

**PHS PTO Meeting
April 9, 2019**

Attendance:

Jen Nikolich, Hollie Ward, Chrissie McKeown, Christine Koobatian, Shanna Hampton, Paul E. Doniger, Paul Jones, Cathy Winter, Don Winter, Mauneen Kania, Yvette Lomaro

President's Report

We have been trying for many years to become a 501c organization. We have to talk with Central Office about where we are in this process. Jen N. will take over as treasurer if we become one.

Another position that needs attention is the website. Don Winter will help us with this. We want to be as transparent as possible and post all of our information, including minutes and financial reports.

Hollie Ward will be creating a survey for the students to see what they want next year in lieu of Field Day. We would like to have a plan in place before the beginning of the next school year.

Treasurer's Report

See attached sheet.

There are a few grants that have been awarded and not had paperwork submitted. Dr. Jones will follow-up.

Secretary's Report

Yvette gave some remarks about Paul Doniger's announcement to retire at the end of the year.

Yvette's daughter, Cara, had Mr. Doniger and said that he never makes students feel discouraged. He is personable and connects with them by bringing in pieces of his personal life as well as being knowledgeable about so many subjects and quoting from numerous books. He is interested in them as people not just the schoolwork that they produce and he strives to support them in any way he can. Cara was literally brought to tears when his class was ending and he gave each student a sheet with advice for next year and beyond. It is something that she will keep, treasure and fondly remind her of Mr. Doniger as he will be one of the teachers that she always remembers.

Mr. Doniger is a true educator, not just of students at PHS but also for the community at large offering a plethora of dramatic performances, known and obscure, as well as ones that he has written. In his capacity as theatre director, Mr. Doniger provides opportunities for students to be connected in a variety of ways through crew, lights and sound, sets or performance. By bringing his work to the stage, students are afforded the opportunity to see another aspect of theatre and have the unique experience of working directly with the playwright. The amount of time and energy that it takes to cast, direct and offer these performances is endless and Mr. Doniger does this wholeheartedly twice a year while also teaching his course load.

Mr. Doniger has served as the teacher representative to the PTO for several years and is respected and admired by colleagues, parents and students. He works closely with the music department for some of his productions and supports their efforts as they and numerous other PHS staff support his. He was instrumental in the establishment of the Shakespeare senior elective, ran a workshop in sword fighting skills for stage at the Field Day in the fall and served as a judge for Belle Garafola's Iron Chef competitions.

We thank Paul for his 14 years of service at PHS, and wish him well in his retirement.

Teacher Representative Report - Paul Doniger

The staff didn't bring any comments or concerns to Paul.

Channel 8 came to PHS this afternoon and taped some of the Anything Goes rehearsal and interviewed some students. They will showcase our musical either next Thursday or the Thursday after that. Dr. Jones will let us know when he gets the information with the specifics.

Both middle schools will be coming for a medley of "Anything Goes" on Friday, May 3rd during the day.

Dr. Jones' Report

Administration is taking a look at the theatre program. Acting classes and stagecraft classes will be during the school day and the curriculum has already been written by Mr. Doniger.

The graduation letter went out this afternoon to parents. There are 3 tickets for the gym and 3 for the auditorium. Graduation is June 13th at the high school.

Student schedules are being worked on currently and will hopefully be out by the end of the school year. This is pending the budget passing.

Proposed schedule - There was a recent meeting with the superintendent and assistant superintendent about the middle and high school schedules. Clear expectations about homework procedures are being looked at.

The cable channel is not working for either town. There was a question about why it had worked in Southbury and not Middlebury.

Scholarship Committee

Jen Atkinson will be chairing it for the last year and Shanna Hampton will be taking it over next year. The applications are in and the committee will receive them on 4/22 and decisions are due 5/10. A committee is being put together. If you are interested in being a part of this committee, please contact Jen at eatki75705@aol.com.

Teacher Appreciation Week and Luncheon

The microwave for the Resource Center is coming this week. The one in the staff lounge has already been replaced.

The decision was made to do a brunch or lunch on Monday, June 3rd. We will ask for gift cards for the raffle. It will be a full staff that day, not just teachers.

Region 15 Budget

The referendum is Wednesday, May 8th. Christine needs people to hold signs during commuter hours to remind them to vote. An electronic sign up schedule will be circulated the week before.

On April 24, Josh Smith will be meeting with all Region 15 PTO parents at 7 PM in the AP room at PHS to address any concerns or questions regarding the proposed school budget.

Question about Security Procedure

There are practice fire drills and emergency drills. There is a very comprehensive system in place. There is an established chain of command. There is a new, consistent policy for attendance at the drills. There are rosters, medical go boxes and a triage area.

Next and Last PTO Meeting of the year:

Tuesday, May 14 7 PM AP Room

Dates to Remember:

4/13-4/21 Spring Break
4/26-4/27 Art Festival 6-9 PM Friday/10 AM- 2 PM Sat at PHS Gymnasium and AP Room
4/29 Board of Education Meeting 7:30 PM PHS AP Room
5/3-5/5 PHS Production of "Anything Goes" 7:30 PM Friday and Sat and 2:30 PM Sunday
5/3-5/4 RMS Clothing Drive 3-8 PM Friday and 8 AM- 12 PM Saturday
5/6 Board of Education Meeting 7:30 PM PHS AP Room
5/8 Region 15 Referendum, Voting 6 AM - 8 PM (Please Vote!)
5/10 Early Dismissal for Professional Development
5/13 Board of Education Meeting, Volunteers of the Year Recognized 7PM AP Room
5/14 PHS PTO Meeting 7 PM AP Room
5/17 PHS Symphonic Band and Chorale 7PM
5/23 Instrument Recruitment Night 7PM PHS Auditorium
5/24 Superintendent Smith meets w/parents to discuss budget 7-8PM, PHS AP room
5/27 Memorial Day - No School
5/29 PHS Awards Evening 6:30-9:30 PM PHS Auditorium
5/30 PHS Concert Choir and Band 7 PM
6/1 eCommerce Expo Competition
6/2 Junior/Senior Prom 6-10 PM
6/3 No School - Teacher Work Day
6/10 Board of Education Meeting 7:30 PM PHS AP Room
6/13 PHS Graduation and Last day of School