

PHS PTO Minutes September 10, 2019

Attendance: Stacey Kobrock, Jacqueline McMahon, Maureen Nee, Jeanne-Marie Hudson, Jen Nikolich, Paul Jones, Marya DiPerna, Venetia Phillippe, Debbie Broadwater, Christine Koobatian, Gabby Addison, Colleen Brower, Kathy Green, Shanna Hampton, Chrissie McKeown, Hollie Ward, Cathy Winter, Don Winter, Yvette Lomaro, Mauneen Kania, Jessica Clark, Julie Cappuzzo (22 people)

President's Report - Christine Koobatian

Christine welcomed everyone and introductions were made.

We have been trying to become a non-profit organization. A parent who is an attorney, Amy Smith, has met with the past treasurer to file the paperwork and we should be hearing the status within the month.

Vice President's Report - Hollie Ward

19 applicants, 12 awarded for teacher grants last year

In early October grants will go out. In November there will be a meeting to review them. It has been a diverse offering. Paul invited us to present at the October 10th faculty meeting in the chorale room.

Hospitality Report - Chrissie McKeown and Mauneen Kania

We have hosted a welcome back lunch and will do things throughout the year for the staff. Our families are very generous with donations, and we are looking for more volunteers to assist.

Events will be hosted based around holidays. Most were donations from families. The teachers and staff completely appreciate it. This year at the cookie event we will include recipes based on requests from the past.

Treasurer's Report - Jen Nikolich

We are starting with a \$10,000 carry over and a budget will be created when she has time to transition with Karen Harper. There are still two outstanding grants from last year that will be paid for in this fiscal budget.

Corresponding Secretary's Report - Colleen Bower

She has collected all the forms and checks for the Pomperaug Pass. They have been mailed. A list will also be at all home games in the event that students forget their passes.

Gabby Addison has offered to compile the volunteer sheets into a spreadsheet and will get them from Colleen.

Teacher Representative

Paul Doniger retired and Paul Jones will look at who will be the new representative.

Principal's Report - Paul Jones

The start to the year has been smooth. There are mixed reviews on the new schedule. Students seem to like the idea of having the classes meet at different times. The biggest negative is that the lunch times change and they are confused as to when they are supposed to go. Everyone is getting through the lines

and they have time to eat. It may take some time to navigate where their friends are and where to sit. The block days don't seem to be as confusing as the all-classes meet are for the lunch periods.

We are working to get attendance calls going out on the same day as the student is out. They are working on teachers putting it in correctly before they make the calls. Attendance at high school is individual class attendance versus the entire day. The attendance procedures is being revamped.

The Senior Lounge is in the AP Room. They are very happy to have this space. There have been multiple requests to bring in furniture, games, etc. It is currently staffed by at least one staff person each period. Currently they can report to their study hall and then go to the lounge or go during lunch. Paul met with them to let them know two rules: Don't wander the building and don't leave the room messy. He met with the seniors on Friday and challenged them to make this year special and do something they want to be positively remembered for. Our kids have been great.

The school store is open and managed by FBLA and DCCA. There is online purchasing capability.

Gym floors are in. More decals have been added as well as an enhancement to the entryway.

There will be a peer mediation room that will have trained students as peer mediators. Peer mentors are being trained and restorative practices will be put into place.

The activity fair date is being set.

Wednesday, October 16 is the PSAT. Seniors can go on a college visit or shadow a professional that day but need to fill out a form. Filling out the form excuses them and allows them to participate in extracurricular activities that day. We dismiss a half day that day. Freshman, sophomores and juniors take the test. It is a great marker for AP class placement.

Spirit Week is October 21-25.

There are two refillable water bottle stations. One is in the cafeteria and one is near the gym. They are working on getting more in the building.

A question was asked by a parent about the recent health information coming in about vaping. Something will be hosted in the fall with SMART for students. We are looking at parent workshops as well. It is a very big epidemic and is taken very seriously. Any form of vaping requires suspension and rehabilitation. The police can test for THC (the active ingredient in marijuana).

CABE (CT Association of Board of Eds) is used for the new handbook information and format. Our student body is very good at letting administration know when things are going on.

A question was asked about the recycling practices of aluminum and cardboard. Paul is looking into that.

Freshmen Orientation - lunch and ice cream was provided by the PTO. The feedback was positive. More events will be happening throughout the year. LINK crew can go into advisories to lead things for freshman.

Sit With Us app - This was shared by Jacqueline [McMahon](#). It is a way for every student to walk into a cafeteria and have someone to join for conversation and food. It is set up with student volunteers as kindness ambassadors under staff supervision. You can set up an account on the app and it is discreet. Paul met with students about this. We are currently working on the best way to implement this.

A comment was made about the happy tone at the Open House. Next year there will be a map.

Dates to Remember

September 11 - Friends of Pomperaug Music Picnic

September 23 - Board of Education Meetings 7:30 PM PHS Media Center September 30 - No School Rosh Hashanah

October 7 - Board of Education Meeting 7:30 PM PHS Media Center October 8 - PHS PTO Meeting 7 PM PHS AP Room

October 9 - No School Yom Kippur

October 11 - Early Dismissal for Professional Development

October 14 - No School for Columbus Day

October 18 - Photo Retakes

All PTO Meetings are the 2nd Tuesday of the month (except for April because of Spring Break where it will be held on 4/21) at 7 PM in the AP Room

Respectfully Submitted by Yvette Lomaro