

PTA Meeting (General Membership)

October 27, 2025 | 6:00PM - 7:00PM

Purpose:	Second PTA meeting of the year. Objective is to give updates since the last meeting and to introduce the Family Vision Group.
Host:	Rebecca Yu, President
Note Taker:	Michelle Luiken, Secretary
Attendees:	Yousef Takhssaiti, Mary Ann Settemyre, Nicole McConnell, Alexandria Grant-Presser, Rebecca Yu, Monica Davids, Katie Ogle, Tim Van Gorder, Bhima Pathak, Purushottam Kafle, Katie, Hocker, Jeff & Lauren Onken, Dustin Jones, Danielle Strait, Tammi Milburn, Robin Khadka, Menisha KC, Rosari Cornejo, Sashawana Payen-Urlo, Angie Ninde, Sena and Jen Newsam, Tracy Keenan, Danielle Hutson, Christine Fowler, Suresh Adrikari, Jessica Scott, Emily Lee, Michelle Luiken, Shannan Winkler, Jen Killingsworth, Rachel Forte
Location:	CES Cafeteria

Call to Order	6:10 PM	Rebecca Yu, President
Rebecca Yu called the meeting to order at 6:10 PM.		
Shannan Winkler prior to the meeting brought up Trunk or Treat alternate options due to the possibility of rain. The gym is occupied. Possibly cafeteria or utilizing classroom doors. No votes to cancel. Trunk or Treat will be in the cafeteria (pending rain).		
Approval of Last Meeting Minutes	6:13 PM	Michelle Luiken, Secretary
Meeting minutes from the previous meeting in August 2025 were emailed out ahead of time for review. There were no objections to the minutes, so they were approved.		
Reminders	6:15 pm	Rebecca Yu, President
Several quick reminders were announced, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Trunk or Treat event is this Thursday.• Last day to submit orders for fall fundraisers is November 1st.• Skate Night fundraiser is November 3rd (no school)• Reflections Entries are due next Friday, November 7th - currently 1 entry; K-6; Theme is "I Belong"• Deadline to register for Paint Night is November 7th - painting pumpkins		
Principal's Updates	6:17 pm	Jen Killingsworth, Principal
Instructional updates: End of Q1, PT conferences scheduled, Green Hour of Power		
Family engagement opportunities: Focus to increase (ie: Noodle Night a success); Open to feedback via email, talking points, meetings etc.		
Volunteers: Mr. Hudson (6th grade teacher) coordinating Watch DOGS. No need to have a full day or Friday available if you want to volunteer. Provide support in the child's classroom and throughout the building. FCPS system for volunteers - sign up needed for consistent visitors		

Testing (Mrs. Forte back from maternity leave) - Testing review in PT conferences. NGAT is the new test (form of Naglieri) and is non-linguistic. This is a change for 1st and 2nd graders with testing.

Staff Appreciation: Sign-up genius for donations coming soon

Veterans Day: Celebrating 11/10 (Monday). Vets come to read in school and in the afternoon. Most vets signed up this year. Mission BBQ is providing lunch this year. More vets can and are encouraged to sign up and attend.

Treasurer's Report	6:25pm	Shannan Winkler, Treasurer
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Shannan Winkler presented the monthly treasurer's report for September 2025.

Starting \$34,625.31
Income: \$14,752.22
Expenses: -\$4845.98
Ending Total \$44,531.55

Question posed: Why is the bank balance so high?

Response: Money is spent but the goal is to raise what is spent. A lot is also pass-through money from Boosterthon. \$15K is typical to have for reserves, but we like to have around the same amount in our account at the end of the year that we had at the beginning of the year. Our goal is to raise as much money as we need for the year and be able to carry over reserve funds for bad years. Also, if we can increase the balance each year, it provides opportunities to pay for larger expense items/projects.

Fundraising Updates	6:30pm	Shannan Winkler, Treasurer Rebecca Yu, President
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Shannan Winkler went over how much we have made through fundraising efforts thus far and highlighted upcoming fundraisers.

School supplies: \$610
Spirit Nights: \$231
Spirit Store Sales: \$798
Fall Fundraisers: \$976 to-date (Charleston Wrap and Craftspace close 11/1)
TOTAL YTD \$2733

Upcoming: Holiday Market (need volunteers - sell and setup for Nov 17-20), Square1Art (Jan 19-Feb 4), Silent Auction, Book Fair (need volunteers), Mabel's Labels (\$11.40), Magic Story (\$7), Sarris, Small Events, Donations etc

Question: Can we get sweatshirts? 2nd grader outgrew current sweatshirt.

Answer: Should be possible to be opened up from the website/shop.

Comment: Newsam family does printing - possible new partner for CES Spirit Wear.

Comment: Holiday Market and Book Fair at same time. Be aware when signing up as a volunteer. eWallet/eGift Cards are separate for both.

Parent's Night Out:

- Victory Martial Arts: 12/5, 2/13, 5/8 - cost \$10 and includes pizza
- iCode: 1/16
- Overtime Athletics: TBD (spring)

Silent Auction (2/28-3/7) - biggest fundraiser of the year

- Need volunteers to help with solicitation

Scholastic Book Fair (4/11-4/16) - supports PTA; Book Fair in November supports the school

Dining for Dollars:

Skate N Fun: 11/3

El Fresco: 11/18

Panda Express: 12/2

California Pizza Kitchen: 12/16

Comment: Staff would probably order if it could be delivered or picked up by someone else; Lunch for teachers is 11am - 1:30p; possible to coordinate with PTA volunteers

Membership	6:47pm	Rebecca Yu, President
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Rebecca Yu discussed the current membership numbers, pointing out that our member numbers are particularly low in our kindergarten and 3rd grade classes, so we want to start making some concerted efforts to target those parents and get them involved. Ms. Biebly's class won the membership contest that happened in September with 36.67% of her class signed up for the PTA. She will be getting a pizza party for the class on the date of her choosing.

Goal is 200 members. Current member total is 129 members.

YTD: 94 parents; 35 staff

Question: Why did cost increase for staff?

Answer: The National PTA raised their dues. Our membership dues pay for both VA and National PTA dues. Without raising the price, we would actually be at a loss on staff memberships. It was voted on by the general membership in the spring to increase the dues from \$5 to \$10.

Comment: Utilize QR code in Talking Points and newsletter

Membership by grade:

PreK: 6 (6.5%)

1st: 14 (15.2%)

2nd: 23 (25%)

3rd: 6 (6.5%)

4th: 14 (15.2%)

5th: 18 (19.6%)

6th: 8 (8.7%)

Comment: Playdates scheduled for Kindergarteners and 1st graders to help drive membership/connection

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After-School Programs	6:55 pm	Rebecca Yu, President
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We offered eight different classes and only had to cancel one of them for low registration. We have a total of 69 students registered across the Thursday and Friday classes.

Timeline of Events	7:00 pm	Rebecca Yu, President
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Rebecca Yu reviewed the timeline of events. Since our last meeting, we hosted our Fall Movie Night. We had a good crowd and people seemed to enjoy themselves. Coming up next is our Trunk or Treat event this Thursday and our Paint Night event on November 14th.

We have a school assembly planned for the students on December 2nd and we have our final event of the calendar year, Bingo Night, on December 10th.

Winter Dance (1/23) - 80s theme
Chili Cook Off (Feb 2026)
Spring Carnival / Silent Auction (3/7)
Book Fair (4/11-4/16)
Staff Appreciation Week (May 4-8)
Volleyball Spirit Night (5/29) - revive the cheerleaders

Request: We need someone to volunteer to run the cheerleading squad for the volleyball game. Ms. DePorter volunteered for this.

Bingo Night (12/10)

Volunteer Opportunities	7:05pm	Rebecca Yu, President
The PTA is urgently seeking volunteers to help with checkout during the school day at our Holiday Market in November. We will also need staff volunteers for our Bingo Night event in December.		

We have two volunteers who are helping with check-in on Thursdays and Fridays for the after-school program, but we could use additional volunteers for this and we would like to be able to identify and secure volunteers for the spring session before registration for that begins in February.

If anyone wants to get involved with any particular events, we could certainly use volunteers for the silent auction, the carnival, the winter dance, and staff appreciation week.

Volunteers needed for:

Committee/Event Chairs - Silent Auction, Winter Dance, Spring Carnival
After School Monitors: Fall (Tu & Th); Spring (Tu & Th)
Bingo Night: Staff to call balls and check cards; parents for concessions
Holiday Market Volunteers

Comment: Thanksgiving luncheon 11/20 all classes on same day in cafeteria and gym
Lunch schedule will come out this week. May need to park in community or pool. Need parent volunteers as well.

Comment: For level 3 volunteers, apply to be a substitute teacher and it will be expedited

Family Vision Group	7:08 pm	Alexandria Grant-Presser, President Elect
School based reps from FCPS caregivers 2 Family representative for community (students, parents, teachers) - gathering feedback re: inequities		

October FVG Meeting Updates

School Security

- Physical Security
- Open Gate Weapons Detectors (electromagnetic technology) - at all HS; rolling out to all schools
 - Effectiveness?
 - Water bottles, ring binders and laptop holders going off
- Emergency Response Devices (Raptor System) - installing currently at CES (different from panic button); look like white saucers placed throughout the school placed high (bluetooth enabled); triangulate location; 7 presses for a lockdown; CES staff has not received training yet;

Question: Why high? Answer: Students will touch them and for bluetooth

Maintenance & Renovation: previously 24 year cycle; now on 42 year cycle; 120 non-working elevators in FCPS

Budget: Came from their security budget; funded through grants; physical copies of math books rolled out next year

Future Ready Index: State Board cut-offs; changes with accreditation, testing, etc

FCPS App: available for download for systems

Any questions or comments to bring back to FVG - reach out to AGP

Open Discussion

Meeting adjourned 7:22pm

Voting Matters (if applicable)

N/A

Rebecca Yu, President

N/A

The next meeting will be December 15th and it will be a virtual meeting.