



C.A.P.E Meeting Minutes

August 21, 2026

Board Members in Attendance: Blair Kramer, Megan Vainowski, La Toya Forester Williams, Veronica Fisher, and Andrea Phillips.

Call to Order: Meeting called to order by CAPE President Blair Kramer at **9:31** am. All present recited The Pledge of Allegiance led by Veronica Fisher

****Reminder, this is a closed meeting.**

Roll Call: Roll call taken.

CAPE Reps:

	Bonnie McBeth	x	Central Elem.	x	Charles Reed	x	Creekside		Crystal Lawns
x	Eagle Point	x	Eichelberger		Freedom	x	Grand Prairie	x	Lakewood Falls
x	Liberty	x	Lincoln	x	Meadowview	x	Ridge		River View
x	Thomas Jefferson	x	Walker's Grove	x	Wallin Oaks	x	Wesmere	x	Aux Sable
x	Drauden Point	x	Heritage Grove	x	Indian Trail	x	Ira Jones	x	JFK
	Timber Ridge	x	Plainfield Academy	x	PCHS	x	PEHS	x	PNHS
x	PSHS								

Scholarship presentations:

Administration Reports:

Superintendent Report - Dr. Wood notes

- Happy birthday, Dr. Scott Fink
- Key points for this year are safety and funding
- Typical Transportation issues but overall good start

Community Relations Report - Kelly Larson

- Plenty of avenues of communication for district wide information
- Bags of Hope to honor the late Tom Hernandez
- Project SEARCH
- Community partnerships: Will County Center for Economic Development Summer Internship Program
 - Internship opportunities and partnerships
 - Pass along information to highlight businesses
- Incubator entrepreneurship program
- Parent University in EdPartners

Chris Chlebek, PHSCC:

- Please sign-up for your homecoming float slot

- A big focus is getting students involved in the school
- Last day to switch classes is Wednesday

Kelly Lastrup Charles Reed ES:

- Curriculum Night
 - Charles Reed has a community night combined with their curriculum night
- iReady will start a little later for kindergarten
- Check school dates for school photos
- Organic Life has had good reviews as the new food service
- Get involved in your schools, it truly makes a difference

Mason Leubbing ITMS

- Staff was moved around a bit but working to welcome everyone
- Indian Trail worked through presentations without power
- PAW pack group supporting incoming students
- Back to School Bash tonight
- Multiple leadership opportunities throughout the middle schools
- iReady testing and fall sports are starting
- Many clubs are beginning
- Curriculum night, check your school for specific dates

PHS-CC Student CAPE Representative - Leilany Corona and Ella Ruland

- Shout out to Officer Rich
- Video comparing what Senior vs Freshman are excited about for this year
- Challenges: New boundaries with getting the kids that came from other houses to support green house
 - Student involvement really improves your school experience
- How can we get more students involved in our schools PTOs?
- How can we get more people (students/parents) to know who and what CAPE is?

BOE - Barb Seiden

- Curriculum & Tech - we heard an overview of recent updates to our new staff mentoring program which is provided to all brand new teachers and offered for any teachers new to the District or new to their role or building. We also received a debrief on this year's summer programming which included Extended School Year classes for many of our IEP students, bridge classes for new middle school students and students moving into accelerated math for the first time, and a selection of HS courses for credit. I'd like to go into a little more detail on the 3rd topic - School Engagement Plan, as well as the Community Engagement Committee update.
- Many of you are here, in part, because you know that strong family-school relationships lead to improved student performance. The District is updating its Family-school plan (to be named later) focused on increasing family engagement and our parent groups will be offered opps to partner in these efforts. While this initiative is just getting underway, one key item I noted was that one of the best ways to get families in the door is to have their child taking center stage - whether performing, competing or receiving recognition - parents are more likely to prioritize coming to a school event if they are there to directly support their child.
- As many of you heard last year, the Board employed outside consultants to help us understand our community's feelings about the financial challenges and opportunities facing the District, including loss of State Tier Funding, continued residential growth, the high percentage of our buildings that are reaching key maintenance age at the same time, increasing need for Career and Technical education based on the changing job market, The key outcome of this study was that we need to do a better job educating our community - especially the 50% of voters who do not currently have a student in the District - about these topics and our potential options for addressing them.

- **As District "insiders" and as representatives of your parent organizations, I have 2 challenges for you this year:**
- **1. Include opportunities to showcase students during your school's events whenever possible, and**
- **2. Please help us engage and inform everyone in your community - whether it's a conversation with a neighbor, inviting the local senior living center or apartment complex to school events, or adding hot topics to**

Assistant Superintendent for Student Services - Mina Griffith: Safe2Help

- How to report a threat of bullying
- Student and staff training information
- Seek help before harm
 - Students send in reports about a peer (self-harm), bullying, school threats
 - <https://www.safe2helpil.com/>
 - Links for student services including self help

Community Reports:

Plainfield Public Library - Katie Gulas

- Teen volunteer opportunity is open 7-12th grades

Joliet Library - Laura Yanchick

- Check your boundaries for which library is your home library
- Summer reading programs: Charles Reed, Thomas Jefferson, and Drauden Point

YMCA - Shannon Stawikowski

- New dance team k-8th grade, boys and girls to perform at football and basketball games
- Before and after school care openings - Kid Zone Program
- Swim team is open ages 6-17
- Pint Size Pupils Preschool options
- 9/11 memorial stair climb, stationary bike and first responders can get in for free that day
- Family nights 9/18 s'mores and more

President Report: Blair Kramer

- We need at least one rep from every school at every meeting
- Please get all of your forms submitted ASAP
- Wear your CAPE lanyard at every school even so people ask, it helps spread the word
- If you hear something wrong out in the wild, please speak up and encourage them to reach out to correct misinformation
- Parent Group 101 on Sept 1st from 5-8 at DO President

Secretary's Report: Megan Vainowski

- Motion to file minutes from May 2026 Meeting: Karmaria Woods-Creekside and Jamie Harris-Wesmere

Treasurer's Report: LaToya Forrester

- Beginning Balance: \$11, 168.30
- Ending Check Balance: \$9,745.89
- Motion to file: Elizabeth Hespell Lakewood Falls, Roy Hardy - Ridge

Old Business

- Homecoming Floats: PEHS, CREEKSIDE, PSHS, DRAUDEN PT, WESMERE, PCHS, RIVER VIEW, PNHS, ACADEMY, HERITAGE GROVE, FREEDOM
- Homecoming Volunteers: Lakewood, PHS-CC, Ira Jones
- CAPE Awards AM Prep: PEHS, Meadow View, Timber Ridge, Walkers Grove
- CAPE Awards PM Prep: JFK, Ridge, Indian Trail, Central Elem
- Scholarship: Liberty, TJ, Grand Prairie, BMLC

New Business

- Homecoming:
 - Chari Rahn needs float forms from: Creekside, Drauden, Wesmere, PSHS, Academy, Heritage Grove, and Freedom

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfeNB7rcYUVXZUS-GB7LOwr5FR6PGvbKjJHNPviNxNCMnFw3w/viewform>

Adjournment: Meeting ended at Erin Henes Drauden and Shannon Hall-Klosowski PEHS

Next Meeting Is: September 18, 2026 at 9:30a