

**PHS PTO Meeting**  
**Tuesday, February 9, 2021**  
**7:00 PM via Zoom.**

**Welcome and Introductions:** Christine Koobatian, Hollie Ward, Jen Nikolich, Colleen Brower, Dr. Paul Jones, Amy Raefski, Jessica Clark, Julie Cappuzzo, Jeanne-Marie Husdon, Kathy Green, Cynthia O'Connor, Kristen & Matt Iseppi, Kate Dedej, Katrina, Amy Parrott (16 members)

**President's Report:** Christine Koobatian (ckbtn@charter.net)  
2/2/21: The superintendent will present the budget to the Board of Ed (BOE)  
Budget workshops will be 3/1, 3/17, 3/24 @ 6:30, most likely virtually. Stay tuned for details.

**Vice President's Report:** Hollie Ward (ward24@me.com)  
Nothing new to report

**Treasurer's Report:** Jen Nikolich (jjnikolich@aol.com)  
\$1,635 was added to the Direct Donation line item  
Teacher grants are all paid out except for one which will be reconciled by next meeting.

**Recording Secretary's Report:** Colleen Brower (col52668@aol.com)  
Make sure you sign in at the beginning of each meeting

**Teacher's Report:** Cindy O'Connor (coconnor@region15.org)

Helping The Homeless Club:

Helping the Homeless Club at PHS was spearheaded by Ava Sedensky. This club is devoted to supporting the local homeless population.

Last year they made and distributed "Brian's Bags," filled with necessities, to those in need. This year, due to the pandemic, the students came up with an alternative idea of a "BINGO Board Fundraiser", with all proceeds going to the Brian O'Connell Homeless Project. Bingo boards were given to the Advisory Teachers to help fundraise money for The Brian O'Connell Homeless Project. The fundraiser goes until 2/11/21. Money is accepted through Instagram and Venmo accounts, as well as cash donations.

The Pink Chair Project:

The Pink Chair Project: <https://www.thepinkchairproject.com/> and <https://spirit.prudential.com/honorees/state>

Emmie Spath has established the Connecticut branch of The Pink Chair Project and was recently selected to receive an engraved bronze Distinguished Finalist medallion in the 2021 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards for outstanding volunteer work. She was chosen by our state-level judges as one of the top CT runners-up in this year's program.

World Language:

Several French students are being offered the Grand Concours (a national exam) in late February, which is an honor and PHS teachers are proud that these students have this opportunity.

Spanish National Honor Society has initiated peer tutoring for the second semester. Additionally, the Spanish National Honor Society are also offering a Virtual Trivia Night on April 8th! Bravo!

**Principal's Report:** Dr. Paul Jones (pjones@region15.org)

### Winter Sport

Winter sports started; hope to allow a limited amount of spectators to view sporting events live; stay tuned for more information on that.

Sporting events are viewable live streamed on the PHS YouTube channel. There is no fee to watch these events

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQs7KNFR\\_SD0RLx9QqbzZwA?view\\_as=subscriber](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQs7KNFR_SD0RLx9QqbzZwA?view_as=subscriber). A question raised regarding hearing the sporting event (it was mute; basketball). Dr. Jones advised reaching out to Ron Plasky to ask him.

### End of the Year Events (Prom, Graduation, Awards Night, etc.)

Currently receiving quotes on several activities

Seeking outdoor venues and/or tents

The school wants to provide as many end of the year activities as possibly safe to do

### Schedules

Dr. Jones has heard from many concerned parents regarding the large chunk of time in the middle of the day for Advisory that allows the school to provide lunch safely at a social distance.

The school, with Superintendent Smith, are looking at changes that will hopefully remedy this. Stay tuned for more information coming out soon.

The goal is to get students back to the building and in person learning soon. While the school realizes that not ALL students can return at the same time, they'd like to see as many students return to in person learning as safely possible.

Issues to tackle are bussing and students who receive special services and making sure neither is disrupted.

Question: Will PHS have block scheduling next year? Dr. Jones said Teacher Instructional Leaders are currently meeting to review this right now. They are discussing the meeting frequency of classes versus the meeting minutes of each class. Different academic areas prefer either one of these approaches. Stay tuned for more information coming out in the Spring.

### Course Registration

Information is coming out in the next few days. Students will meet with their Counselors to review their choices.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Hospitality:** Julie Cappuzzo (juliecapuzzo@yahoo.com)/ Shanna Hampton (shannakhampton@gmail.com)

Valentines Day treats for the staff will be distributed tomorrow. Left over gift cards from the winter holiday staff event will also be raffled.

**Fall Fundraiser:** Colleen Brower (col52668@aol.com)

\$1,635 was added to Direct Donation.

**PTO Scholarships:** Jeanne-Marie Hudson (jmphudson@hotmail.com)

Will distribute four \$500 scholarships

Applications will be evaluated on an essay prompt

Applications are due the end of March. These applications will be available with the scholarship packet given to seniors from the Guidance department.

Selection Committee will review all applications and choose their top four.

**New Business/Discussion**

No new business to discuss.

**Adjourned at 7:50 pm**

Respectfully submitted by Colleen Brower

Next meeting March 9th 7pm via zoom.

**Dates to Remember:**

2/12 No School

2/15 No School, President's Day

2/16 No School

2/22 BOE Meeting 7:30 PM

3/3 Early Dismissal

3/3 BOE Budget Workshop 6:30

3/8 BOE Meeting 7:30 PM

3/12 Early Dismissal

3/17 BOE Budget Workshop 6:30

3/22 BOE Meeting 7:30 PM

3/24 Early Dismissal

3/24 BOE Budget Workshop 6:30

All PTO meetings on the 2nd Tuesday of every month,  
except April, which will be 4/20/21