



# Sartartia Middle School PTO Minutes

September 10, 2025

## Call to Order at 6:11pm

**Attendees:** Cholly Oglesby, Courtney Border, Melannie Boullion, Ehsan Bayat, Lauren Ayers, Meryl Lobo, Sonia Tummala, Ishika Wijayeyesekar, Gabriela Desai, Suherah (Sumi) Haque, Charles Samuel, Sidrah Hasan

### 1. Announcements:

- Welcome to our 1<sup>st</sup> PTO meeting & introduction of new PTO board
  - Returning President – Sonia Tummala
  - VP – Meryl Lobo
  - Secretary – Ehsan Bayat
  - Financial Secretary – Simi Agrawal-Samuel
  - Treasurer – Ishika Wijayeyesekar
- **Next Meeting – October 8<sup>th</sup> at 6pm in the library**
- Reminder to report off campus volunteer hours (google doc link is on our PTO website).
- Reminder to complete background check.

### 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:** Su at Apex Realtors

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:

- September 15-25 – APEX Fundraiser
  - Instead of Color Games, this year we will do Obstacle Courses on the final day.
  - Pep Rally (Sept. 15): 6th grade at 9 a.m., 7th grade at 10 a.m., 8th grade at 11 a.m.
  - Traditionally, students brought phones to text families to donate, but this year they will bring laptops (temporarily allowed at lunch only during fundraiser weeks).
  - Email with setup instructions to go out Monday; posts will also be on Facebook and Instagram.
- September 26 – No school; Fair Day
- October 13-17 – Fall Break – No School

### 4. Meeting Minutes Review and Approval (May 2025) – Cholly Oglesby (1<sup>st</sup>); Gabriela Desai (2<sup>nd</sup>)

### 5. Treasure and Financial Reports

- a. Corporate Sponsorships: budgeted at \$10,000, with \$7,250 raised in the first month.



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- b. Last year's surplus (due to three years of COVID-era carryover) funded projects such as the murals, small gym mural, and flexible seating.
- c. This year's major allocations:
  - i. \$10,000 for the Principal's Wishlist
  - ii. \$5,000 for grants
  - iii. Annual budget: ~\$50,000.
  - iv. Apex fundraiser is the largest annual fundraiser; hosting it early gives flexibility for a spring fundraiser if needed. Proposed projects funded by Apex this year: more flexible seating, stairwell upgrade, cafeteria updates (new chairs, colors).

### 6. Committee Reports:

- a. 6<sup>th</sup> grade – No update
- b. 7<sup>th</sup> grade – No update
- c. 8<sup>th</sup> grade – Career Day planning is in progress.
  - i. Date: Thursday, Dec. 11, 9 a.m.–12 p.m. (8th grade).
  - ii. Format: four 40-minute rotations; some classrooms split speaker time.
  - iii. Target: ~20 speakers across diverse careers.
  - iv. Discussion about allowing shorter, 1-hour commitments to attract more professionals.
  - v. Confirmed: representative from Orthodontique willing to return.
  - vi. Link to speaker signup (created by Ms. Gray) to be distributed.
- d. Hospitality (Gabby) – Aug 8<sup>th</sup> – Welcome teachers' breakfast; Sept 19<sup>th</sup> – Salad Bar
- e. Merchandise
  - i. T-shirts, hoodies, lanyards, journals, and water bottles are still available. New and old designs. Everything is on the Square online.
- f. Fundraising
  - i. Cash Drive continues. Donations accepted via Square or QR code handouts.
  - ii. APEX fundraiser is upcoming for 2 weeks. Please help us reach our goal of \$30k
  - iii. Spirit Nights (Lauren) – Parry's was on Sept 9<sup>th</sup>; October 28<sup>th</sup> – Lopez Mexican (99/near Gallery Furniture)
- g. Jag Dads
  - i. Encouraging dads to volunteer for morning car-rider duty.
  - ii. School requests help with grounds maintenance:
    - 1. Overgrown rose bushes blocking sightlines (safety concern).
    - 2. Edging around Trees for Houston saplings.
    - 3. Power-washing sidewalks in front of the school (needed for cleanliness and Chalk-the-Walk events).
  - iii. **Action: PTO to create monthly task list. Boy Scouts may assist. School will open gates on weekends if needed.**



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### 7. Teacher Remarks – Ms. Boullion

- a. Thanked PTO for the new jaguar mural, which has received praise from both students and staff.
- b. Author Visit: April Henry (bestselling middle-grade mystery author) scheduled for Oct. 27.
  - i. Cost: \$3,600 for three hours (covered by library budget).
  - ii. Book sales/signings available.
- c. Laptop Issues:
  - i. Report directly to the library.
  - ii. Loaner devices available while repairs are processed.
  - iii. Tech staff available full-time through September; half-days only starting in October.
  - iv. Families encouraged to reserve insurance claims for major issues; purchase chargers separately and label them to avoid mix-ups.

### 8. Principal Report – Ms. Oglesby

#### a. Progress Reports & Eligibility

- i. Progress Report 2 ends Sept. 19. Students failing will be ineligible for UIL activities until the next 3-week grade check.

#### b. Assessment (MAP Testing)

- i. ELA completed; math this week; science next.
- ii. Growth analysis now possible compared to last year's baseline.
- iii. Students will goal-set with teachers; results will be mailed home in early October.

#### c. Campus Culture & Spirit Weeks

- i. "Start With Hello" Spirit Week: includes Pajama Day, Sunglasses Day, Hawaiian Day, Twin Day, and Wear Green Day. Student-created promo reel in progress.
- ii. Turn It Gold (Pediatric Cancer Awareness): Sept. 25. (Usually a Friday, but adjusted due to no school Sept. 26.)

#### d. Parent Universities

- i. Oct. 1: College & Career Readiness with Kayigh Warren.
- ii. Oct. 29: Bike Safety with Sugar Land PD. Considering raffling a traditional bike for attendees. Parents expressed concerns about e-bike safety in neighborhoods.
- iii. PTO asked to boost attendance for important but under-attended events (e.g., social media safety, trafficking prevention).

#### e. PBIS Rewards — Courtney Border

- i. App-based point system recognizing Accountability, Integrity, Respect.
- ii. Teachers award points for preparedness, assignment completion, and school spirit.
- iii. PBIS Store includes ~60 reward options.
- iv. Incentives include:
  1. No-Tardy Party (open gym).
  2. Weekly drawings for perfect attendance (restaurant coupons).
  3. Popsicles for Progress for students who meet/exceed MAP growth goals.
  4. Wishlist includes gift cards and themed baskets. PTO to explore donations and grants.
  5. Teacher PBIS program to launch this year.



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- f. **Game Day Fridays**
  - i. With phones banned, students requested board games at lunch.
  - ii. PTO to organize a Game & Puzzle Drive.
- g. **Instructional Focus**
  - i. Continue with Accountable Talk; expand Small-Group Instruction.
  - ii. Learning Walks with Thornton and Dulles Middle Schools.
- h. **Student Leadership**
  - i. Launching Principal's Advisory (JagPack), open to applications from all grades.
  - ii. Meetings once per 9 weeks (membership cap TBD).
- i. **Awards & Recognition**
  - i. Campus applying for CREST award (4th consecutive year) and maintaining Jostens Renaissance recognition.
  - ii. New application for Schools Transforming Learning via N2 Learning/TASA.
  - iii. Three teachers accepted to Holdsworth/HEB Teacher Retreat: Ms. Decker, Ms. Pettitt, Ms. Hitchcock.
- j. **Clarifications**
  - i. No-Pass List: Not new; used selectively for safety and discipline. Students still permitted restroom access.
  - ii. ELA Numeric Grades: Standards-based grading discontinued districtwide; all classes now using numeric grades.

### 9. New Business: 2025-2026 School Year

- We are allocating PTO Grants to the teachers/staff of SMS up to \$300 for any educational items they want to use for their students/classroom. There's an application, review, and approval process.
  - August – 3 PTO Grants Awarded

**Adjourned at 7:13pm**