



Sartartia Middle School PTO Minutes

October 8, 2025

Call to Order at 6:04pm

Attendance: Suherah Haque, Lauren Ayers, Dominga Silva, Meryl Lobo, Samina Quddos, Sidrah Hasan, Nancy Behazin, Gabriela Desai, Tina Trammell, Ehsan Bayat, Sonia Tummala, Cholly Oglesby, Melannie Boullion, Raeann Dougherty

1. Announcements:

- **Next Meeting – November 12th at Flip ‘n Patties (New Territory)**
- **APEX Fundraiser**
 - Multiple parents reported payment attempts showing as “pending” in their bank accounts without processing successfully.
 - Issue included address validation errors despite correct information being entered.
 - **Action: PTO to verify with APEX on issue.**
- Reminder to report off campus volunteer hours (google doc link is on our PTO website).
- Reminder to complete background check – earlier in the school year, the better.

2. Sponsors:

- **Platinum:** Katy STEM Academy, Olympic Dental, The Game Plan Academy, Orthodontique, Bettermind Academy, Viking Chimney Solutions
- **Silver:** Lemke Orthodontics, G.A.P. Learning
- **Bronze:** Sunaina (Su) Ratwani at Apex Realtors, Southern Orthodontic Partners

Website link and logo included for Platinum sponsors in the weekly newsletter and mentioned on marquee. Check out SMS PTO website for all sponsors.

If you or anyone you know owns a business, we would love to have them as a business sponsor.

3. Upcoming Events:

- October 13th - 17th – Fall Break – No School
- October 20th – No School
- October 28th – Spirit Day at Lopez Mexican Restaurant (99/Gallery Furniture)

4. Meeting Minutes Review/Approval (Sep 2025) Gabriela Desai (1st); Lauren Ayers (2nd)

5. Treasure and Financial Reports

- a. YTD Merchandise Sales: \$4,689
- b. YTD PTO Grants issued: \$774.19
- c. YTD Business Sponsors: \$7500 (Goal is \$10,000)

6. Committee Reports:

- a. 6th grade – No update
- b. 7th grade – No update
- c. **8th grade - Career Day (Suherah)**



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- i. Planning underway, speaker invitations sent.
- ii. **New Date: January 15** (moved from Friday to Thursday due to admin schedule conflicts).
- iii. Goal: assign committee roles and finalize logistics soon.

d. Hospitality

- i. Fundraising for teacher appreciation lunch short by \$200.
- ii. Plan to provide Take-and-Bake pizza kits, salad, and bread for staff on Halloween so they can enjoy dinner at home.
- iii. Raffle baskets being organized with Trader Joe's seasonal items.
- iv. Thanksgiving Initiative: each staff member to receive a pie; SignUpGenius to be circulated.
- v. Includes all school staff (teachers, custodial, cafeteria, aides, etc.).

e. Merchandise

- i. Hoodies, T-shirts, journals, and lanyards available for purchase via Square.
- ii. Yard signs: \$30 each, produced locally, pickup at school.
- iii. Encouraged parents to post photos on WhatsApp to promote school pride.

f. Fundraising

- i. Fun Run or Walk/Ruck: possible joint effort with students or athletic clubs (e.g., Track/Cross Country) to encourage participation and corporate sponsorships.
- ii. Corporate Sponsorships for Events: Tiered (Bronze, Silver, Gold) for pep rallies, sports events, or staff-student games. Sponsors can be featured on newsletters, marquee, and banners.
- iii. Auction Ideas: Reserved parking, front-row seating at award ceremonies or concerts.
- iv. Internal Writing Contest: Proposal to host a \$20-entry school-wide writing competition to encourage creativity and raise funds.

g. Jag Dads

- i. List of maintenance priorities under review (e.g., power washing sidewalks, edging trees).
- ii. Trees for Houston partnership: 60 new trees planted; previous plantings well maintained.
- iii. Scouts (Troop 616) open to campus service projects for community hours.

7. Teacher Remarks – Ms. Boullion

- a. Thanked PTO for the salad bar.
- b. Shared success of Beanstack Reading Program, funded by PTO (\$800 annually).



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- c. Students track reading minutes and participate in grade-level competitions.
- d. Current event: Hallow-Read Challenge (150 minutes = sticker; 300 minutes = goodie bag).
- e. Plan to implement a Read-a-thon in Spring for future self-funding.

8. Principal Report – Ms. Oglesby

- a. Term 1 Grades: Due Oct 10; visible in Skyward Oct 22.
- b. GoGuardian Pilot Program:
 - i. Sartartia, Austin HS, and Highlands ES chosen for initial rollout.
 - ii. Teachers can monitor student screens and restrict access.
 - iii. Parent dashboard coming Spring 2026 for activity visibility and screen-time limits.
 - iv. Beacon System to monitor potential self-harm or violent searches.
- c. MAP Testing Reports: Mailed and available online Oct 13.
- d. Progress Popsicles Party: Students showing improvement from last year receive an ice cream pass; 1,080 eligible students.
- e. Pep Rallies: Two academic “Roar Rallies” (Dec & May) and two Sports Pep Rallies (Fall & Spring).
- f. Attendance Challenge: Grade-level competition to spell “JAGUARS.” 7th grade leading. Overall attendance 97.5–97.8%.
- g. Unity Day: Oct 22 (Orange Out).
- h. Red Ribbon Week: Final week of Oct.
- i. Club Consent Form: Senate Bill 12 now requires parental permission for extracurriculars. Only 104 submissions received; follow-up reminder to go out.
- j. Fall Dance: Nov 7, 6:30–8:30 p.m. – “Fall Festival” theme. DJ Dangerous confirmed. SignUpGenius to be shared for volunteers – will ask PTO to disperse.
- k. PBIS Rewards:
 - i. Students averaged 54 points.
 - ii. 482 items purchased.
 - iii. 668,723 total points issued.
 - iv. Positive reinforcement system building student engagement and motivation.
- l. Boundary Planning: District evaluating long-term school utilization; potential campus consolidations discussed.

9. New Business: 2025-2026 School Year

- a. PTO Grants
 - i. PTO Grants allow up to \$300 per teacher/staff. Applications reviewed by the PTO board, approved by administration, and purchases are made by PTO.
 - ii. Teachers apply using a form outlining item purpose and benefit.
 - iii. PTO reviews and approves based on policy (no gift cards).



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- iv. Approved Recipients So Far: AVID (3 teachers), ESL, Nurses, Mrs. O, Mrs. Border (for PBIS rewards), 8th-grade History, SPED.

b. Parent Involvement and Cultural Awareness

- i. Parents transitioning from elementary to middle/high school show lower engagement.
- ii. Discussion about adjusting communication to be inclusive and culturally sensitive.
- iii. Suggestion to rename "Halloween events" to "October Appreciation" for inclusivity.
- iv. Clarified that PTO membership is free (unlike elementary PTA dues).

c. Book Fundraiser (Ehsan Bayat)

- i. Proposal: On-campus author event and book sale.
- ii. Book: Children's fantasy series, described as "a blend of Harry Potter and Junie B. Jones."
- iii. Author fee waived; 50% of proceeds donated to PTO.
- iv. Awaiting display materials (table/backdrop); event can be scheduled at the library.

Adjourned at 7:26pm