



Palencia Elementary Parent Teacher Organization
Tears and Cheers Meeting Minutes
August 14th, 2026 @ 8:45AM
Attendance: 29

Welcome to the PES PTO

- *What is the PTO's role at Palencia Elementary School?*
 - Teacher / Staff / Administration Support
 - Introduction of Captain Goodrich
 - 4th highest rank elementary school in St. Johns County
 - SAC opportunities for school/building updates- first meeting is Sept 14
 - Introduction of First Mate Mitten
 - All administration is available to message through Parent Square
 - Non-profit status; 501(c)(3) organization
- *Who we are:*
 - Officers / Board / Chairs / Committees
 - 7 Executive Officers
 - 13 Board Members
 - 25 chair members that serve on 17 committees
 - Support school staff of over 70 and 622 students (and counting)
- *Community and Student Events (non-fundraising events)*
 - Mother/Son and Daddy/Daughter Nights (2 events)
 - Bingo Night (2 events)
 - Stem Night
 - Skate Night (2 events)- will be held at Ponce De La Rollin
 - Grandparents Day Card Exchange
 - Jacksonville Icemen Spirit Night
 - Pirate's Bounty Program- completely funded by PTO- school supplies, clothing closet, weekly food bags, (breakfast, lunch & snacks to cover all days not in school)
 - Holiday Giving Tree- Christmas presents/support for families in need during the holiday season
 - Teacher Treats- 2x monthly
 - Spirit Wear Fridays / Spirit Stick- starts in September- teacher with class with most participation enters into drawing for gift card each month
- *Fundraising Events*
 - Booster Fun Run (Global Kitchen Club theme)- kickoff is Tuesday, August 25 with ending ceremony fun run on Friday, Sept 4
 - Will need parent volunteers day of the fun run at water stations, but parent spectators are encouraged!
 - Online Auction
 - Reserve the Rock
 - Digital Marquee Birthday Shout-Outs- new this year
 - Ceiling Tile Art- also new this year
 - Spirit Nights at local restaurants
- *Past PTO Fundraising Contributions*
 - PE Pavilion, metal shelving outside of classrooms, artificial turf on playground, digital marquee

- *Fundraising goals for the 2026-2027 school year*
 - increased and enhanced playground shade structures. This year's proceeds will fund classroom enrichments like VPK Cubbies (arrived from district). Captain Goodrich requested that VPK nap mats be added to the wish list

The Future of PTO

- Trunk or Treat
- Donuts with Dad
- Muffins with Mom
- Character Counts assemblies*
- Meetings over lunch hour with streaming virtually*
- *Occuring for the first time this year*

How to Stay Connected to the PTO

- Website – www.palenciapiratespto.com
 - Events, ticket sales, and Teacher Favorite Things lists
- Social Media – Like and follow our PES PTO Facebook and Instagram accounts
- Sign up for Parent Square – receive messages about upcoming events
- Monthly Emails from Captain Goodrich

How can you get involved?

- Join a committee, sign up today
 - Fill out our interest sheets to indicate availability on weekly/monthly/event basis
- Volunteer for an event (Sign-up Genius) / in the classroom (sign up genius allows the office staff to know who is coming into the building ahead of time)
- Become a Corporate Sponsor
- Donate items for Events
- Sponsor/host Teacher Appreciation Treats

Questions?

- President's email: pes.ptopresident@gmail.com
- **Since meeting time has changed to lunchtime, where will meetings be held?**
 - Possibly in the media center or an empty classroom- stay tuned
- **Where can I find the sign-up genius for PTO events?**
 - PTO website, Facebook group, What's App message boards, Parent Square
- **What is Parent Square?**
 - An app for administration and teachers to send out urgent and important messages aka rainy day dismissals. Please make sure you have it downloaded to stay updated on your student(s)
- **Where can I sign up to be part of the What's App group chats to volunteer?**
 - There was a signup sheet at the PTO meeting to enter your phone number. If unable to attend PTO meeting in person, you can email the PTO president to get plugged in