



C.W. Henry PTA General Meeting: October 8, 2025, 7:00 pm @C.W. Henry School

[Link to full meeting agenda](#)

1. Welcome and Introductions: Kim Massare, PTA President - president@cwhenrypta.org

- **2025-26 Board and Committee chairs** introduced (see [meeting agenda](#) for full list)
- **New this year:** Alumni committee and alumni initiatives for 2025, including spring alumni gathering
- **Grade Reps Updates:**
 - Funding is available from the PTA to support grade-level gatherings (to cover snacks, drinks, etc.)! If interested, talk to PTA Grade Reps Coordinator Em Hunsburger for more info: CWHenryGradeReps@gmail.com.
 - 2025-26 Grade Caregivers Lists have been compiled and shared. Thanks to Em and all grade reps for making this possible. To add/edit your contact info to the list, contact: CWHenryGradeReps@gmail.com.
- **Membership updates:**
 - Current PTA membership: **132 members** / Household participation rate: **22%** of **388** households.
 - Membership surges at the start of year and during key events (e.g., back to school night, board vote).
- **PTA / SAC / School Collaboration** will continue this year through Nov. 6 Fall Community Night, co-promotion of events/meetings, and other initiatives.

UPCOMING FALL & WINTER EVENTS

Oct. 15, 9am & 4pm Principal's Family Forum

Oct. 27-31 Fall Book Fair
Volunteers needed! -->

Oct. 29 School Board Advocacy Teach In

Nov. 3, 5pm SAC Meeting



Volunteers make all the magic happen!

Please keep an eye out for volunteer sign-ups.

Nov. 6 Fall Henry Community Night

Nov. 14 Teacher & Staff Appreciation Breakfast

Jan. 20 MLK Day of Service & Community

Plus, fall campus cleanup & garden day
and Family Movie Night TBD!

2. Principal Updates: Principal Kristy Len - klen@philasd.org

- **Principal's Monthly Family Forums:**
 - Held monthly on 3rd Wednesday of month - 9:00 am morning session in-person at school; 4 pm afternoon is via Zoom and is recorded.
 - Family forums provide school and district updates, address parent questions, and include district officials for broader topics.
- **November 6 C.W. Henry Fall Community Night:**
 - The summer meeting with the PTA and SAC set in motion the community-building event planned for November 6 with a literacy theme, meal provided, and resource fair for families; goal to improve literacy instruction. Event scheduled for 5:30–7:30 PM,
 - **RSVP link:** bit.ly/2025henrynight
- **Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence**
 - Initial assessment conducted in September. Thanks to all that participated in parent focus groups, feedback, etc.
 - Feedback received in 9 categories; must reach 80% proficiency in each to earn Lighthouse Blue Ribbon School designation, targeted for next school year.
 - Parent and community involvement indicators received overwhelmingly positive feedback; no improvement needed.
- **Ways to Help:**
 - The school is currently raising funds for a new laminator via DonorsChoose - [Click here to donate](#)
 - Volunteers are still welcome for lunch/recess with clearances. Contact Ms. Liew for more details.

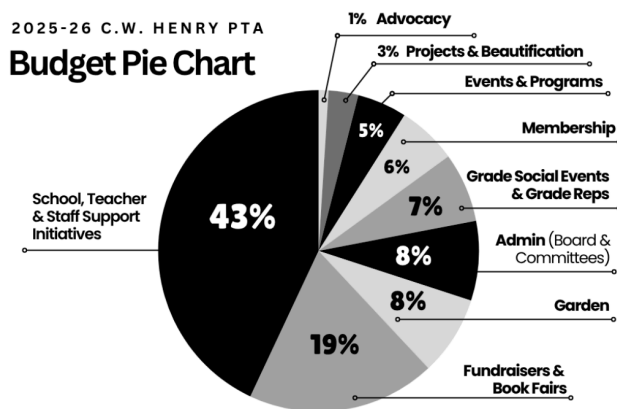
- **Enrollment & Staffing**
 - Current enrollment is 552, a 50-student increase from last year; minimal student loss over summer. Kindergarten enrollment is open for the year.
 - Our school is fully staffed with the exception of a Special Education Assistant position.
- **School Selection**
 - The school selection process closes October 23.
 - Out-of-catchment families must apply to be considered; no exceptions if not in the applicant pool. Sibling preference applies in the lottery for all grades, but out-of-catchment siblings must still apply. Initial enrollment prioritizes sibling families; additional spaces may open in summer if available.

3. School Advisory Council (SAC) Updates - Jess Cross - cross.jess@gmail.com

- **What is the SAC?** The SAC is a group composed of our principal, parents/guardians, staff, community members, and upper school students. The SAC meets once a month to engage in strategic, data-driven conversations about school improvement, student achievement, and family and strategic initiatives.
- Recent and ongoing projects: technology use policies, parent reading group, "Wait Till 8th" cell phone initiative, library and language program discussions.
- SAC seeks more lower school family participation.
- Parents are encouraged to reach out with any thoughts or concerns to Jess via email.
- **SAC Meetings:** first Monday of each month, 5 p.m., alternating in-person and virtual formats.

4. Finance Committee: Mark Graham, PTA Treasurer treasurer@cwwhenrypta.org

- **Review of PTA 2025-26 Budget**



\$51,690 Total Expenses

- The budget has increased due to excellent fundraising; More support has been allocated to funding teacher initiatives, classroom support, field trips, garden, arts, athletics, and beautification.
- Teacher reimbursement increased from \$100 to \$250 for grade level teachers; from \$200 to \$350 for specialist teachers; expanded eligibility to nurse, counselors, aides.

- **Membership Votes: 3 motions presented**
 - **2024-2025 Audit Report Approval** - An audit was performed by a CPA this year. 34 votes in favor. None opposed. **Motion APPROVED.**
 - **Request to increase mini-grant budget this year from \$3,000 to \$5,000** due to high demand. 34 votes in favor. None opposed. **Motion APPROVED.**
 - **Request to roll last year's \$20,000 certificate of deposit (CD) at ~4% interest into a new 7-month CD upon maturity** (October 20) which could help with inflative cost. 34 votes in favor. None opposed. **Motion APPROVED.**
- **Finance Committee Participation:** Committee meetings on Zoom are open to all. Contact Mark for more info.

5. Events Committee: Meghan Medlock, Events Committee Co-Chair - deejayfive1@gmail.com

- **November 6 C.W. Henry Community Night**
 - **Volunteer Signup:** bit.ly/henrynighthelp
 - Volunteers are needed for meal prep, set up, etc.
- **Family Movie Night** in January planned with games; more details to come and volunteers needed.
- MLK Day of Service and Community and Spring adult Quizzo fundraiser also in the works.

- **New event ideas welcome!** Contact Meghan for more info.

6. Book Fair Committee: Amy Ignatow, Book Fair Co-Chair - ignatowa@gmail.com

- **Fall Book Fair - October 27–31**
 - Signup to volunteer: bit.ly/25fallbookjoy
 - Volunteers needed; major annual fundraiser. Halloween is the closing day so come see all the adorable costumes! We need volunteers!
 - Families are encouraged to support teacher wish lists and purchase books for classrooms, if you are able.

7. Advocacy Committee: Bethany Huggins-Hartzell - bethany.hartzell@gmail.com and Blithe Riley - beriley@gmail.com

- **Event Report Back: Northwest Family's Meetup**
 - Held at Lingelbach on **September 13** ; coalition building across schools underway. Reps from Lingelbach, Shawmont, Mifflin, Emlen, Jenks, Houston, Henry. Over 40 people attended.
 - Reps from each school were in agreement with driving a new vision forward and saying there is a coalition amongst Northwest schools.
 - Recruiting more people via inner school information and resource sharing.
- **Upcoming Event: Teach-In about the School Board with School Board President Reginald Streater**
 - October 29th - 6:30 pm - Unitarian Universalists of Mt Alry - 6900 Stenton Ave.
- Advocacy committee seeks members; focus on equitable funding and cross-school collaboration. Contact Bethany and Blithe for more details.

8. Alumni Committee: Savannah Blair - savantim21@yahoo.com reporting for Ms. Lonnie Beer Lonnieb@comcast.net

- This new committee formed this year. First meeting took place with Principal Len to brainstorm ways for alumni to reconnect with other alumni and with Henry School.
- Alumni committee planning a spring picnic and school walkthrough to reconnect alumni and staff

9. Upper School Teacher Rep: Ms. Cantarini - flcantarini@philasd.org

- Upper school clubs (Students Run Philly Style, Inside Out Club, Big Club, volleyball) active; monthly field trips scheduled through April.
- End-of-year trip planned in Pennsylvania (Hershey Museum, Turkey Hill). To ensure safety students will stay in-state this year but hoping to steer out of Philadelphia.
- No student will be excluded from trips due to inability to pay; fundraising (e.g., pretzel sales) and PTA support used to cover some costs.

10. Fundraising Committee: Davida Washington - Davita84@yahoo.com and Catherine Coleman - catherinecoleman40@gmail.com

- **3rd Annual Fun Run** was a success!! Over 230 registered runners. Through sponsorships and registrations, we raised \$8,000. Fun Run committee worked for several months; the event has been established as a new community tradition. Always looking for new committee members for next year's run!
- **Upcoming Fundraisers:**
 - **Annual Appeal** - will go out in December
 - **Spring Hawk-tion Silent Auction**, which is tentatively scheduled around the same time as the school dance and Spring Quizzo. Anyone interested in helping collect items or volunteering reach out to Shannon Ryan: Shannon.k.ryan@gmail.com.

11. Closing Remarks

- Principal Len is considering campus improvements, possible capital campaign, and may revisit PTA for support in December.
- Facilities issues ongoing; SAC now addresses them regularly; PTA organizes cleanups at the start of year, November, and spring.