

**PHS PTO Meeting
October 8, 2019**

Attendance: Christine Koobatian, Jen Nikolich, Colleen Bower, Paul Jones, Jessica Clark, Marya DiPerna, John Chan, Debbie Broadwater, Julie Cappuzzo, Jessica Bisceglia, Mickie Rutledge, Chrissie McKeown, Maureen Kania, Cathy Winter, Don Winter, Gabby Addison, Yvette Lomaro

President's Report - Christine Koobatian (ckbtn@charter.net)

PTO Advisory is going to be hosting a BOE candidate's forum on Wednesday, October 23 at 7pm in the PHS AP Room. It is an opportunity to hear from the candidates and ask them questions or find out more about their platforms. They are hoping to videotape or live stream it.

Our PHS PTO is officially a non-profit organization. With the help of PHS parent and attorney, Amy Smith, we filed the paperwork this past summer and were approved on August 15. Thank you to Amy Smith for volunteering her professional expertise to make this happen.

Treasurer's Report - Jen Nikolich (jjnikolich@aol.com)

The board is in the process of formulating our budget. We are beginning with about \$13,000. There are about \$10,000 of available funds. The budget will be printed on the back of the agenda and on our website in future meetings.

Principal's Report - Paul Jones (pjones@region15.org)

There is interest from a faculty member in coming to our meetings as our Teacher Representative beginning next month.

There was a question at the last meeting about recycling the large food aluminum pans. They are largely not used in our facility but when they are brought in, they can be recycled in the same bin where we use large aluminum containers. Culinary arts was informed about this for their use. Cardboard is able to be recycled. The Ecology Club is meeting and expanding recycling opportunities.

Sit With Us app will be run by the psychology intern this year and a student volunteer has stepped up to recruit students. This was designed by a teenager who struggled with who to sit with during lunch. The purpose is to connect student ambassadors with kids who can use the app to request assistance finding someone to sit with. Newtown is using it and it is building relationships with the students.

October 22nd is the 8th Grade Open House here at PHS. The Director of Guidance and Paul will speak. The department chairs will be available to answer questions.

New graduation requirements have been reviewed at the BOE Policy & Curriculum committee to realign with the state of CT statutes that require certain amounts of credit and the types of credits. There must be a minimum of 25 credits and a mastery experience.

October 21st is Spirit Week. Students are voting on the theme for each of the 5 days. They decorate the halls and wear class color that Thursday. Friday is the pep rally in the afternoon with games and activities and the band plays and the football game is that evening. The dance is Saturday and will be held at the Wyndham. Only Pomperaug students are allowed.

Senior Semi-Formal is November 9th at the Grand Oak Villa. The Junior Ring dance is November 16th also at the Grand Oak Villa.

PSATs will be given on Wednesday, October 16 for grades 9-12. Seniors will receive a form in advisory to be signed if they are college visiting or shadowing that day.

The marching band played at the Board Of Education meeting last night and sounded great.

Department Chairs have met with Paul and homework practices are being reviewed. Students will be asked about their load in classes. A parent stressed that it is important for our kids to be honest with the staff about how long they are taking to get homework completed.

This year we will be performing two full-stage productions in December and March and a black box production in May. This came from feedback from parents and it also allows someone doing Spring sports to have an opportunity to be in the production. There will be a one-act festival directed by Seniors in the black box.

Hospitality - Chrissie McKeown (chrissie_26@att.net) and Maureen Kania (mtkania@charter.net)

This month, Candy donations will be solicited from parents and bowls will be set-up in the staff rooms with fruit and coffee pods. They will be looking into what improvements can be made in the staff lounge and resource room and develop a recommendation.

Fall Fundraiser - Colleen Brower (col52668@aol.com)

Our fundraiser is a direct donation to PHS, and donors receive Pomperaug Passes for Sports and/or drama events based on their level of donation. In the past the forms were sent home with students' schedules and other forms. Because there was no mail sent home this summer, they were distributed at Advisory during the first week of school. 162 families have contributed \$14,792 so far, which is fairly consistent with recent years.

Teacher Grants - Christine Koobatian for Hollie Ward (ward24@me.com)

Teacher Grant forms were sent out to PHS Staff the first week in October and they will be returned this month. The committee will meet to recommend which grants to approve. Contact Hollie Ward if you are interested in being on the committee and haven't indicated that on the volunteer form. Our goal is to support things that impact the most amount of students.

Volunteer Form - Gabby Addison (loripetera@aol.com)

Gabby Addison graciously compiled this list for us. Thank you. If you have not filled out that form and would like to be included on the Teacher Grant Committee, Scholarship Committee (not parents of Seniors) or Teacher Appreciation Events, please contact Gabby to be included on the spreadsheet so that we can contact you when needed.

PHS PTO Website - Don Winter (winterwinterdct@gmail.com)

Don Winter created a new website for us and presented it. This will be where we store information, agendas, minutes, and financial statements. Parents will be able to access it through the Region 15 website. Thank you, Don, for sharing your talents and expertise with us to help communication to our PHS parents!

Dates to Remember:

10/9 No School - Yom Kippur
10/11 Early Dismissal - Professional Development
10/14 No School - Columbus Day
10/16 PSATs for Grades 9-11, Dismissal 12:15
10/18 Photo Retake Day
10/21-25 PHS Spirit Week
10/22 8th Grade Open House 6:30 PM
10/23 Spanish Honor Society Induction 7-8:15 PM Cafeteria
10/26 Homecoming dance
11/5 No School - Election Day/Professional Development
11/12 PHS PTO Meeting 7PM AP Room
11/20 PHS Music Pie Distribution
11/27 Early Dismissal
11/28-11/29 Thanksgiving Recess
12/6 Early Dismissal/Professional Development
12/6-8 PHS Fall Play
12/10 PHS PTO Meeting 7PM AP Room
12/11 PHS Jazz and Chamber Concert 12/12 Snow Date
12/18 Buche DeNoel Competition
12/18 Symphonic Band Concert

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, November 12 at 7 PM in the AP Room.