**PHS PTO Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, October 12, 2021

7:00 pm - PHS Media Center

**Welcome and Introductions:** Christine Koobatian, Jen Nikolich, Jessica Clark, Jodee Maciolek, Joy Cangelosi, Jules Holt, Hollie Ward, Shanna Hampton, Linda Hocking, Christine Iseppi, Matt Iseppi (11)

**New Business / Discussion:**   
**Note: New Business was discussed first to allow guests from SMART to be introduced.**

1. S.M.A.R.T. : Christine introduced Jules Holt and Joy Cangelosi of Southbury Middlebury Acting Responsibly Together, (S.M.A.R.T.) our local prevention council (LPC). They were invited to speak to the PTO following an interest by members of the PTO to learn about programs and offerings related to teenagers and parents of teenagers.
   1. Jules shared the mission of SMART. As the LPC they are committed to making the two towns safer and healthier for young people by preventing youth substance abuse and promoting positive decision making; as well as being a resource to the local schools and communities.
   2. Previous outreach programs in Region 15 have included:
      1. Becoming an Ally: Interrupting Name-Calling and Bullying Student Training- Middle School training 2021
      2. Equity and Inclusion Council (ADL Community Conversation) participation
      3. Resource poster for High school students affixed to each bathroom stall (installed Winter, 2021)
      4. May is for Manners in Elementary Schools in Region 15
      5. Parents Who Host Lose the Most - Prevention week during graduation time
      6. Posters at Riverview Cinemas on outreach, education and resources (year round)
      7. Social Media: Facebook and website share outreach, education and resources
   3. Shared information about upcoming events::
      1. 11/17/21 Internet Safety Presentation by Scott Driscoll of Internet Safety Concepts Parent presentation and on 11/18/21 an Internet Safety Presentation to students in 8th grade and high school
         1. December (Date TBD): Hidden in Plain Sight - targeting high school and college students, is an educational experience that walks adults through a typical teenage bedroom. The inside of the bedroom is set up with drug paraphernalia “Hidden in Plain Sight.” This is an interactive display/program that offers adults insights into current trends in youth substance abuse, drug paraphernalia, concealment of illicit drugs & alcohol.
         2. Anticipate future events related to alcohol and vaping. Jules shared that they appreciate and need feedback and attendance at their events
      2. Discussion on how the PTO can support, promote and expand partnership with S.M.A.R.T.:
         1. Youth representatives are needed on their council. This is an opportunity for youth (high school age) to anonymously share school experiences. The PHS PTO will share on social media so parents are aware of the opportunity, to increase awareness of SMARTs programs, and so parents can encourage their child(ren) to participate if appropriate.
         2. Promote on social media any upcoming events
         3. Encourage individuals to become active LPC members
         4. Christine will share SMART information at the next PTO Advisory Council to increase elementary and middle school involvement.
      3. Christine inquired about two previous events and inquired if they could be brought to the Region through SMART, pending funding: Chris Herrin, a motivational speaker and Elizabeth Jurgenson, Development of the Teenage Brain.
2. PTO Sponsored Student Event: The PTO is continuing to consider options of supporting a fun student event - potentially an International Cultural Event.

**President’s Report: Christine Koobatian (ckbtn@charter.net)**

1. Congratulations to Dr. Jones and his wife on the birth of their son!
2. PHS Homecoming 2021: November 6, 2021 at the Wyndham Hotel. This is a semi-formal event for PHS students only (Grades 9-12). Tickets will be available first come, first serve. Masks must be worn; Breathalyzers will be used per BOE Policy 5112.

**Vice President’s Report: Hollie Ward (**[ward24@me.com](mailto:ward24@me.com)**): N/A**

**Treasurer’s Report: Jen Nikolich (**[jjnikolich@aol.com](mailto:jjnikolich@aol.com)**)**

1. Reviewed budget: Note that actuals in budget include both August and September transactions.

**Recording Secretary’s Report: Colleen Brower (**[col52668@aol.com](mailto:col52668@aol.com)**): N/A**

**Teacher’s Report:** Jodee Maciolek (**jmaciolek@region15.org**)

1. Shared the following information reported from staff:
   1. Pomperaug Theatre Company’s (PTC) Fall play, “Hounds of Baskerville” will be held November 19 and November 20 at 7:00pm and November 21 at 2:00pm. Ticket information will be available soon.
   2. Acting 1 Classes completed Music Videos highlighting Non-Verbal communications; Next project is interpreting a scene from Shakespeare
   3. Stagecraft is building banners for the PTC show
   4. Interior Design is completing their “Upcycle Project”
   5. Pomperaug Theatre Company was nominated for every award applicable for the July Halo Awards and received the following awards: Outstanding Orchestra led by Linda Hughs, Student Director - Bella Husk, Choreographers - Jimmy Hunter and Kate Goncalves, Best Featured Actor in a Play - Jimmy Hunter, and Best Classical Play - Much Ado About Nothing.
   6. PHS Debate Team held their first virtual debate tournament: Highlights included 1st place finish for Rachel Mikush as Novice Speaker, Sophomore Team of Rachel Mikush and Vela finished 2nd as Novice Team; The Senior Team of MacDougall & Hussain went undefeated (3-0) on the day; All newcomers to our PHS Team won at least one debate round.
   7. Family & Consumer Science from Amanda Stirgwalt, Ed.D.: We are doing many fun & engaging things in the Family & Consumer Science Department here at PHS. In September 2021, students enrolled in Culinary Arts & Exploring Childhood classes had the opportunity to participate in National Family Meals Month. This is a national initiative by the Food Industry Association (FMI) to bring awareness to the importance of social connections while eating food. Having regular family meals has been shown to decrease stress and leads to more positive academic outcomes. PHS students were challenged to use the knowledge they learned the classroom to create an opportunity to gather with their family & friends around the dinner table. This year 28 students participated! PHS students commented that the experience made them feel more connected to their family, siblings and peers while encouraging healthier food choices.

**Principal’s Report: Dr. Paul Jones (**[pjones@region15.org](mailto:pjones@region15.org)**): N/A**

**Committee Reports**

1. Direct Donation: Colleen Brower: N/A
2. Hospitality: Shana Hampton (shannakhampton@gmail.com)
   1. Shared hospitality plans for the year. Plan to continue to use Signup Genius to set up donations as needed, and families simply sign up for whatever is needed.
   2. Had a successful Teacher luncheon in September. Thank you to everyone who helped. Future plans include:
      1. October: Fall treats and candy: tentatively scheduled for 10/28
      2. November
      3. December: Grab and Go Breakfast from local restaurant
      4. January
      5. February: Valentine’s Day treats
      6. March: St Patrick’s Day treats
      7. May: Staff appreciation luncheon
      8. June: Summer gift cards
3. Teacher Grants: Hollie Ward
   1. Program is being launched following the same process as previous years. Teacher grant applications are due 11/1 to Dr. Jones.

Adjourned at 7:52 pm

Respectfully submitted by Jessica Clark

**Dates to Remember:**

10/25 - BOE Meeting, 7:30 PM Media Center

11/8 - BOE Meeting, 7:30 PM Media Center

11/9 - PHS PTO Meeting, 7PM Media Center

11/22 - BOE Meeting, 7:30 PM Media Center

11/24-26 No School - Thanksgiving Break

12/13 - BOE Meeting, 7:30 Media Center

12/14 - PHS PTO Meeting, 7 PM Media Center

12/24-10/2 - Winter Recess

**All PTO meetings on the 2nd Tuesday of every month**