future school events for the year: Considering a rodeo/cowboy themed family dance in February.

Winter event:
- Photo shoot opportunity
- Possible appearance from Santa (not necessarily for a photo op but just to walk around and say hi) waiting to hear back from Courtnie Towers if her father is available for this.
- still planning activities/games as stations
- wondering what events food trucks are usually at and how we go about that.
- if food trucks aren't available, offer desserts (mini cupcakes)

We're meeting again as a committee Tuesday 9/29 and may have more updates for meeting.

15. **Volunteer Update – Ashley Rowlett**
    a. Room Parent Meeting (and workroom training) on Friday 9/25 – How did it go? Meeting turn out was great with 38 in attendance.
        i. Status of following up with those not in attendance?
            i. Folders delivered to student classrooms to be sent home to the room parents not in attendance. Ashley hand-delivered these to the classrooms for students to take home to their parents.
        ii. Status of e-mailing all documentation to room parents and encouraging them to make initial contacts with their families?
        iii. Status of creating GroupMe for Room Parents and Board Members
            i. All room parents have been entered into a GroupMe chat. Ashley to send reminder to download the app.Only 12 people are missing from GroupMe at this time.
                a. Confirmation that all board members (whether acting as a room parent or not) are included in this chat, too?
        iv. Missing Room Parents – what's the best approach for these classes?
    b. Upcoming SUGs Needed:
        i. Road Runner Dash – Event Day is Thursday, 11/5
            i. Ashley to work with Natalie to create (review what was used last year) Can do this whenever Natalie is ready.
    c. Blessings in a Backpack (Shauna Tressler / Sam Cooke)
            i. Shauna will continue to monitor regularly
                a. Continue to include link in Principal's weekly newsletter
                b. Should continue to periodically post to social media
                c. Will need a new SUG for the second half of the school year.
                    i. Should create in late November/early December and distribute ahead of winter break
                d. Candy Canes (clear plastic canes, filled with candy) for the holidays – one per student. How do we want to manage this year?
    d. Update on Supporting Life Skills with temporary work room needs?
    Life skills has a new curriculum that needs a lot of items to be printed and laminated. Mrs. Kline is requesting work room help. They will place a bin in the workroom that has items to be laminated so helpers can come in and assist. They'd like help maybe one day each week. Ashley is going to take the lead on this and will reach out if she need additional help, or if laminating supplies become a concern. Per Mrs. Walker, they've worked where they can pick and choose stuff so they can print less however they still may need help. Per Ashley, this is going well, they are not as backed up at this time.

16. **Communications Update – Erica Cepeda**
    a. Where are we with initial recognition/shout-out for all sponsors? – HIGH PRIORITY
        i. Any outstanding at this point? If so, who?
    b. What about sponsor logo updates to our website? – HIGH PRIORITY
        i. Prior year sponsors removed Complete
        ii. Current year sponsors added Complete
    c. Membership Family Shoutouts (Speedster & One and Done) – COMPLETE
        i. Last shout-out posted 9/22/26. Complete
    d. Events Calendar on Website
        i. October Events Erica will do this today/tomorrow. Now complete.
    e. Upcoming Communication Needs:
        i. Membership Drive! – Final Posts to be Completed:Elizabeth will get these to her.
            i. Pictures of 100% Classroom Parties
                a. Mrs. Kalapaca, Mrs. Torres, Ms. Economidis (Pizza & Ice Cream Sundaes)
                b. Ms. Klein, Ms. Porter, Mrs. Kimball (popsicles)
            ii. Pictures of One and Done Parties
                a. Mrs. Pyle, Ms. Micheletti, Mrs. Payne, Mrs. Borza, Mrs. Cooley, Mrs. Palomo, Mrs. Munoz
            iii. Pictures of Teachers receiving Amazon Grants ($60 Membership Grants) Laine sent these to Erica without success. She will try again immediately following them meeting (air drop).
        ii. Pictures of General PTO Meeting and Room Parent Meeting – thanking those who joined us and recognizing/thanking the room parents for volunteering their time Completed
        iii. Spirit Night – Boo! Gram sales 10/1 – 10/23 Working on this.
        iv. Trunk or Treat October 24th – **share post from the Fair Oaks Ranch Police Dept** She will share this and post. Per Sam, Officer Mike is asking if we want to participate in Trunk or Treat in any way. Do we want to be involved?
        v. Spirit Stick Sales
            i. Pre-order link goes live Friday, October 23rd (will need to be clear this is for regular spirit stick sales, not Boo! Grams)
            ii. Cash Sales Friday, October 30th
        vi. Blessings in a Backpack SUG
        vii. Apex Fundraiser (October & November)
            i. Largest fundraiser of the year, will have daily posts to keep momentum high
            ii. Apex will provide info to post and associated schedule Natalie will get this to Erica so she can start working on it. Will likely want to enhance or customize APEX posts to make them more specific to VRES.

17. **All Other Business**
    a. Purchase of Items for School

i. New Podium - In conjunction with 2026 – 2026 student council ($1,000 donation) – ORDERED 9/8/26 and in production queue. There's a 5-7 week lead time, should receive in time for Veterans Day. Ordered. Tia paid invoice on Friday 10/2.
ii. Storage for Girl's Restrooms (3) – COMPLETE and communication send to homeroom teachers for them to cascade as they see fit Done in September by Laine.
iii. Umbrella Stand for front entrance of school TBD, we will be purchasing.
iv. Rolling Cart for Traffic Cones TBD, we will be purchasing.
v. BOA Financial Assistance Needs – Any update from Mrs. Kimball? Two requests as of now. May be as many as 4 when numbers are finalized.
vi. Large Teal Flower Pots for Front of School TBD, we will be purchasing. May need to get BISD approval.

b. Trunk or Treat put on by Fair Oaks Ranch Police Department
    i. Will be held at VRES – Saturday, October 24th, 6:00 – 8:00PM - **Does PTO want to <u>support or participate</u> in any way?** As of this meeting, we do not plan to participate. Falls outside of the scope of spend for PTO funds. We do one community give back event each year and that's the Fiesta Friday carnival.
        i. Trunk or Treat in Front Parking Lot
        ii. Decorations
        iii. Kid Friendly Costumes
        iv. Kid Friendly Haunted House
        v. Last year 2,000 – 3,000 participants (prior year 1,000 participants)
        vi. Vendors (Food, Dessert)
        vii. Boerne PD and Bexar Fire also invited

18. Future Business

a. Fiesta Friday – Carnvial to take place on Friday, April 2, 2027 from 5pm – 8pm
    i. Silent Auction will go live Friday, March 26, 2027 at 5pm
        i. Need to review and order rides and games
        ii. Discuss DJ possibilities with Mr. McGeachin or reserve Officer Gomez (DJ Five-O)

b. Review/Update VRES PTO Bylaws – Over time things have evolved informally with only minor updates to the bylaw document.
    i. Need to review and update bylaws to reflect current practices (example: timing of annual budget approval and spend that takes place from July 1st through early September).
        i. This would strengthen financial oversight and accountability (To clarify, there are no real concerns with spend that takes place during the school year. However, a precedent has been set for spend leading up to the school year before the budget is actually approved. (example: back to school breakfast in early August)
    ii. Would also be helpful to provide more clarity and transparency of roles and responsibilities, both throughout the year and during leadership transition.
    iii. Ensure we are aligned with best practices of the school district.

iv. Once bylaws are updated, we need to provide a copy of current bylaws to the BISD finance office. (Per BISD finance meeting on Monday, 10/5.)

c. Individual Staff Appreciation Days
   i. The future of yard signs
   ii. Setting a standard practice for spend around individual gifts

Important Upcoming Dates:

10/1 – 10/23 – Boo Grams Sale (Cognito Form)
10/2 Friday – Custodian Appreciation Day
10/5 Monday – Instructional Coaches Day Mrs. Bowe
10/6 Tuesday – National Coach's Day (Celebrate all CAMP teachers to be more inclusive)
10/9 Wednesday – 10/12 Monday – Fall Break
10/12 – 10/16 – National School Lunch Week
10/13 Tuesday – Staff Development, No School
10/19 Monday – 10/21 Wednesday – BOA (5th Grade)
10/23 Friday - VP & Committee Updates due to Sam
10/23 Friday – Spirit Stick Pre-Sale (online) begins through 10/30
10/23 Friday – Coach's Huddle: Apex Meeting with Homeroom & CAMP teachers. PTO providing breakfast
10/26 Monday – Apex Fundraiser Kick Off
10/26 Monday – 11/6 Friday – Apex on Campus
10/26 – 10/31 – Red Ribbon Week
10/29 Thursday – NOVEMBER Monthly PTO Board Meeting (due to timing of Road Runner Dash Event)
10/29 Thursday – Char-BOO-terie Monthly Staff Appreciation (changed to accommodate 1st grade field trip on 10/22)
10/30 Friday – Spirit Stick Sales at Lunch
11/5 Thursday – Road Runner Dash (Apex Obstacle Course), Travelin' Tom's Coffee Truck on Campus
11/6 Friday – Last Day of Apex Fundraiser
11/10 Tuesday – Spirit Night at TXRH 3pm – 10pm
11/11 Wednesday – Veteran's Day
11/13 Friday – World Kindness Day
11/18 Wednesday – Bike Rodeo
11/18 Wednesday – VRES Military Dinner 5:30 – 7:00 PM
11/20 Friday – Student Holiday (No School)
11/23 Monday – 11/27 Friday – Thanksgiving Break (No School)
11/27 Friday - VP & Committee Updates due to Sam
11/30 Monday – Spirit Stick Pre-Sale (online) begins through 12/4
12/3 Thursday – Monthly PTO Board Meeting
12/4 – Spirit Stick Sales at Lunch
12/12 Saturday – Spirit Night at Kendra Scott 2pm – 4pm
12/18 Friday – Early Release Day for Winter Break

Action Items: Please ensure completion or conversation by due date. Secretary will follow up weekly.

Look into adding an educational grant in Spring	Sam/Laine	?	Future Item
School Store Fundraiser follow up with Brittney	Sam/Laine	11/1	
Ask BISD about changes to school supply list for next year (removing Ziplock bags,adding composition books for 5th grade, etc.)	Sam/Laine	10/15	Pending future meeting
Discuss Apex with Brittney: Dads on Duty 10/23 & board members volunteering - what duties will these volunteers be responsible for? Do we need to shift responsibilities that morning for safety reasons (cross walk duty, etc.)	Sam/Laine	10/15	
Look into supplying multiple "step stools" for younger classes (Mr. K's grant request) Find a safer/sturdier alternative to what was requested.	Sam/Laine	10/15	
Brittney's request for yard sign next week – determined this wasn't necessary given the timing and other multiple yard signed scheduled for the week.	Sam	10/2	COMPLETE – N/A
BOA Sponsorship f/u with Krista	Sam/Laine	10/14	
F/U with Officer Mike for trunk or treat	Sam	10/15	COMPLETE - Sam spoke with him on Friday, 10/2 and told him that the PTO wouldn't be participating with a trunk. He asked if we could informally asked if anyone wanted to donate candy or lend him games to play with the kids. Sam sent a GroupMe message to the board on 10/5 with these requests.
Check price point of socks merchandise	Laine/Lisa	10/15	
Photos of Amazon Grants to Erica	Laine	10/2	
Labeling process for BooGram orders	Natalie/Laine	10/15	
Photos of Boo-Gram spirit sticks to Erica (SM)	Natalie	10/2	
Apex SM to Erica	Natalie	10/21	

Further discuss CFA Fundraiser at next board meeting	Natalie	10/29	
Order RoadRunner Dash shirts	Lisa	10/6	
Update Oct. events on website	Erica	10/2	
Share SM post for Fair Oaks Ranch PD trunk or treat	Erica	10/8	
Request BMSS social media person to share Altitude fundraiser	Erica	3/01	Future Item
RoadRunner Dash SUG to Natalie and Sam	Ashley	10/15	
Get photos from membership drive to Erica for SM	Elizabeth	10/2	

Meeting Adjourned: 12:08 PM