

**PHS PTO Meeting Agenda**  
**Tuesday, February 11, 2020**  
**7 PM AP Room**

**Attendance:** Christine Koobatian, Cindy O'Connor, Stacie McLaughlin, Jen Nikolich, Debbie Broadwater, Art Blais, Hollie Ward, Paul Jones, Chrissie McKeown, Colleen Brower, Mauneen Kania,

**President's Report - Christine Koobatian**

The school budget will be presented at the Board of Education meeting on 2/24 and there will be two workshops that will go into more detail (3/4 and 3/18). Christine will be attending and encourages everyone to attend and give input. The high school specific budget will be presented by Dr. Jones on March 18th.

**Vice President's Report - Hollie Ward**

May 21st is the date for Cultural Day at PHS.

**Treasurer's Report - Jen Nikolich**

See attached. Ms. Rosenberg was awarded a grant but has not responded as of yet. One of last year's students who received a scholarship didn't respond about not cashing his check.

**Teacher's Report - Cindy O'Connor/Jodee Maciolek**

Cindy O'Connor shared that Shannon Perreault will be taking Freshman students to "Of Mice and Men" at the Thomaston Opera House in March. There is another trip planned for the AP students.

Guidance is taking kids to the college fair in Hartford at the end of March. There will be over 200 colleges and universities in attendance.

Leslie Belval has set up voter registration on 2/26 in the guidance department. Registrars from Southbury and Middlebury will be in the Career Center from 8:45-11:30. Any student who is 18 years of age can register to vote. Students are asked to bring a driver's license or they should know the last four digits of their social security number. If they will be 18 by November 3rd, they can pre-register.

Mole day demonstrations were implemented and made possible by the grant we awarded them last year. Teachers and students loved the demonstrations and this event will be continued. The science department is very thankful for the grant.

On January 30, math students took part in the American Mathematics Competition (AMC). There are both 25-question and 75-minute multiple choice answers. These competitions are administered annually and is the first in a series of competitions that eventually lead all the way to the International Mathematical Olympiad.

On 2/3 the PHS Math League Team hosted the third of four regional math competitions and came in first place.

Friday, 2/7/20, PHS hosted a science scrimmage against the Newtown Science Bowl Team. Our team is preparing for the Science Bowl at UCONN on 3/7.

Unopened boxes of issues are encouraged to be sent in to the main office.

Ticket sales for "Mamma Mia" will be changing for advanced reservations.

A huge thank you for the decorations and goody bags for the staff today.

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

There have been questions about providing an honors level English course for the seniors. NEASC, our accrediting body, requests that there be one homogeneous class and Senior English had filled that. Art Blais, Humanities Chair, spoke about the history of the English course offerings and the process that teachers are going through to evaluate our current Senior offerings. One important thing is that they are prepared to write papers at the college level.

A point was made that it needs to be made clear to colleges and universities that PHS doesn't offer an honors English option senior year.

While there was focus on reliability and bias in media as part of Senior English, other topics were getting lost. There have been misperceptions about the college essay being shaped by the English teacher in the class. The focus is on how to write a strong narrative. What things define me and how do I write about it in a format as an example. This will now be in Advisory so it isn't lost. The process will start in March and be finished by the end of May for juniors. They will need time to write it, walk away and then come back to it.

"Mamma Mia" will be presented March 13, 14 and 15. Please come and support them. The PTOs from the middle schools are sponsoring an abbreviated showing the Thursday before. The kids have been working very hard so please come out and support them.

The photo contract is up for renewal and Mrs. Phiri and Dr. Jones are currently in the RFP (request for proposal) phase of reviewing vendors.

Registration for next year is happening. The student portal is opening tomorrow. There is not a benefit to requesting classes first, rather it is encouraged that students look through the program of studies with their parents and talk to their teachers before requesting classes. There is a clear date for course overrides. Dr. Jones will be sending an email to all parents regarding the registration process and dates.

A student panel of 6 kids went to RMS today and are going to MMS tomorrow to talk about registration to the 8th graders.

**Committee Reports:**

Valentine's Day Staff Event - Mauneen Kania/Chrissie McKeown  
Mailboxes were stuffed with goody bags and cupcakes, cookies and candy were put out and as well as decorations. Thanks to John Chun, Gabby Addison and Jessica Bisceglia for shopping for last minute items and helping to put the bags together.

**New Business Discussion:**

None

**Next Meeting Tuesday, March 10, 2020**

**Dates to Remember:**

2/14 No School - Professional Development  
2/17&2/18 No School - Winter Break  
2/24 BOE Meeting 7:30 PM (Policy & Curriculum 6:30) PHS Media Center  
03/4 School Budget Workshop 6:30 PM Location TBD  
3/10 PHS PTO Meeting 7 PM PHS AP Room  
3/13 Early Dismissal  
3/13-3/15 "Mamma Mia" 7:30 PM Friday and Saturday, 2:30 Sunday) PHS Auditorium  
3/18 School Budget Workshop 6:30 PM Location TBD  
3/18 Region String Festival 7 PM PHS Auditorium  
3/19 Financial Aid Workshop 6:30 PM Location TBD  
3/23 BOE Meeting 7:30 PM (Policy & Curriculum 6:30) PHS Media Center  
3/25 SAT's for Juniors, Workshops for Freshman and Sophomores, Seniors college visit or job shadow  
3/26 NHS Blood Drive 6:30 AM  
4/2 Mr. Pomperaug  
4/6 Talent Show 7PM

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