Minutes of the
PTO General Meeting
September 17, 2026
Auditorium

The meeting was called to order at 1:16 PM.

Welcome & Opening Remarks
Amie welcomed attendees, including those joining by phone, and introduced the meeting's focus: back-to-school updates, questions related to the second year of the fifth-grade reconfiguration, and PTO priorities for the year ahead.

School Administration Update
Principal Yamamoto provided an update on enrollment, staffing, schoolwide behavior expectations, Chromebook use, and early-year student supports. Key points included:

- **Enrollment and staffing:** CMS currently has 1,001 students, down slightly from roughly 1,050 last year, with about 250 students per grade. Staffing is more stable than last year, with one new hire, one high school transfer, one teacher returning from leave, and four fall leave replacements.
- **CMS Champs Cup:** The school launched a recognition program focused on character, merit, and service. Teachers can award points for positive behavior, personal improvement, academic effort, and contributions to CMS or the broader community. About 600 points had already been awarded in the first 13 days of school.
- **Discipline approach:** The administration is working toward more consistent expectations across classrooms. Minor issues will be handled at the classroom level, moderate issues will receive more structured follow-up, and severe issues may result in more significant consequences. The goal is early intervention and clear family communication, not a punitive environment.
- **Chromebook use:** CMS has moved away from a one-to-one Chromebook model and returned to classroom Chromebook carts as part of a broader effort to reduce screen time and use technology more intentionally. The PTO's support helped accelerate the cart rollout and improve organization, monitoring, and classroom use.

Parent Questions and Discussion

- **Seventh and eighth grade recess:** A parent asked about outdoor time for older students. Principal Yamamoto explained that fifth and sixth grades have required recess, while seventh and eighth grades rotate by cafeteria group and have optional outdoor recess every other day. The school will review outdoor materials and restock supplies as needed.
- **Student perception of discipline:** A parent shared concern that sixth graders may have felt intimidated by early messaging about detention. Principal Yamamoto acknowledged the feedback and said he would follow up with the sixth-grade team. He reinforced that the intent is consistency and early support.
- **Study hall expectations:** Principal Yamamoto clarified that study hall is not meant to be silent, but students should keep conversations quiet and avoid disrupting others. Students may read, work independently, ask teachers questions when available, or use the library when appropriate.
- **In-class support:** A parent asked whether inclusion and in-class support teachers have shared planning time with classroom teachers. Principal Yamamoto said shared planning generally exists, especially when teachers are assigned to one grade level, and team meetings also help coordinate support.

PTO Updates

- **Leadership and operations:** The PTO shared that it worked over the summer to strengthen internal operations, improve the website, coordinate social media, and make information easier for families to find. Officers introduced included Amie Patel, President; Gordon Chiu, Co-Vice President; Lucy Atapsare, Co-Vice President; Katie Young, Treasurer; Laura Johnston, Assistant Treasurer; and Laura Bojanowski, Secretary.
- **Budget and fundraising:** The PTO reviewed the budget conservatively this year to support student programming while preserving reserves and contributing to the Chromebook cart purchase. As of the meeting, 509 families had paid dues or contributed to the general fund, totaling approximately $25,255.
- **Fifth Grade Challenge Quest:** The event is scheduled for October 16 with a Halloween theme. The PTO secured donated pizza from several local businesses, totaling 113 pies. As of the meeting, 77 students and 36 adult volunteers had signed up. The PTO is also working on gluten-free and dairy-free options and will need help picking up pizza from businesses that cannot deliver.
- **Sixth Grade Halloween Event:** The sixth-grade Halloween event is scheduled for October 30 and is expected to include extensive gym decorations. Sign-ups and advertisements will be shared through the school newsletter.
- **Committees and school support:** Committee work continues across staff appreciation, spirit wear, picture day, and community service. The Sunshine Committee is focused on recognizing support staff and helping all members of the CMS community feel appreciated.

Board of Education and District Updates

PTO representatives noted that Board of Education meeting materials, recordings, and minutes are available online. The group briefly discussed the lawsuit, the referendum, district policy

updates, fall sports, and ongoing facilities work. Families were encouraged to review official district communications for details, including expected open houses with the superintendent related to the referendum process.

Open Discussion
Members discussed the following upcoming dates and next steps:

- **October 9:** Cougar-related school event.
- **October 16:** Fifth-grade Challenge Quest.
- **Week of October 20:** Fifth-grade parent-teacher conferences.
- **October 30:** Sixth-grade Halloween event.
- **Ongoing:** Student Council and PTO community service drives, beginning with costume collection.

Next Steps and Action Items

- **PTO:** Continue promoting dues and general fund contributions to support student programming, grade-level events, and school needs.
- **PTO Challenge Quest Committee:** Continue collecting student and volunteer registrations for the October 16 fifth-grade Challenge Quest event.
- **PTO Challenge Quest Committee:** Confirm gluten-free and dairy-free food options and coordinate pizza pickup volunteers for businesses that cannot deliver.
- **PTO Communications/Social Media:** Publicly thank local businesses that donated pizza for Challenge Quest.
- **PTO/Sixth Grade Event Committee:** Share sign-ups and event details for the October 30 sixth-grade Halloween event through the school newsletter.
- **Families:** Review Board of Education materials, district policy updates, referendum information, and official district communications as they become available.
- **PTO and Student Council:** Continue coordinating community service drives, beginning with costume collection.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:09 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laura Bojanowski, Secretary