



C.W. Henry PTA General Meeting: March 12, 2025, 7:00 pm [Summit Presbyterian Church](#)

I. Introduction and Welcome - Kim Massare, PTA President

- [Link to full meeting agenda: PTA General Meeting Agenda](#)
- a. Kim expressed her gratitude to all attendees, provided an overview of what's ahead for the rest of the year, and introduced the Board Members.
- b. **2025-2026 Board Nominating Committee:** A vote was taken to confirm 3 Nominating Committee members who will be working to fill open PTA board positions for the 2025-26 school year, and all attendees were in favor. The committee includes PTA members Davida Washington, Bethany Hartzell Huggins, and Lynsey Augustus.

II. Community Updates

- a. Ms. Camille, a support staff member, is recovering from minor surgery and will be out for a couple of weeks. The PTA shared details and Venmo info (@CamilletheDoula) for those who would like to offer support for meals.
- b. An impromptu Garden Clean-Up has been scheduled for this Saturday 3/15 to prepare the space for garden classes starting in April.
- c. This year, a new after-school Spanish program for grades 1-3 was launched thanks to the initiative of 2 parents, Silvia Diaz and Emily Hunsberger. There was strong interest in enrollment. A local Latina-owned company, [Spanish Workshop for Children](#), is running the classes and they have generously sponsored two scholarships for C.W. Henry students, so we want to give them a big shoutout.

III. Grade Representatives Updates - Emily Hunsburger, Grade Reps Coordinator

- a. **First Year for Grade Reps Program:** With the support of our Class Reps, we accomplished our first-year goals by organizing outings and new class contacts lists and helping to foster an even stronger sense of community among caregivers at our school. We will be recruiting Grade Reps for the new incoming Kindergarten class and may also need to recruit new Grade Reps to fill gaps for next year.
- b. **Teacher & Staff Appreciation Week - May 5-9:** Grade Reps will also be organizing Teacher & Staff Appreciation Week activities the week of May 5-9 with opportunities for parents, caregivers, and students to send personalized messages of gratitude to Henry staff and teachers. Stay tuned for more details.
- c. **Fall Gathering Recap:** The K-5 grades held a gathering between August and January, while the upper school did not organize any events.
- d. **Communication Efforts:** We established multiple opt-in communication channels for caregivers, with 66% of students having at least one registered parent, Kindergarten leading at 91%, and ongoing efforts to enhance outreach to the Autism support classes.

IV. Finance Update – Mark Graham, PTA Treasurer

- Link to [Financial Statement](#)
- a. **Overview:** We have a current balance of \$50K and plan to put \$20K into an interest-bearing CD that will mature over the summer, with funds available for the coming year.
- b. **Grants and Funding:** We received several grants this year, including:
 - \$1,000 from PECO
 - \$1,250 from the National PTA (for technology for parents)
 - \$7,500 for the Fall Family Fun & Fire Safety Night.
 - We are seeking volunteers to assist with grant writing on a flexible basis. Please contact president@cwhenrypta.org if you can help out!
- c. **Teacher Mini-Grant Fund:** \$2,500 was allocated by the PTA this year to support teacher initiatives. Proposals are submitted by teachers via application. This year, we have supported the following 6 teachers' projects:
 - a. Ms. Sepe – Software to support visual learners
 - b. Ms. Paulino – Classroom supplies (floor tape for marking dance cues, lighting)
 - c. Mrs. Gething (Autistic Support - Grades 6-8) - Cozy reading corner supplies and materials
 - d. Mrs. Morris (2nd grade) - Cozy reading corner supplies and materials
 - e. Mrs. Winterstein (2nd grade) - Cozy reading corner supplies and materials
 - f. Ms. Pownall - 3D Pens purchased for the Digital Literacy classroom.

V. Principal's Updates - Principal Kristy Len

- a. Principal Len expressed gratitude for the PTA's ongoing support.
- b. Due to the PTA's supplemental funding, the school has been able to financially support our full extracurricular activities through the Spring. PTA funds also support field trip subsidies, school supply donations (e.g., paper, pencils, tissues, paper towels), and the PlayWorks Program, which has led to fewer conflicts during recess through structured play.
- c. **School Budget Process:** 2025-26 SY Parent Budget Input Survey was sent out via Dojo & email for feedback. The Family Forum on 3/17 will focus on a 2025-26 budget discussion.
- d. **Volunteer Needs:** Our school is seeking lunch and recess volunteers through the end of the year to help fill staffing gaps. Please ensure your clearances are on file in the office. Email Ms. Liew for more details: mliewzhu@philasd.org.
- e. **Q&A Session**
 - A question was raised about **Lunch & Recess volunteering** and what it involves. Principal Len and several parents shared their experiences volunteering during these times and assured that the task is a rewarding one.
 - A question was raised about if any data was collected on the effectiveness of the **PlayWorks** Recess Coach program, which the PTA financially supports. Principal Len confirmed that incident tracking is in place and that anecdotally, they have seen a decrease in recess incidents. She will compile data and share for the next PTA meeting.

VII. Advocacy & Calls to Action – Catherine Deneke, PTA board member

- a. **Dept. of Education Cuts** - Catherine informed us about an upcoming National Education Association Zoom Call on Thursday, March 13 - details were shared in the most recent PTA newsletter. The meeting is a way for people to come together to find ways to advocate in support of public education and protect cuts to the Dept. of Education.
 - i. Update since the meeting - The PTA will be organizing a community rally in our schoolyard on 3/19 at 8am (before school begins) in conjunction with the [NEA's Day of Action](#). Stay tuned for more details.
- b. The PTA board has voted to send a letter of support to Henry teachers and staff to express support for their work in light of recent attacks on public education and DEI initiatives.
- c. Catherine also informed us that in Pennsylvania, two major Dept. of Education programs have been cut:
 - **Civil Rights Office** – This office enforces non-discrimination policies in schools and investigates claims of violations.
 - **School Performance Programs** – These programs assess and measure how schools are performing.

VIII. Brainstorming Activity for PTA

- a. Meeting attendees were asked to reflect on the questions below, write their responses on Post-its, and place them under the corresponding categories below. This feedback will be used by the board in planning events, programs, and budget for the 2025-26 school year.
 1. What worked well this year?
 2. Areas for improvement?
 3. How can we enhance upcoming events?
 4. Skills parents can contribute?
 5. Big picture ideas for next year?

IX. Additional Announcements

- a. A flyer was distributed for the upcoming April 6 [Northwest Philly Education Town Hall](#).
- b. A volunteer sign-up sheet was circulated by Davida Washington for the Hawk-tion fundraiser, which will launch May 2 at the Lower School Dance with winners announced at Quizzo Night on May 10. If you would like to contribute an auction prize, assist with outreach to local businesses and/or support our Hawk-tion planning committee, please contact Davida (Davita84@yahoo.com) and Shannon Ryan: Shannon.k.ryan@gmail.com.

X. The meeting was adjourned.