

**PHS PTO Meeting**  
**Tuesday, January 14, 2020**

**Attendance:**

Christine Koobatian, Yvette Lomaro, Jen Nikolich, Jodee Maciolek, Chrissie McKeown, Tara Coehlo, Marya DiPerna, Jessica Bisceglia, John Chun, Gabby Addison, Jacqueline McMahon, Julie Cappuzzo, Jessica Clark, Michelle Rutledge, Paul Jones (15 attendees).

**President's Report** - Christine Koobatian

No report

**Treasurer's Report** - Jen Nikolich

One Panther card donation came in. There was a \$1,000 grant from last year and a few other grants from this year paid out. There is an outstanding check from last year's PTO scholarship. Dr. Jones will reach out to the student to see if they would like it reissued.

**Teachers' Report** - Jodee Maciolek

Counselors will be meeting with juniors individually about current and potential credits, PSAT's, SAT's, remaining courses for graduation, postsecondary plans, and the college search process. Important reading material will be posted on Google classroom regarding topics such as the college essay, the college tour process and finding the right college fit. A parent workshop will also be presented on Tuesday, January 28th from 7:30-8:30 AM in the AP room and again in the afternoon from 2:15-3:15 PM on Wednesday, January 29th. Students are welcome to attend the morning session if they do not have class or can go to the afternoon session.

Wednesday, March 25th is the SAT day for juniors.

Tuesday 3/31 or Wednesday 4/1 will be a trip to Hartford to the college fair with details as we get closer.

Shannon Perrault of the English department has founded a chapter of the National English Honor Society and 29 members have been welcomed in. They will be focusing on ways to foster literacy at PHS and in the community.

Math and Science Honor Societies, under the advisory of Stephanie Schulyer and Stephanie Hunter, have been offering tutoring and midterm study sessions after school (Math and Munchies and Science and Snacks).

The Special Education department announced that there is a Transition 101 workshop being offered by Litchfield Hills Transition Center at the Sarah Noble Intermediate school library in New Milford for 12th grade students moving from HS to post school options on January 15th from 6-7:30 PM with a snow date of January 22.

The Exploring Childhood 1 students and the Spanish Health Careers classes completed a collaborative learning project in November which was a simulation, role-playing activity in which each group of students demonstrated their knowledge of both Child Development and the Spanish language. The students learned about the barriers that individuals that speak a different language face as they try to seek medical care for their children and it was a huge success.

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

The next big thing is scheduling. There are some new courses: Italian 2, Senior elective "The Art of the Story" and a science course. The college essay will be built into Junior Advisory and there will be a move to senior electives for English. Seniors will take two English elective courses. Current juniors will begin working on their college essays in advisory at the end of this year.

Students will register for their courses directly on Powerschool. There will be more face time with counselors before this happens. Staff will be looking at student achievement data for recommendations for their placement. Pending budget passing, the schedules will be distributed at the end of the year as they were last year. We are working on a way for report cards to be downloaded from PowerSchool for parents and students. More information will be sent out once this is available. There is the hope that this will enable parents and students to download other things like transcripts in the future.

As the semester winds down, concerns about grades and when they are inputted should be first discussed with your student's teacher as they can speak to specifics and timelines. This also will help foster positive communication moving forward. If an issue arises please reach out to administration for support.

Thank you to SMART for putting on the "If They Had Known" workshop for our Seniors. There was positive feedback from students.

### **Committee Reports**

#### International Day - Tara Coelho

Tara teaches in Fairfield and we are planning to implement an International Day program at PHS that is successfully run in her school. Speakers are invited to visit and talk about their culture and/or experiences. They are both teachers and students. Different cultural foods have been brought in. It is an all day program that is well received. A reception is available and thank you notes are sent from students. May 21st is World Cultural diversity day. The program that will occur at PHS may happen around this time, after AP exams are completed. The structure of the day's schedule is in place from Career Day. Christine suggested also reaching out to parents as potential speakers, food preparers and resources.

#### Hospitality (Valentine's Day Staff Events) - Chrissie McKeown

Thank you to the volunteers that donated for the the cookie & sweets bar for the staff holiday event. There will be mailbox goodies the week of Valentine's Day to ensure that every staff gets something and feels appreciated. We will be setting up a Sign Up Genius asking for candy donations. Jessica Bisceglia and Marya DiPerna offered to assist in putting together the goodie bags.

### **New Business/Discussion**

Potential Guest Speakers - Christine Koobatian

We are looking into two possible speakers. Elizabeth Driscoll Jorgenson is an adolescent psychotherapist who came to PHS about 9 years ago and spoke to students during the day and parents during the evening about how the teenage brain works. She was very positively received. There is a movie called "Angst" that is about teenage anxiety and provides tools to address and cope with it. A discussion guide is included. John Chun, Michelle Rutledge and Jessica Clark volunteered to help review these programs and determine if they would be good fits for PHS.

Our next meeting is Tuesday, February 11th.

Dates to Remember:

- 1/16 Midterms 1st & 2nd Periods
- 1/17 Midterms 3rd & 4th Periods
- 1/20 No School - Martin Luther King Day
- 1/21 Midterms 5th & 6th Periods
- 1/22 Midterms 7th & 8th Periods
- 1/27 Board of Education Meeting 7:30 PHS Media Center
- 2/5 Band Fly Up Day 9-11 AM
- 2/10 Board of Education Meeting 7:30 PHS Media Center
- 2/11 PHS PTO Meeting 7 PM
- 2/14 No School - Professional Development Day
- 2/17 & 2/18 No School - Winter Break
- 2/24 Board of Education Meeting 7:30 PM PHS Media Center

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