

# Cedar Point Advisory Council

NOVEMBER 18, 2025 – 7 p.m.

**Attendance:** Grace Riley, Aerica Williams, Nancy Shilatz, Kati Montgomery, Nick Tinch, Tessa Corcoran, Sarah Sullivan, Wendy Atkinson, Lindsey Garber, Colleen Costanzo, Nancy Shilatz, Kelly Machovec, Dawn Aracich, Tara Wallace, Ashley Lamper, Francesca Sieloff. **Absent:** Erin Stroh, Lori Betz, Melissa Oksala

**Welcome: (Ms. Williams)**

## **Approval of Meeting Minutes – September 16, 2025 (Mrs. Riley)**

Minutes were reviewed, and can be found at

[https://cedarpointes.pwcs.edu/parent\\_resources/sept\\_2025\\_minutes.pdf](https://cedarpointes.pwcs.edu/parent_resources/sept_2025_minutes.pdf)

Motion to approve: Kati Montgomery. Second: Kelly Machovec. Approved.

## **New Representatives (Mrs. Riley)**

Tessa Corcoran (Kindergarten & 3rd)

Tara Wallace (5<sup>th</sup> Grade)

Mrs. Oksala (5<sup>th</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and Special Education)

Expectations for the school year were reviewed with our grade-level representatives. Be the eyes and ears in the neighborhood, at the park, as the bus stop... Any feedback that you have for us, questions that you're hearing, please feel free to bring those. You don't have to wait for these meetings. You can reach out at any time. You can always contact Mrs. Riley or anyone at the school.

**SACI Update (Mrs. Betz)** – Notes provided by Mrs. Betz; attached at the end of the minutes.

## **Family Engagement Update (Mrs. Riley)**

Tentative Family Engagement Plan is up on our website. Neurodiversity Night was a huge success. Veterans Day celebration recently just had record attendance. We had successful PTO fall events - Fall Family Fun Night, Costume Dance Party - they were both very well attended.

We've heard lots of positive feedback. Looking forward to (between now and the next meeting) our Fine Arts Night on December 10th.

### **Grade Level Update – Academic Choice (Grade Level Staff Reps)**

Teachers from Kindergarten to Grade 5, shared ideas and examples on how students are given a choice during academic learning. Some examples included centers, must-do and may-do lists, work on the carpet, work on the floor, work on their chair, if they wish, as well as many other ideas.

### **PTO Update (PTO Board Representative) – Francesca Sieloff, PTO President**

- The first few months of the school year calendar were focused on hosting our community building events, i.e. Fall Family Fun Night, and Costume Dance Party. These were non-fundraising events for the PTO, just meant to get kids excited about coming back to school, welcoming new families to the school, and supporting a very fun and vibrant environment.
- Wrapping up fall after-school SEP programs, which included science and chess, as well as new topics this year - cooking club, med school, and comic creations.
- Read-a-thon was a great success, so thank you everyone who helped encourage participation. Students read 42,000 minutes as a school.
- Kids Holiday Shop will take place December 8th through the 10th, the 10th being the night of the art show, book fair and chorus concert.
- New after-school programs for January were discussed.

### **Principal's Time (Ms. Williams)**

Thank you to all our grade-level teachers for sharing updates about academic choice. It's very heartwarming to hear how hard that our teachers work to still go above and beyond to provide children with academic choice and to ensure that they have opportunities to engage in the learning process.

- **Staffing and Vacancies:**
  - We are not authorized to hire or proceed with hiring a full-time first grade teacher. We have been authorized and approved to proceed with hiring a full-time first grade teacher assistant, who will serve in the capacity to provide relief to our first grade teachers in the sense that the teacher assistant can provide small group instruction, assist with supervision, and any other administrative

tasks that the teachers might have to relieve some of their additional burdens and responsibilities.

- We have been approved to hire, effective immediately, from now until the end of the school year, a full-time LD special education teacher assistant.
- We are required to proceed with hiring a .5 EL teacher, and I am happy to report that effective November 24th, we are going to have join our team a teacher who was currently teaching full-time at Sudley Elementary School as a full-time EL teacher. We are going to share this person between the two schools. Mornings at Cedar Point and afternoons at Sudley Elementary.
- With the increase in student enrollment this fiscal year, we have been authorized and approved and required to hire an additional .2, which equates to a one day per week Counselor.
- In interviewing for quite some time now for the position of custodial manager. I recommended about 2 weeks ago. They are being offered the position.
- Mr. Le is retiring effective December 31st.
- **CPES Continuous Improvement Plan (CIP)**
  - Cedar Point just completed their beginning of the school year CIP meeting. All schools are assigned a CIP coach. During these meetings, not only does the coach and representatives from the school attend, but also the level associate superintendent.
  - Everyone is proud of everything that our teachers, our families, and our staff are doing to continue to keep the school moving forward.
  - Chronic absenteeism during Quarter 1 of the 24-25 school year. The percentage of students who were chronically absent was 11.8%. During Quarter 1 of the 25-26 school year, the percentage of students who were chronically absent decreased to 4.8%: a difference of 7.0%. Cedar Point is one of the top 5 schools in the district who has achieved such a milestone.
  - Exclusionary Discipline: This time last year, we had 0.4 students who were either suspended or had some sort of disciplinary consequence for one reason or another. This school year, it is reported the percentage is 0%.
- **Budget Update**
  - CPES is in great financial standing, especially with the increase of 31 students with a balance of \$206,169.73.
  - Funds are primarily spent on substitutes to include custodians, teachers, teacher assistants.

**Representatives' Time/Open Agenda, New Business**

Mr. Tinch inquired about raising money for an additional 1<sup>st</sup> Grade teacher through private donations.

**Upcoming Meetings:**

- Jan. 20, 7 p.m. (Zoom)
- Mar. 17, 7 p.m. (Zoom)
- May 19, 7 p.m. (Zoom)

**Closing (Ms. Williams)**

## **SACI Update – Nov. 13, 2025**

The meeting was November 13, 2025 and Dr McDade presented the “state of our schools” briefly because she was giving the formal presentation the following week at the Board meeting. She discussed the vision that was set in 2021 and the 4 core commitments including: learning and achievement for all, positive climate and culture, family and community engagement and organizational coherence. One of the accomplishments was that PWCS achieved 95% on-time graduation rate with a 10% decrease in English Learners drop out rate, 85% SOL proficiencies across core content and 5% decrease in chronic absenteeism.

The commitment to organizational coherence was shown by 6.8-7.4% average salary increase making PWCS the highest paid teacher at entry-level.

They invested \$93M in digital equity to improve customer service. They have increased social media presence for more information and increased texts and emails for better communication.

PWCS opened security operations in Aug 2024 (more investment than any other county) and have had 99% positive responses. Implemented EVOLV in all middle and high schools and have 63% decrease in number of disciplinary code incidents, 70% decrease in knife possession, and 100% decrease in possession of taser and firearms.

PWCS is the first school district to develop a residency for VCU teacher apprenticeship and residency programs. They have 20 new candidates for 2025-26! 79 PWCS grads hired as teachers since the start of the program, 57 teachers for tomorrow currently enrolled, and all 13 high schools offer Teachers for tomorrow I and II courses!

### **PWCS commitment to learning and achievement:**

Goal 100% of schools with partnership to advance improvement goals:100% achieved

Goal 60% grads earn at least one early college or career credits: 65% achieved

3500 summer employment opportunities: 4405 achieved

500 current formal business apprenticeships:932 achieved

120 CTE registered partnerships: 373+ achieved.

55% students took advanced courses this year with 9.7% increase in English Learners and 10% increase in Hispanic students.

There was increased across the board for all student populations in participation and performance! And increases in Sol pass rates in writing, history, math and science. The only decrease was in reading. But PWCS had 3 times the growth of surrounding counties.

Chronic absenteeism dropped by 6.7% and overall dropout rates dropped from 6% to 3.8%. Graduation rates are the highest the school system has ever seen.

Dr McDade is creating her vision for 2030 and will have a “soft launch” in December and present to the board in January with adoption in February of 2026.