

**PHS PTO Meeting**  
**May 14, 2019**

**Attendance:** Chrissie McKeown, Mauneen Kania, Debbie Broadwater, Paul Doniger, Paul Jones, Yvette Lomaro, Don Winter, Cathy Winter, Gabby Addison, Patty Windover, Christine Koobatian, Karen Harper

**President's Report**

Welcome. She is very proud of our accomplishments this year, including raising almost \$17,000 and awarding teacher grants, improved communication via our new Facebook page with over 350 members, and our hospitality events to make sure our staff is appreciated. We have great things planned for next year. A special thanks was given to Karen Harper for her many years of service (11 as our treasurer). Amy Smith, a parent and an attorney, will be helping us become not-for-profit.

Tara Coelho has expressed an interest in getting more involved, and she is working with Hollie Ward on recommending a student event for next year. Two ideas being flushed out are an international day and ways to enhance the spirit week leading to homecoming.

The PHS PTO Board officers (Hollie Ward, Karen Harper and Yvette Lomaro) and Hospitality Chair People (Chrissie McKeown and Mauneen Kania) were acknowledged and thanked. She expressed an interest in creating a small committee next year to assist our chairpeople with the great events they have planned for next year. If you are interested in being a part of it, contact Mauneen at mtkania@charter.net or Chrissie at chrissie\_26@att.net.

Paul Doniger was thanked for his years of service as the staff liaison to the PTO and given a gift certificate to Shakespeare's Garden.

**Treasurer's Report**

Teacher's Grants projected \$15,000 but only awarded \$10,000 as three grants have not had items submitted that were awarded. Christine will follow up with Chris Walsh and Ron Plasky regarding the three outstanding grants. Dr. Jones mentioned that better signage is needed for this building. We will consider addressing it before the next school year begins.

A question was asked about the scholarship award. PHS PTO grants 4 \$500 scholarships each year. There was a discussion about how equitable the distribution was of all scholarships and ways that it could possibly be addressed.

**Teacher's Report**

There is no feedback from staff. We discussed the replacement for Mr. Doniger as the staff representative to the PTO. It was suggested that rotating teachers to provide a report as an option for representing the staff.

**Principal's Report**

Counselors are working through next year's schedule so that they can be released in the first week of June. It will either be paper or electronic. There will be set meetings for students to meet with counselors. There is a priority to balance the sections. There is a very impressive Advisory program that will go with this schedule to get school identity and to develop relationships with staff and students. There is also a push to develop a theatre arts program and have the classes taught during the day.

Next year's schedule is a 6 day rotation days 1-6 for K-12. It will provide support and consistency for families. Homework and backpacks are being looked at and there will be some plans presented to students when the year begins.

The Lifetouch contract was reviewed and will not be renewed in order to allow administration to compare competing offers. There will be a formal request for companies to submit proposed contracts. If there are specific things you would like to see in the contract please email Paul Jones please e-mail him at [pjones@region15.org](mailto:pjones@region15.org).

The graduation photo contract is also up for renewal. Grad Images is the vendor. There may be a way to group them together and get a better deal.

Stop and Shop money goes to the principal's account. This money is used on student events. Last year the money was spent at Ropes for spirit wear. Money will be coming in May and the intention is to use the money for a senior walk and end of the year events. For the Senior Walk, the seniors will write a letter to a 5<sup>th</sup> grader and on June 12<sup>th</sup> they will put their cap and gown on and go to all 4 schools on buses. A student working on her GS Gold Award coordinated this with the elementary schools. It will take about 20 minutes at each school. Seniors were sent a link to sign up for this event and still can if they have not.

Prom is at the Amber Room. There is one large room with two covered patio areas. There was some miscommunication last year during booking about what space would be used. PHS has reached out to other schools with similar enrollments and received favorable reviews. Administration is working with students to ensure that it is a great night for all students.

Awards night is Wednesday, May 29<sup>th</sup> in the auditorium.

Next week Active Minds (a social/emotional group that prepares students to talk about what is going on in their lives to make them feel inclusive) is coming in on Thursday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>. There will be an assembly during the day and then a parent workshop that evening at 6:30. There will be a student group next year with fundraising to bring in speakers.

The distracted driving mock scenario will be held the following day, May 24<sup>th</sup>. The lead up to that at lunch is that they will sign a pledge that they won't drive distracted. The state police is bringing in the crusher, which gives the students an

opportunity to feel what it is like to be in a car accident. Parents need to sign the permission slip for students under 18 in order for them to participate in this.

Paul thanked us for our hard work, dedication and support of the students and staff.

### **Hospitality**

There was something hosted every day last week to recognize our outstanding staff.

Monday was dessert, coffee and balloons. Tuesday was bagel and muffins.

Wednesday and Thursday were hosted by Paul Jones and Josh Smith. Friday was grab and go snacks.

The luncheon is June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Dave at DiPalmas will do a lunch of homemade meatballs, pasta and salad for \$5.50 per person. He will also set up. Parents are asked to donate desserts, drinks and gift cards.

### **Budget**

It passed in both towns. Thanks for getting out the vote.

### **Dates to Remember:**

5/17 PHS Symphonic Band and Chorale 7 PM

5/23 Instrument Recruitment Night 7 PM

5/27 No School - Memorial Day

5/29 PHS Awards Evening 6:30-9:30PM

5/30 PHS Concert Choir/Band 7 PM

5/31 Battle of the Bands 7 PM

6/1 eCommerce Expo Competition

6/2 Junior/Senior Prom 6-10 PM

6/3 No School - Teacher Work Day

6/10 BOE Meeting 7:30 PM AP Room

6/13 PHS Graduation/Last day of school