



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

**Van Raub Elementary School
2026 - 2027 PTO Board Meeting
September 3, 2026, 10am – 12pm
VRES Campus**

1. Call to Order: 10:03 AM

2. Roll Call:

(X) Brittney Walker, Principal

(X) Krista Kimball, Faculty Representative Joined half way through

(X) Sam Cooke, Co-President

(X) Lisa Hernandez, VP Phone

(X) Laine Beatty, Co-President

(X) Tia Flournoy, Treasurer Phone

(X) Rebekah Sallot, Secretary

(X) Mara Barry, VP Sponsorships

(X) Elizabeth Duenckel, VP Membership

(X) Lisa Hernandez, VP

(X) Ashley Rowlett, VP Volunteers

(X) Maureen Hensley, VP Staff Appr

(X) Erica Cepeda, VP Communications

(X) Natalie Samson, VP Fundraising

(X) Miranda Ramirez, VP Events

Additional Attendees:

Laurie Wolff-Merch

Valerie Gomez-Events

3. President Remarks / Opening Comments - Sam Cooke & Laine Beatty

- a. Introduction of all members present [Round table introductions of everyone present.](#)
- b. We had a very productive August meeting. We also made significant progress on our list of action items from that meeting, especially considering it was just two weeks ago. Thank you!
- c. Expectations for the year / General Housekeeping Items (Sam)
 - 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 October board meeting are due Friday, September 25th.**
 - 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 respectful - listen to each other, even if we see things differently. We're all here because we care about the school and want to give back. Don't hesitate to voice your opinion, but respectfully.
- e. Above All – let's keep this fun and positive! We're volunteering to do good work for our kids, teachers & community!
- ii. 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.
- d. Our bylaws are listed in the about section of the PTO website (under the meeting minutes). I would encourage you to review them, just for awareness.
www.vrespto.com/bylaws

4. Treasurer Update – Tia Flournoy (Phone)

- a. During each board meeting Tia will pass around current financial statements. As we get a little further into the school year, our monthly agenda will also include a list of larger (positive and negative) variances to the budget. If you have any questions about the budget (your specific area or any other area) or spend, please ask during the meeting (or after). Our financial information is open for everyone to view and understand.
- b. Review of proposed budget for 2026 – 2027 school year (Sam) [Two small changes made. PTO funds field trips, life skills included. Last year we funded an additional one for just Life Skills, that was not budgeted. We would like to include this again and budget for it. Life Skills also fundraises on their own but would like our support this year as well. We moved \\$250 to increase the field trip budget for this purpose, it was taken from staff campus support \(intended to be snacks for Mrs. Bowe's room, which leaves \\$500 still. Last year we spent \\$350 in this area and in prior years the budget was more in-line with \\$350-\\$500. Can re-visit this area as we start to see if we have positive variances from other areas of spend/fundraising.\). Brittney asked: Have teachers discussed field trips yet with PTO? Sam: No, but we kind of base it off of previous years and that hasn't been an issue. Also 3rd grade does not spend very much as they get some tickets for free so that allows some flexibility in the budget. \[Brittney has the field trip requests from teachers already and she can get that to us as soon as possible.\]\(#\) By November, maybe October, we will start to track if any money has changed from our budget so we know what we can move around if we need to accommodate. Budgeted loss of almost \\$65,000 this year, as expected. This is carry forward for mostly campus improvement projects. We currently have \\$45,000 saved toward second sun shade for playground.](#)
- i. Discussion / Questions / Comments / Concerns
 - ii. Motion to Approve 26 – 27 Budget: [Elizabeth](#)
 - iii. Second Motion to Approve 26 – 27 Budget: [Natalie](#)
 - iv. Board Vote: [Passed unanimously by board.](#)
- c. Outstanding Receipts (Tia) [Thank you for sending receipts in! No concerns to report.](#)

- 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.

5. Sponsorship Update – Mara Barry

a. Committed Sponsorships & Trade Sponsorships

CONFIRMED/PAID:			
Sponsor Name	Sponsorship Level	2026 - 2027	NOTES
Belden Automotive	Bronze	\$ 250.00	
Cooke Funeral Homes	Bronze	\$ 250.00	
Jumpn Boerne	Bronze	\$ 250.00	*New sponsor for the 26 - 27 school year
Little Gym	Bronze	\$ 250.00	
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
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
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
		\$ 14,250.00	
TRADE SPONSORSHIPS:			
Snowflake Donuts	Bronze	\$ 250.00	
Blume Haus Flowers	Bronze	\$ 1,500.00	Increasing to Platinum based on value of items received.
Nothing Bundt Cakes	Silver	\$ 500.00	*New sponsor for the 26 - 27 school year
TXRH	Platinum	\$ 1,500.00	
Card My Yard	Platinum	\$ 1,500.00	
		\$ 5,250.00	

b. Verbal Commitments and/or Strong Leads:

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	
Willey Pediatric Dentistry			
Vetra Apartment Complex			
		\$ 1,750.00	
TRADE SPONSORSHIPS:			
Parker's Ice Cream			Sam & Natalie to meet with Hali in early September to discuss. Verbal commitment of support.

Please reach out to Mara if you have any leads or ideas for possible sponsors. New sponsors can be added at any time.

Monetary Sponsorships

We need \$15,000 in monetary sponsorships to be able to do everything we need this year. We are at \$14,250 currently. We have several more incoming in the next week or so. Elite Vision is pending a check, Prime Time Sports Cards has shown interest. Need to follow up with Vetra. Willey had questions about banner sizes so may be increasing level. Received one additional bronze sponsor for \$250 during board meeting – Grey Moss Inn – which brings monetary sponsorships to \$14,500 for the year.

Trade Sponsors

Snowflake is returning at Bronze level. Blume Haus (Platinum level) used for Grandparents Day. Blume Haus has been so helpful, Erica will make sure that Platinum level is reflected on SM and spread sheets. Nothing Bundt Cakes is a new sponsor, we are pending their direct Instagram handle to be included for socials, etc. TRH returning and appreciated.

Elizabeth asked for a spreadsheet of whom has been reached out to and if they responded yes or no so we don't bother people multiple times. Mara will provide the board with this information. Mara has brought in 6 new sponsors, 1 older sponsor plus a new additional trade sponsor, with a possibility of several additional new sponsors. Great work!

c. Sponsor Benefit Status:

- i. Marquee is running with logos as scheduled
- ii. Logos will begin appearing in the weekly newsletter this Friday (9/4)
- iii. All banners are up, except businesses that have not submitted logos yet
- iv. Website needs to be updated with current year logos *Still working on Website, but should be complete by end of next week (Friday 9/11).*

6. **Membership Update** - Elizabeth Duenckel

- a. Membership drive ends tomorrow! Let's finish strong!
- b. Amount Earned to date **(as of 9/2 AM)**:
 - i. Family Membership \$13,650
 - ii. Staff Membership \$915 *Two teachers stopped at PTO table last night to say they still need to join and are going to. Historically Amazon grant amount was \$50, but this year it is \$60. Historically homeroom teachers are at 99% involvement, and we'd like that to be 100%. Other teachers we'd like to get 60%. Elizabeth will work with Brittney on this involvement.*
 - iii. **Total Raised \$15,590** (vs budget of \$14,440) *We've had 7 one and done memberships (a record!) and 5 Speedsters (including one last night at Parent Teacher Event). Sponsored memberships is completely separate and is lower than what we have seen historically. Hoping to see an increase in that the next 2 days as parents try to win a party for their child's classroom.. Valerie: When we sponsor who gets the gifts? Elizabeth: Most of the sponsorships are the lower \$25 level that do not have the gifts. But we would get that merch out if that was the case.*
More social media postings to come.

	MEMBERSHIP LEVEL	COUNT			DOLLAR VALUE					
		25 - 26	26 - 27	YOY VAR	25 - 26	26 - 27	YOY VAR			
\$25	BEEP - BEEP	147	93	(54)	\$ 3,675	\$ 2,325	\$ (1,350)			
\$50	ROADRUNNER	71	57	(14)	\$ 3,550	\$ 2,850	\$ (700)			
\$100	RAUBIE	20	23	3	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,300	\$ 300			
\$150	MARATHON	18	17	(1)	\$ 2,700	\$ 2,550	\$ (150)			
\$300	SPEEDSTER	0	4	4	\$ -	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,200			
\$500	ONE & DONE	4	6	2	\$ 2,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 1,000			
\$15	STAFF	60	58	(2)	\$ 985	\$ 915	\$ (70)			
	GIFTED (added on to family membership)	10	6	(4)	\$ 250	\$ 150	\$ (100)			
	SPONSORED (separate transaction)	40	12	(28)	\$ 1,025	\$ 300	\$ (725)			
		370	276	(94)	\$ 16,185	\$ 15,590	(\$595)			
	*As of Wednesday, September 2nd.				\$ 1,190	Amount Remaining to Budget				

c. Top 6 Classes to Date:

HOME ROOM TEACHER	GRADE	% MEMBERSHIP	
PATRICIA PORTER	LIFE SKILLS	86%	
LAUREN PYLE	KINDERGARTEN	67%	
KRISTA KIMBALL	FIRST	68%	
KATIE KALAPACA	THIRD	121%	WINNER 1
ERIN TORRES	THIRD	84%	
HOLLI ECONOMIDIS	FOURTH	90%	

- d. Fulfillment of swag continues. [Membership kind of dropped off over last week \(typical so we are caught up and will continue to be.](#)
- e. Working on purchasing and scheduling class prizes: [Reaching out to parents and teachers to organize and coordinate dates.](#)
- i. First & Second Class to 100% (\$75 Amazon Wishlist and class and Pizza & Ice Cream Sundae Party)
 - i. Mrs. Kalapaca, 3rd – 121%
 - ii. Torres, 2nd – 116%
 - ii. Third class to 100% (\$50 Amazon Wishlist and Pizza & Ice Cream Sundae Party)
 - i. Economidis, 4th – 105%
 - iii. All other classes to 100% to date
 - i. Klein, Life Skills – 100%
 - ii. Porter, Life Skills – 100%
 - iii. Kimball, 1st – 111%

7. Fundraising Update - Natalie Samson

- a. Spirit Nights
 - i. Update on McDonald's Spirit Night [Success, we made \\$1,400.00. Drive thru and restaurant purchases went towards this. Great kick off to the year! This is the most we've ever earned off of a spirit night. The teachers showed up!](#)
 - ii. Future Spirit Night's [Chipotle is next spirit night. Fairly easy to work with so far. They give 25% of all sales back to the school. You have to say VRES at the](#)

register or have an online code for the order or show a flyer, which doesn't work with delivery orders. Rules seem pretty strict about showing flyer but we are not allowed to put a sign out at the restaurant. They provided a flyer but we are going to make something larger. Erica and Natalie will collaborate on this for social media. Booked Willie's in February. Parry's request in, pending response and will continue to follow up.

- i. Possibility of Spurs Tickets as a Spirit Night (maybe for choir performance?)

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	
OCTOBER			N/A - BOO GRAMS & APEX	\$ -
NOVEMBER	11/10/2026	3PM - 10PM	TEXAS ROADHOUSE	
DECEMBER	12/12/2026	2PM - 4PM	KENDRA SCOTT	
JANUARY			PARRY'S PIZZA REQUESTED	
FEBRUARY	2/24/2026	11AM - 10PM	WILLIE'S GRILL & ICE HOUSE	
MARCH			SPURS TICKETS OR ARROWS	
APRIL	4/20/2027	3PM - 10PM	TEXAS ROADHOUSE	
APRIL			ARROWS - GOOD FRIDAY?	
			YTD TOTAL	\$ 1,492
			Annual Budget	\$ 2,100
NOT YET CONFIRMED			LTG	\$ 608

- b. Spirit Stick Sales

- i. **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.)
- ii. Natalie created a Spirit Stick Sales Cheat Sheet – copy in PTO closet with spirit sticks
- iii. No cash, no spirit stick, no exception!
- iv. Update on first sale of the year – Friday, August 28th
 - i. It was BUSY! Record breaking pre-orders, very busy at the first event with lots of cash sales as well.

v. Future Spirit Stick Sales [We have people signed up for this month already.](#)

			SALES \$\$		
DATE	VOLUNTEERS		CASH	PRE-ORDERS	TOTAL
MEET THE TEACHER SALES					
GRANDPARENTS DAY SALES					
AUGUST 28th	10am - 12pm Miranda Ramirez Carolyn Kearns	12pm - 1:30pm Tia Flournoy Ashley Rowlett	\$ 162	\$ 195	\$ 357
	SEPTEMBER 25th	Rebekah Sallot Natalie Samson			
*OCTOBER 30th	Tia Flournoy Natalie Samson	Natalie Samson			\$ -
**DECEMBER 4th	Maureen Hensley Lauren Tijerina	Maureen Hensley			\$ -
JANUARY 29th		Tia Flournoy			\$ -
FEBRUARY 26th	Rebekah Sallot				\$ -
***MARCH 19th	Natalie Samson Sam Cooke	Natalie Samson Sam Cooke			\$ -
APRIL 30th	Tia Flournoy Natalie Samson	Natalie Samson			\$ -
YTD TOTAL			\$ 162	\$ 195	\$ 357
			45%	55%	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 \$	1,143
*Increased by \$300 from prior year to adjust for addition of Boo Grams					

c. Boo Gram Sales in October

- i. Confirm dates for Sale (not to conflict with BOA (10/19 – 10/21) or Apex Fundraiser (10/26 – 11/6))[October 1st-23rd decided upon. Need to finish before 5th goes to BOA \(Oct. 19-21\) and not at the same time as Apex. Delivery to the 29th to the teachers and they can distribute on the 30th as they'd like.](#)
- ii. Do we need to limit/cap total number sold? [How many Halloween spirit sticks do we have? Natalie has ordered some, has at least 100-150.](#)
- iii. Need to identify how sales will take place. Online only?
 - i. Wix/Spirit Store [the To/From part of this would make this form difficult.](#)
 - ii. Cognito Form [This would be better so we can download and print labels.](#)
- iv. Price? [\\$3.00 allows us to make a few cents on it \(each bag costs around \\$2.50\).](#)
 - i. What will be included with each Boo Gram? [Mock up shown by Natalie. \\$1.50 for each bag to be made \(plus the cost of the actual spirit stick\) to include GF gummy snack, squishy and then a spirit stick. Discussion on need of bag/tag and budget. May need PTO volunteers to put together.](#)
 - ii. Should we have an option to purchase for entire class? [What if multiple parents want to do that? Can we only put one option? We'd have to remove that option immediately. Laine will research website options with this issue and discuss with Natalie and Sam](#)
- v. Tag [Can we use a sticker tag instead to save money/time. Look into using the thermal sticker printer for this?](#)

- i. To/From only or ability to include a short note? [Only to/from, no message.](#)
 - vi. Fulfillment and Distribution [Sent on the 29th to the teachers and they can hand out on the 30th as they see appropriate.](#)
- d. Other Fundraising
 - i. Apex 10/26 – 11/6 (11/5 Roadrunner Dash Day) [Will discuss in future meeting.](#)
 - i. Natalie to schedule pre meeting with Brandon to include Mrs. Walker, Natalie, Laine & Sam [On her radar.](#)
 - ii. Would like to have more board involvement during these 2 weeks
 - iii. Current budget includes Tom's Coffee Truck for all staff members – as a thank you for their 2 week commitment to the fundraiser
 - a. Sam will schedule Tom's
 - b. Do we want to consider a sweet treat option? – [no decision made, discuss in future meeting](#)
 - iv. Sam and Laine will manage purchasing and distribution of class flags
 - v. Natalie to work with Ashley on SUG for Dash Day
 - vi. Natalie to request link for pre-check from Mrs. Walker
 - ii. Chick-fil-A Day (Lunch) [We are considering doing this. BMSS PTO does this regularly and the kids love it.](#)
 - i. "FUN"draiser
 - a. November or December? [Post Apex consideration? Will continue discussion at next meeting.](#)
 - 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

8. Principal Update – Mrs. Walker

[School Store Fundraiser pushed to January to not compete with Apex. Cibolo Creek is doing it now so we can see how successful they are with it and go from there.](#)

9. Merchandise Update – Lisa Hernandez (Phone)

- a. Grandparents Day – Friday, September 11th and Monday, September 14th
 - i. New Merchandise for these two days
 - i. Status of ordering shirts? [Ordering 100-112 to make \\$5 off each. This will be a test to see how sales go for this particular event.](#)
 - ii. What was decided about socks? [Photos put in the chat during meeting for board opinions. Two designs: Ruffle and electrical bolts. Cost: 36 for \\$12.95 and we would only be able to sell for \\$15/each. Turnaround is 5 days on socks plus shipping, making it possible to get for Grandparents Day if we act now. Question from board: Do we have 62 families who would buy? The board reviewed the image of both sock designs and](#)

there was a resounding yes, especially since it would be for grandparents day. Sizes? Youth only, range of 1 to 4 and then 3 to 7. Do we consider adult sizes for staff? Most of the board expressed no for now. The plan is to get 36 (18 of each design) in each size and test them out at the Grandparents event selling for \$15.

- ii. Recommend planning to limit merchandise sold to focus more on the new shirts
- iii. Other older/remaining merchandise can be sold in a clearance sale at the Roadrunner Dash and/or Fiesta. (Can discuss later if we want to sell merch at Fiesta this year.)

iv. Need to resolve wi-fi/connectivity issues prior to Friday, September 11th (Sam)

- i. Lisa to request wi-fi access (for both days) prior to Thursday, September 10th. Per Sam, the issue with BISD guest wifi continues today and if not corrected prior to grandparents day could impact our ability to sell merchandise at Grandparents Day. Laine and Sam discussed this with the BISD tech guy at the parent orientation last night. He is going to help us get this fixed before Grandparents Day to help with merch. Sam will reach out to him with the most recent error message and Brittney mentioned contacting BISD technology, as well.

b. Roadrunner Dash

i. One shirt per student and staff member

- i. Review of designs for this year Lisa presented colors and design. Trying to keep costs low; 2025 design was nice. Trying to hit a similar price point. Shirt color opinions asked, tropic blue or carolina blue. We will do same color for staff and students. The writing on the shirt will be white. Board voiced that they preferred the tropic blue color. The shirt needs to have "VR" instead of just "V". Lisa will follow up with the vendor for the design update. Lisa and Laine will work on the process of teachers submitting sizes.

ii. What is the cost/shirts?

- a. Proposed budget includes \$5,250 for students (725) & staff (90)
 - i. May want to consider ordering a few extra of these shirts to be used as new hire gifts at the start of the next school year. Brittney said there are quite a few extra constellation shirts from the start of this school year, but the school will give those to the new teachers during orientation (next year). Don't want to have too many extra student shirts because they can't really be sold.

iii. Shirt Timeline

- a. Gathering size/qty data from each teacher Laine will work with Lisa on this. Lisa needs to draft an e-mail for teachers for sizes, etc.

- b. Placing order – Lisa needs to be extremely mindful of the timeline for ordering/receiving these shirts, as well as the cost per shirt.
 - 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 should change into the shirts at school the morning of the dash.
 - iv. Merchandise Sales
 - a. Is a clearance sale worthwhile? If not now, when?
 - i. Last year we sold appx. \$350 – move discussion to future meeting. No decision was made.
 - c. Update on managing the process of fulfilling regular orders
 - i. Going as-planned, or do we need to make adjustments? Should we change this from Monday/Friday so orders aren't sitting unfulfilled as long? Last year they fulfilled Thursdays/Friday mornings. Decided that we should fulfill Thursday, only once a week is fine, unless you see an increase in orders. This allows teachers enough time to check their boxes (after feedback from Brittney and Ms. Kimball) and send the merchandise home with the student no later than Friday of the same week.
 - d. Spirit Stick Pre-Orders Needs new Excel template for this. Laine to send format to Lisa.
 - i. Link live Wednesday afternoon 9/16 (to include in Principal's Weekly Newsletter)
 - ii. Link to close Friday morning 9/25 – does this give Lisa enough time to create the list, or should we reevaluate the timing?
 - i. List should be sorted by grade and then by name (alphabetical) if possible.
- If we are going to change school supply vendors, there is a March 1st deadline to change. We will continue discussion on this in the future.

10. Campus Improvement Update – Sam & Laine

- a. No new updates at this time. Per Sam, nothing in the works beside sun shade for the playground. We have \$45,000 saved for that now and hope Apex fundraiser will help us earn the remaining \$20,000 (appx.) needed. If funds are remaining after the sunshade, we will re-visit the outstanding proposed list of items below.
- b. 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).
 - ii. If we have funds available, we can review with Brittney 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 [Ms. Kimball asked about this, particularly over on the Kinder area facing where parent driving up is.](#)
- iv. Installing privacy fencing (similar to PK playground fence) along the back field / walking path to Front Gate. (Tia mentioned in December 2025 meeting on behalf of Krista Kimball. Need more details from Krista as the board is concerned this wouldn't work given the placement of walking path and fence.) [Ms. Kimball discussed this and options/importance of it. She'd like something that is solid, blocking people from being able to talk to kids or reach through \(kids putting hands through it too per Brittney\), ideally planks or something more permanent. The biggest concern to her is the sidewalk near Front Gate. The board will keep this in mind for future discussions.](#)
- 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 Brittney in most recent Principal/Co-Presidents Meeting and it was well received. Need to investigate further with BISD.](#)

11. Staff Appreciation Update – Maureen

- a. Monthly Staff Appreciation Events - What's coming up? [Maureen will update on 9/24 event as soon as possible.](#)
 - i. September 17th (Thursday) – Nacho Average Staff – Nacho Bar [Las Palapas to cater - staff will be provided with a serve yourself lunch bar in the teacher's lounge.](#)
 - ii. October 22nd (Thursday) – Char-BOO-terie – Charcuterie Station w/ Boxes for self-packing [Repeat from last year, had great success.](#)
- b. Monthly Recognition Days [Clarified by Brittney, 10/5 Instructional Coaches Day \(Mrs. Bowe\).](#)

MONTH	DATE	DAY	EVENT	DETAILS
OCTOBER	10/2/2026	FRIDAY	Custodian Appreciation Day	Nazarita Garcia, Robinson Reyes Gomez, Teshim Haile, Sarah Shantz, Aida Vega
OCTOBER	10/6/2026	TUESDAY	National Coaches Day (CAMP - to be more inclusive)	Monica Agtuca, Bethany Kunkel, Tavis McGeachin, Noah Miles, Rachel Varela
OCTOBER	10/12/26 - 10/16/26		National School Lunch Week	Graciela Hernandez, Kendra Hirth, Imelda Simonson, Esther Torres
OCTOBER			National Principal Month	Brittney Walker
NOVEMBER	11/2/26 - 11/6/26		National School Psychology Week	Sarah Leggett
NOVEMBER	11/18/2026	WEDNESDAY	Education Support Professionals Week	Mrs. Bowe? (Instructional Coach)
FEBRUARY	2/1/27 - 2/5/27		National School Counselor's Week	Heather Maloney, Vanessa Rodriguez
FEBRUARY	2/15/2027	MONDAY	SRO Appreciation Day (Celebrate Tuesday 2/16?) President's Day - SCHOOL HOLIDAY (no school Friday, 2/12)	Michael DeHoyos
APRIL	4/4/2027	SUNDAY	Librarian's Day (Celebrate Monday 4/5?)	Nikki Polk
APRIL	4/5/27 - 4/9/27		Assistant Principals Week	Nicole Liebau
APRIL	4/21/2027	WEDNESDAY	Admin Professional Day	Melissa Berenji, Shaya Flugence, Melanie Solomon
APRIL	4/27/2027	TUESDAY	School Bus Drivers Day	All VRES bus drivers (need list from front office)
MAY	5/1/2027	SATURDAY	Principals Day (Celebrate Friday or Monday?)	Brittney Walker
MAY	5/3/27 - 5/7/27		Teacher Appreciation Week	All Staff
MAY	5/6/2027	THURSDAY	Nurses Week	Ashton Stewart

- c. Staff Holiday Party

Discussion created by Sam. She and Laine spoke to Brittney about the addition of this staff appreciation event. Staff would be able to bring their spouse for an additional charge. It would be held off campus, after hours, ideally at an event center that allows us to provide our own catering. We would use Texas Road House (normally they provide a meal for teachers in January so this would not be a new ask of them). PTO would also consider having fun staff giveaways which would be donations that would not impact Fiesta Friday or sponsorships. Sam gave an example of her doing a phone call where she listened to a national vendor's presentation to receive a free BOGG bag. There is still a lot to figure out, we are just beginning the discussions now to understand possibilities and if this is something the PTO would like to pursue.

Tia: If this is an outside event for the teachers, are people okay with their PTO money going towards an out of school event for teachers? Is this how we want to spend our money? Sam: Texas Road House staff appreciation is typically in Jan, we'd just be swapping to December instead and the donations would not impact other sponsorships. Maureen: She does not believe PTO money should be used this way, what could those donations go to instead? Elizabeth: Multiple staff have asked if we could do a holiday party instead of a staff appreciation breakfast so it should be considered.. Sam: Encourages the different opinions and open discussion. She would pursue donations that are completely not related to previous sources for donations or sponsorships, it's more from National vendors. The goal is to not spend parent money on it, and also we would not pay for the spouses because we would not do that normally. No alcohol would be purchased using PTO funds. Mrs. Walker has approved it so now we can research it further so we can present info to the board to vote on it. Ms. Kimball states that we might want to send out a survey to teachers to get feedback if they are interested in this event as in the past they have not always had participation in after hour events, especially during the holiday time period. Mara: Confirms we are soliciting donations that are specifically for teachers to not take away from students, etc. and that this would not impact her sponsorships or the annual fiesta Friday silent auction.

12. Events Update – Miranda Ramirez

- a. Kinder playdate – Tuesday, September 8th Flyers are completed and her committee is setup to staff, she doesn't need additional help at this time.
 - i. Current RSVP shows 14 students + 9 siblings As of today, 23 students and 16 siblings. Brittney will send out the link this week in the newsletter.
 - i. 2025 RSVP = 25 students + 14 siblings
 - ii. 2024 RSVP = 33 students + 18 siblings
- b. What's coming up?
 - i. Grandparents Day (Friday 9/11 and Monday 9/14)
 - i. Carnations from Blume Hause (trade sponsorship) Coordinating.
 - ii. Picture Backdrop & Props (can use VRES step & repeat) No assistance needed.
 - iii. Cookies
 - iv. Will need volunteers for all of this, plus check-in.
 - a. Committee Members as Volunteers
 - i. Board Members

- b. Status of volunteers / completion of SUG Erica needs to post SUG for Grandparents day.
 - v. Anything else?
- c. Plan for future school events for the year Will present ideas at the next meeting after meeting with Events Committee to discuss further.
 - i. Small Family Events
 - ii. Large Family Events

13. Volunteer Update – Ashley Rowlett

- a. Room Parents – received room parent info from 16 of 38 homeroom teachers (as of Tuesday 9/1). Reminder to submit going out Thursday/Friday. Under 10 classes do not have room parents. Ashley and Sam discussed prior to board meeting.
 - i. Room Parent Meeting - Friday 9/25
 - ii. 8:30 – 9:00am Workroom Training with Shaya (Ashley to coordinate and Shaya will manage the training)
 - i. 9:00 – 9:30am General PTO Meeting (Sam & Laine)
 - ii. 9:30 – 10:15am Room Parent Meeting (Ashley)
 - a. What documentation & communication information will be provided? Ashley would like to streamline previous documents, Samantha reminds her that there are still new parents so don't over simplify but encourages this. Ashley will submit handouts to Sam/Laine beginning of next week.
 - b. Contact list Clarification is made that the contact list is list of ROOM PARENTS. Individual family contact lists for each class will come from individual teachers to their specific room parents as they have to get approval from parents to be on the list.
 - c. General information sharing and sample communication to be sent to parents
 - d. Status of slides for room parent meeting She will use previous years slides for current year meeting.
- b. Upcoming SUGs Needed:
 - i. Grandparents Day (Friday 9/11 and Monday 9/14)
 - i. Status of Volunteer Fulfillment 4/40 fulfilled. Erica will post on SM, Ashley to continue to monitor open and filled spots.
 - ii. Individual Fall Picture Day (Wednesday 9/16)
 - i. Status of Volunteer Fulfillment 11/36 fulfilled. Ashley to continue to monitor open and filled spots.
 - iii. Spirit Stick Sales – August – May
 - i. Status of Volunteer Fulfillment Fully staffed.
 - iv. Road Runner Dash – Event Day 11/5 (Thursday) Not made yet but can be duplicated from last year. Will work on this.
- c. Blessings in a Backpack (Shauna Tressler / Sam Cooke) Not Ashley's job to make. Brittney states someone told her link isn't working. Sam will look into this. Sam

reviewed and link was Okay. Re-sent link to Brittney Friday 9/4 and asked to be informed if there were any more issues reported.

- i. Will ask each Board Member to volunteer at least twice throughout the year
 - i. 9/3 (today) is covered, but need volunteer for 9/10
 - ii. Continue to monitor regularly
 - a. Included in Principal's weekly newsletter Brittney confirmed.
 - b. Should post to social media again soon Erica has it on her radar.
- d. 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. Per Brittney, they've worked where they can pick and choose stuff so they can print less however they still may need 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.

14. Communications Update – Erica Cepeda

- a. Where are we with initial recognition/shout-out for all sponsors? – **HIGH PRIORITY** All posts are scheduled out as long as we have their logo on file. Nothing Bundt Cakes Instagram is not set up yet so we are waiting for that info so we can tag the Boerne location specifically.
- b. What about SM shout-outs for Speedster & One and Done Memberships? – **HIGH PRIORITY** Scheduled out and will be done this week as we wrap up the membership drive.
- c. What about sponsor logo updates to our website? – **HIGH PRIORITY** These will be done early next week, working on this now.
 - i. Prior year sponsors removed
 - ii. Current year sponsors added
- d. Events Calendar on Website
 - i. September Events - complete
- e. Upcoming Communication Needs:
 - i. Membership Drive!
 - i. Final Push to Join
 - ii. Posting Final Weekly Leaderboard
 - iii. Announce all Class Winners
 - iv. Thank You to Everyone who Donated/Joined
 - ii. Spirit Night – September 16th Chipotle 5pm -9pm She now has flyer so will post - complete.
 - iii. Spirit Stick Sales On to-do list.
 - i. Pre-order link goes live Friday, September 18th
 - ii. Cash Sales Friday, September 25th
 - iv. Grandparents Day SUG On to-do list.
 - v. Picture Day Volunteer SUG On to-do list.
 - vi. Room Parent & General PTO Meeting (required per bylaws) On to-do list, should be completed no later than Friday, September 11th.

- vii. Blessings in a Backpack SUG All good, and updated. Booked through Oct 22nd.
- viii. Boo Gram Sales On Erica's radar
- ix. Apex Fundraiser (October & November)
- x. Possible Chick-fil-A Lunch Sales (TBD)

15. All Other Business

- a. Fiesta Friday – Set a Date! - Typically the first Friday in April
 - i. Friday, April 2, 2027 Decided upon Friday, April 2, 2027 5p-8pm, auction goes live Friday before, March 26, 2027. Natalie makes motion, Ashley seconds, passes by unanimous vote
 - i. Once date is set, we can begin to move forward with reserving rides & games
 - ii. DJ – Mr. McGeachin offered to DJ for us this year. This saves us a little money and he volunteered to do so. Sam will talk to him.
- b. Purchase of Items for School
 - i. New Podium - In conjunction with 2026 – 2026 student council (\$1,000 donation) Funds raised by student council last year (\$1,000 contribution toward total purchase price). Sam presented a picture of a podium which is solid wood, USA made. It is height adjustable, has a magnet that allows us to remove our logo on the front. We will order this week or the next, working with a 3rd party purchaser to get a discount. Planning to have it by Veteran's Day.
 - ii. Storage for Girl's Restrooms (3) Delivery tomorrow per Laine.
 - iii. Umbrella Stand This is for the front entrance to the school.
 - iv. Rolling Cart for Traffic Cones Discussed with Shaya in regards to the need of this. The lighted sign that says "stop" and "slow while flashing is still on-site but won't be used until it starts to get darker in the mornings.
 - v. Ms. Kimball-Everything BOA related is being sent out to parents Friday via Parentsquare. We will look at the kids who need assistance and she will discuss it with us so we can help. We have this in the budget already and will discuss when information comes in.
- c. Fair Oaks Ranch Police Department – Community Relations w/ Officer Mike Sam and Laine met with Brittney and Officer Mike.
 - i. Trunk or Treat – Fair Oaks Ranch PD @ VRES – Saturday, October 24th, 6:00 – 8:00PM Last year they had 2000-3000 people – **Does PTO want to support or participate in any way?** How could we do this? Mrs. Kimball asked if teachers can do this-yes, but you have to sign up through the police department as this is not our event, they are just using our parking lot. Historically there is not always a PTO trunk so the option is ours. Can discuss further in the October meeting.
 - 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
- ii. Career Day (date TBD) **Mentioned with no additional information – Sam and Laine will provide more info as they receive it.**
 - i. Patrol Officers
 - ii. DPS or Game Warden
 - iii. SAPD Safety Unit
 - iv. Military Vehicles or Helicopter (SAPD unit)
- iii. Christmas on The Ranch **Mentioned with no additional information – Sam and Lane will provide more info as they receive it.**
 - i. Date & Details TBD
- iv. Educational Grant Review
 - i. Will review all requests in October meeting and vote on how to spend total budgeted amount for the year.

\$15,000 budgeted, we will review/discuss each request in October meeting and vote on how to spend/award the \$15,000 budgeted.

16. Future Business

- a. 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.
- b. Individual Staff Appreciation Days
 - i. The future of yard signs
 - ii. Setting a standard practice for spend around individual gifts
- c. Educational Grant Review
 - i. Will review all requests in October meeting and vote on how to spend total budgeted amount for the year.
- d. **Per Lisa, if we are going to change school supply vendors, there is a March 1st deadline to change. We will continue discussion on this in the future.**
- e. **Continue discussion of Staff Holiday Party**

Important Upcoming Dates:

9/3 Thursday – First Blessings in a Backpack Delivery of the School Year

9/4 Friday – Last Day of PTO Membership Drive
 9/7 Monday – Labor Day (No School)
 9/8 Tuesday – Kinder playdate
 9/11 Friday – Grandparents Day
 9/14 Monday – Grandparents Day
 9/16 Wednesday – Individual Fall Picture Day
 9/16 Wednesday – Spirit Night at Chipotle 5:00PM – 9:00PM
 9/17 Thursday – Nacho Average Staff (Nacho Bar) Monthly Staff Appreciation
 9/18 Friday – Parent/Teacher Conferences (No School)
 9/18 Friday – Spirit Stick Pre-Sale (online) begins through 9/25
 9/25 Friday – Spirit Stick Sales at Lunch
 9/25 Friday - VP & Committee Updates due to Sam
 10/1 Thursday – Monthly PTO Board Meeting
 10/1 – 10/23 – Boo Grams Sale (Need Cognito Form for purchasing)
 10/2 Friday – Custodian Appreciation Day
 10/5 Monday – Instructional Coaches Day Mrs. Bowe (Change per Brittney)
 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 – Parent/Teacher Conferences (No School)
 10/19 Monday – 10/21 Wednesday – BOA (5th Grade)
 10/22 Thursday – Char-BOO-terie Monthly Staff Appreciation
 10/23 Friday - VP & Committee Updates due to Sam
 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)
 10/23 Friday – Spirit Stick Pre-Sale (online) begins through 10/30
 10/30 Friday – Spirit Stick Sales at Lunch
 11/2 – 11/6 – National School Psychology Week
 11/5 Thursday – Road Runner Dash (Apex Obstacle Course)
 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 – National Education Support Professionals 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.

Action	Owner	Due Date	Status
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
School Store Fundraiser follow up with Brittney	Sam/Laine	11/1	
Get Ashley folders for handouts	Sam	9/10	COMPLETE
Monthly recognition days- confirm we did not celebrate educational support day last year.	Sam	10/1	
Confirm Blessings In a Backpack link is functioning	Sam	9/7	COMPLETE
Add 10/5 Instructional coaches day for Mrs. Bowe	Sam	10/1	
Banner for Ms. Polk f/u	Sam	9/24	COMPLETE – Sam talked to her during the book fair.
Work with Lisa on tshirt sizing process for Apex	Laine	10/1	
Give Lisa new excel spirit sticks form	Laine	9/24	
Cognito for Boograms- see how to build form for purchase for the whole class option	Laine	9/24	In-Process
Banking information to Lisa for school supplies fundraiser	Tia	9/10	
Provide board with spreadsheet of businesses she's reached out to	Mara	9/10	
E-mail Brittney names of teachers who haven't joined PTO	Elizabeth	9/3	COMPLETE
Blume Haus is reflected as Platinum level online	Erica	9/10	
Send SUG for grandparents day/work with Miranda	Erica	9/4	
Updating sponsor logos on website	Erica	9/10	In-Process
Chipotle flyer enhancement & post	Natalie/Erica	9/10	COMPLETE
Halloween Spirit Stick orders	Natalie	9/24	

Setup Apex meeting with Brittney and Brandon	Natalie	10/1	
Have CFA "Fun"raiser info for next meeting	Natalie/Sam	10/1	
Draft e-mail for Roadrunner Dash tshirts	Lisa	9/15	
Socks for Grandparents day order	Lisa	9/3	
Update design to reflect VR for Apex shirts, order.	Lisa	9/10	
Give Natalie CFA contact	Mara	9/24	
Nothing bundt cake f/u re: instagram handle	Mara	9/24	
Present additional event ideas at next meeting	Miranda	10/1	
Submit Room parent meeting handouts	Ashley	9/8	
Create RoadRunner Dash SUG	Ashley	9/15	

Meeting Adjourned: [12:00 PM](#)