

PHS PTO Meeting Agenda  
Tuesday, March 10, 2020  
7 PM PHS AP Room

**Attendance:** Christine Koobatian, Jodee Maciolek, Jen Nikolich, Hollie Ward, Mauneen Kania, Debbie Broadwater, Paul Jones, Jessica Clark, Chrissie McKeown, Colleen Brower, Yvette Lomaro, Julie Cappuzzo, John Chun

**President's Report - Christine Koobatian**

Welcome! Next year's school budget was presented and there are two upcoming workshops on March 18th and the 25th at 6:30 in the PHS Media Center. There will be representatives from the Board of Finance from both towns at the workshop on March 25th. It is a higher budget this year but is mostly driven by insurance. Our numbers are consistent with others in local towns.

Parking fees have been addressed in this budget. Thirty additional spots have been added and the fees of those will not be added as income for the Region, but will help reduce the parking fees for students from \$250 to \$225. Region 15 remains the highest parking fee in our DRG, with the next highest fee being \$150, and the average fee in our DRG is \$103. Region15/budget is the website to see the entire budget and corresponding events around it.

**Treasurer's Report - Jen Nikolich**

We had an \$80 matching fund from a parent that has been deposited. All grants have been reconciled except for Ms. Rosenberg. Dr. Jones will follow up.

**Teacher's Report - Jodee Maciolek**

On Saturday, March 7, PHS competed at the Northeast Regional Science Bowl on the UCONN campus in Storrs. Approximately 100 teams from 50 schools throughout New England participated. Mr. Nyerick is very proud of their efforts this year as the "A" team finished 3rd in their division. Please congratulate these students if you see them in their Dino forest green science bowl T-shirts (and even if you don't): Ben Ecsedy, Michelle Lu, Triloshan Thiliakumaran, Aditya Mamidi, Colin Scherer, Kieran Garrity, Devon Zainc, Eliza Eaton, Winnie Chen, Shyam Nambiar, Drew Rosenhein, Jeffery Gao.

Pomperaug Gender and Sexuality Alliance is going to the True Colors conference next week at UCONN to learn about the intersections of different minorities within the LGBTQ+ community. They will be selling T-shirts as their next fundraiser and details will follow as they become available.

The Athletic Department announces that the football program is hosting the 2020 SWC Weightlifting competition from 4-8 PM on Friday, March 13. With the help of the student organization Active Minds/SMART chapter, they will be educating the student athletes on mental health awareness and the dangers of teen vaping/drug abuse. Members of our Active Minds chapter will be helping with the event while also providing the

competitors with information on how they can become members of the chapter at their respective schools. Joining PHS are 7 other schools with a total of about 180 student athletes. Those student athletes have the opportunity to empower fellow members of the student body and many times their voice resonates with their peers at their respective schools. This venue provides us with a great opportunity to advocate for mental health and teen drug abuse awareness. Special thanks and recognition go out to Isabella LaBonia, President of PHS chapter of Active Minds, for assisting Mr. Pereria in joining forces for this event. Spectators are welcome and the \$3 admission fee will be donated directly to PHS Active Minds.

Pat Mete and Kathy Noonan's Personal Finance classes did an activity to teach their students how federal dollars are spent. Students in groups of 3 were given spending category cards. Working together they had to match description and program cards with each spending activity. Once they were all set, they were given cents cards to match up with the spending categories. Each group then posted their color coded spending categories under the "cents" on the wall. The cents on the wall corresponded to how each individual federal tax dollars were spent in 2018 across different spending categories.

Hope to see everyone at "Mamma Mia" this weekend. Shows are Friday, March 13 and Saturday, March 14 at 7:30 and Sunday, March 15 at 2 PM. Tickets can be reserved with cash or check and an order form. If you have a Pomperaug Pass that includes theatre, it is still strongly encouraged that you reserve tickets to avoid the long line. They are being sold in PHS lunch waves as well. There is still time to make reservations.

### **Principal's Report - Paul Jones**

Thank you to both PTO Teacher Reps (Jodee Maciolek and Cindy O'Connor) for being so comprehensive about bringing information to our meetings about the PHS happenings.

Scheduling happened differently with counselors meeting individually with students. All students should have chosen their classes for next year and we will move forward giving students their schedules prior to going home for the summer pending the passing of the budget. Graduation has not been set yet.

The school is taking all precautions as directed by Central Office regarding the current Covid-19 epidemic. Students are encouraged to practice personal hygiene such as washing their hands and staying home if they are sick. Students should let the Main Office know if there is an issue in any bathroom with sinks or soap. There are a lot of things going on and information is coming very quickly. CIAC cancelled all winter sports. There is a lot of speculation as to what will or won't happen and parents are encouraged to stay up to date with emails from Region 15. If any student is taking an SAT and is negatively impacted by a building closure (location for an SAT), please see their counselor and they will work with them and the College Board.

## **Committee Reports:**

### **Hospitality - Mauneen Kania/Chrissie McKeown**

Valentine's Day candy was well received. There will be something done on St. Patrick's Day for the staff. An Signup Genius has been sent out to parents.

## **New Business Discussion:**

### **School Photos - Chrissie McKeown**

There was a meeting with Sarah Phiri (the teacher working on yearbook), Shanna Hampton, Steve McKeown and Chrissie McKeown, Paul Smith to review bids from many vendors sent out through a formal bidding process. There is a strong frontrunner and due diligence is happening with references and follow up questions. The company chosen will do student photos, graduation photos, sports photos, student ids and graduation.

## **Upcoming SMART Parent Workshop - Christine Koobatian**

SMART is co-sponsoring Parent University from 6-9 on Wednesday, April 1 "Delay Your Gray: How to Keep Your Teen Safe and Yourself Sane." Elizabeth Driscoll Jorgensen, CADC is the keynote speaker, and this is targeted for parents of middle and high school-aged children. There are three break-out sessions: 1) Help Distinguish Between Normal "Teen Angst" and Anxiety/Depression presented by Nancy Tauck, LCSW, 2) Help Your Child Manage Stress and Develop Positive Coping Strategies presented by Meredith Hettler, LMFT and 3) Media in Balance: How to Help Kids Manage Screens presented by Elizabeth Driscoll Jorgensen, LADC. PHS PTO sponsored this program about 10 years ago, and it was one of most worthwhile

## **Dates to Remember:**

3/13 Early Dismissal, Professional Development

3/13-3/15 "Mamma Mia" (7:30 Friday and Saturday, 2:00 Sunday)

3/18 School Budget Workshop 6:30 PM, PHS Media Center

3/18 Region String Festival, 7 PM PHS Auditorium

3/19 Financial Aid Workshop, 6:30 PM Location TBD

3/25 Budget Workshop/Board of Finance, 6:30 PM, PHS Media Center

3/25 SAT for Freshman, Sophomores and Juniors. Seniors can visit colleges or shadow professions.

3/26 NHS Blood Drive 6:30 AM

4/2 Mr. Pomperaug 7 PM PHS Auditorium

4/7 French National Honor Society Induction 6:30 PM

4/10-19 Spring Break

4/21 PHS PTO Meeting 7PM AP Room

4/24-25 Regional Art Show

4/28 National Honor Society Induction 7PM

5/1 Symphonic Band, Chorale & Orchestra Concerts

5/1-2 RMS Clothing Drive (drop of items at RMS all day Friday and up to noon Saturday)

All PTO Meetings are on the 2nd Tuesday of the month, except for April, which will be on 4/21