



General Membership Meeting Minutes
Thursday, November 13, 2025 - 7:00 PM

Meeting called to order and Introductions at 7:10pm - Stacey Shick Samuels
Quorum

Welcome - Thank you all for coming! First in-person meeting since 2020!

- **Approval of Minutes from October 9 General Meeting, 2025**
 - Motion to approve minutes
 - Second
 - Show of hands - motion passes (no oppositions, no abstentions)

● **Treasurer’s Report - Jin Qiu**

- [2025 Financial Report](#)

	PTA	Afterschool	Total
Opening	\$ 30,063.70	\$ 227,002.98	\$ 257,066.68
Income:	\$ 3,089.25	\$ 49,944.28	\$ 53,033.53
Expenses:	\$(10,743.00)	\$ (81,013.47)	\$ (91,756.47)
Ending	\$ 22,409.95	\$ 195,933.79	\$ 218,343.74

● **Principal Report - (Ms. Sferrazza)**

- Welcome to all and nice to be back in person
- As of this afternoon it’s official: Ms. Sferrazza and Dr. Richmond have been officially named the new Principal and Vice Principal of AEA.
 - An official note will go out to all of the families soon with this announcement
 - Thank you for all the support thus far!

(Remainder of report passed on to school aid **Ms. Wong** to provide what would typically be the **Parent Coordinator report**)

- Ms. Irene, our former Parent Coordinator has moved on to a new position and the school is currently accepting applications for a new Parent Coordinator.
 - In the meantime, please reach out to Ms. Donna for any questions that would typically go to the Parent Coordinator.
- The Kindergarten open house at AEA will be on December 2. You must RSVP through your **myschools** account.
 - If you are currently in Pre-K at AEA, you **must re-apply** for Kindergarten at AEA.
- The Pre-K open house at AEA will be on December 4th.
 - There is only one open house for each Kindergarten and Prek-K.
- Family Income Inquiry Form: The school is asking for everyone to please fill out this form. This form is very important as it is related to whether or not our school gets additional funding. The school could possibly lose funding, which would mean possible cuts to programs, so it’s very important that all families fill this out. It can be done online, or there are paper forms that can be mailed in. Please ask Ms. Wong if you need help with your form.

- Stomping Ground: All photos are now ready to view. Everyone should have received their individual code in their child's takehome folder. If you did not receive one, please reach out to Ms. Wong.
 - The 1st deadline to order photos is Dec. 3
 - Picture retake day is Dec. 10th - you must sign up using the online form.
 - If you missed the first picture day, you are automatically on the list for retake day.
 - Class photos do not get retakes. If you missed the first class photo, unfortunately you will not be in the class photo.
 - This is also a PTA fundraiser! The PTA gets a certain % based on certain threshold levels.
- Lunch Duty: Ms. Wong will be sending out sign up forms to volunteer for lunch duty for December and January. Please keep an eye on your Operoo emails if you would like to sign up to help with lunch.

OLD BUSINESS

- Chipotle Night! (Stacey SS) - This Sunday, Nov. 16 from 4-8pm is AEA night at Chipotle. Bring the flyer and show the cashier for your dine-in or carry-out order. 25% of event sales will be donated to the PTA of AEA. See you there! You may also order from the Chipotle app or website, but it must be for take-out. Delivery is not applicable to this fundraiser.
- Cool Culture (Michelle Gandhi) - we've so far had 312 families register for Cool Culture - which is GREAT given it's for PreK-3rd grade, as we have about 375 total families in those grades. For those that registered during the first round, passes will arrive in December. The deadline to register for the second round is the first week of December, and those passes will arrive in January and be distributed in the classrooms.
 - The PTA was not initially aware that this program did not apply to 4th & 5th grades. There was nothing on the website or in their language that stated 4th & 5th were not eligible. We apologize about this, we were just as blindsided as the families. 😞
 - There will be a list coming for the 90 museums that participate in this program. Each museum has their own guidelines on what exhibits are/are not included.
- Annual Appeal (Stacey SS) - currently ongoing and one of our biggest fundraisers that we rely on to bring in a bulk of our funds for the year and how we cover a lot of our expenses. It is tax deductible and also accepts corporate match. We are asking everyone to please give what they can to our annual appeal.
- FUNDRAISING (Heather H) - we are a nonprofit so we do try to be aggressive with our fundraising. Our goal is always to have enough money, but also to spend it.
 - Spiritwear - our shop is open. We would love if you can make a purchase because every little bit helps!
 - Spiritwear deadline has been extended by one week!
 - Items are expected to arrive around December 10th
 - Charleston Wrap (Teresa D) - also an ongoing fundraiser. There are lots of gift options that are holiday specific and non-holiday specific. If you're not able to buy anything, it's easy to share the link with friends and family and let them do the buying! Please support this fundraiser.

*Question from the membership about the design of spiritwear - are students/parents able to help design? Can someone design for the clothing?

- A committee can be formed if a parent or group of parents want to work on spiritwear and come up with a new design. Please email the PTA with your ideas and suggestions.
- The logo we currently use was designed by our founding Principal's brother
- HARVEST FEST/BAKE SALE (Stacey SS)- A huge THANK YOU to all who donated, helped, baked, and contributed to the Harvest Fest and bake sale. We raised over \$2,000 at the bake sale.
 - Thanks to local businesses for donating items: Leidylicious, Martha's Bakery, Raising Canes,

Starbucks.

- Parents Night Out (Birsen M) - We had 34 kids from AEA participate in the Parents Night out with Master Charleston at Champions TKD. We raised \$680! Thanks to all who participated!
- 5th Grade Capstone Trip/Broadway Show - This year's 5th grade trip will be Wed. May 6th and the 5th grade will be going to see The Lion King!
 - We are working with the bus company to ensure we don't have same issues as last year where a bus was late.
- SLT Report (Ali Civins) - The last SLT meeting was yesterday (Wednesday 11/12)
 - The mandated Class Size Reduction was one of the main topics discussed. The application will be put in by Nov. 26th. Last year our application was denied. We currently have eight classes that are within cap. All of 4th, 5th, and half of 3rd grade classes are in cap. The goal is to keep these classes in cap and add a 4th grade class next year. This will only leave one more available classroom available in the building. We physically don't have the physical space to accommodate all grades in cap.
 - CEP Goals were also a topic: 1st goal is by June 2026, literacy for all students will improve by a 10% increase (from 65% to 75%) with all students reading on or above grade level based on HMH measure.
 - Turbobob will be soon introduced in the classrooms. Turbobob is an SEL weighted stuffed dog that will be used in classrooms for students to help with social/emotional comfort. It includes sensory adaptations and comes with its own SEL curriculum. This will be used in conjunction with Mind Up, the current SEL program in place.
 - Next SLT meeting is Wed. Dec. 10th at 7:30am. Anyone is welcome to attend as a listener. Only members participate.
- ASP/After School Program Report - (Michelle Gandhi)
 - A new ASP monthly newsletter will be going out. Thank you Fernanda for taking on this project! It's a great way to provide insight to the parents about what the students are doing in their clubs.
 - This semester ends in January. Messages will be coming through Operoo about registering for Spring semester. Current families will get to express their interest by the end of December, and then registration will open after returning from the holiday.

*A thank-you to our ASP for providing child care tonight for our in-person meeting!

- ABC (Anti-Racism and Belonging Committee) Report - (Rachel)
 - The book club is under way and will be meeting over zoom next Wednesday over Zoom. The book that was chosen is "Minor Feelings: An Asian American Reckoning" by Cathy Park Hong. Anyone is welcome to join at any time, even if you haven't read the book you can come and have conversation with us.
 - Something else coming soon is a virtual documentary screening. Tentatively scheduled for December 2nd, but subject to change. It will be a short film (less than 20 min) called **Preschool to Prison**. There will be a discussion after the screening. Stay tuned for more information.

* One correction to tonight's agenda: the Spiritwear deadline is now November 26th.

RAFFLE TIME!

1st raffle winner of a lovely flower - Birsen Memet!

2nd raffle winner - Judy Tam!

3rd raffle - Ari Feldman

Congratulations to our raffle winners!

Official business is concluded. Our next PTA Meeting will be back on Zoom on December 11th at 7pm.

Meeting adjourned: 7:49pm