

PTO Meeting
September 27, 2017

Attendance: Paul Doniger, Mary Silverman, Yvette Lomaro, Karen Harper, Christine Koobation, Gabby Addison, Glenn Lungarini, Angela Holland, Maureen Nee, Cathy Winter, Sharon Martovich, Venetia Phillippe, Leigh Ances, Jen Welton, Kris Generali, Patty Windover, Debbie Nemec

Thanks to Angela Holland, Hospitality Chairperson, for the great Freshman Orientation luncheon.

Fundraiser form – The PTO offers a direct donation which is a Panther card. Various levels are available. People were looking to buy them at the football games. We will make an effort to have them available for purchase at the gate or door.

BOE meetings are twice a month on Monday evenings at 7:30 in the AP room. Online streaming is the most consistent way to see it. The meetings are posted within a couple of days on the region website. Coming up are the BOE elections. The agenda is listed on the link to see what they are going to speak about.

PTO Advisory Council is sponsoring a forum that will invite the candidates to speak. It will be televised also. The election is November 7th and the date of the forum will be announced (probably toward the end of October).

Field Day – rescheduled on October 11th.

Glenn's Report –

Monday night was a board presentation of the *PHS goals*. Academically the staff wants to increase student ownership and perseverance. A goal is to increase student's ability to control their own learning and problem solve without oversight and management. Research in STEM and other fields was reviewed to see what gaps exist in curriculum. One area of deficiency was the ability of students to communicate. There was the question of what critical thinking looks like in a classroom versus the real world. Autonomy and structure came out to have the best performance results. The groups with structure was second highest.

Progress on My Plan (POMP) is implemented this year with the goal to provide experiences that foster meaningful conversations with teachers about innovation, problem solving and critical thinking. They are assessed on critical thinking and communication primarily. The rubric is linked to each class. Students set goals where they want to be in the future. There is an interactive google form. Next week is halfway through the first quarter. In December it will be about halfway through the 2nd quarter. January is mid-terms. April is halfway through the last quarter. There is no grade. It is a reflection on how they learn and an opportunity to show how they can grow as learners.

Culture/Climate – What does it mean to be a Pomperaug Panther? Currently there is a lot of individual connection but now looking for ways to bring more unity and pride physically as a facility and what the brand is for PHS. The goal is to create an image and a brand. Another area of focus is trying to close the gap on what is out there on social media. There will be a focus on what impact their presence on social media has over the course of time and trying to overcome a sense of apathy. Another area of challenge are vapes. It is a concern with students here and in younger grades. There is a concerted effort to actively have more staff in the hallways and common areas to address this. It is an issue to get students to understand the issues of vaping and marijuana. The disciplinary actions have been strong in these areas. There is a balance with both disciplining and educating. A parent made a suggestion to bring in someone to speak about the ramifications of vaping. The expulsion process was explained and the timeline for various offenses. Students learned possible discipline information during the first two days of school.

Question about the coffee penalties – This was not true and addressed by administration.

Question about how SSD is going from an administrator's perspective – M/T is a Ted talk going with the core values. W/Th is take time to read days. This can take place in any form to engage, unplug and focus. F is the guidance lesson.

Faculty Representative Report – Paul Doniger was introduced by Mary Silverman and his role of bringing staff feedback to our meetings was explained. There were no issues, concerns or feedback from staff to report. The Fall play is “Cloak and Daggers”, a loose spoof on “Cassablanca” and will take place the weekend of October 27-29 and November 3-5. Performances are 7:30 PM on Friday and Saturday evenings and 2:30 PM on Sundays.

On *October 11th* Freshman, Sophomores and Juniors will have *testing* in the morning. There will be free resources through Kahn Academy for feedback from PSATs. Seniors will be able to come in on a 2 hour delayed schedule and guidance counselors will be available for assistance with college applications.

Question about service hours for HS graduation. Currently service hours are only associated with honor societies at PHS. HS reform may change that in the future.

Question about google docs site – This is something that can give students an ability to use information in response to things like college interview questions. They can use the language in the rubric to show how they have grown as a learner. It offers them an opportunity to think about who they are as a learner.

Future PTO Meetings - We would like to invite the new administrators to our PTO meetings to speak. The following are the dates:

Thursday, November 2 at 7 PM

Thursday, January 11 at 7 PM

Wednesday, March 7 at 7 PM

Wednesday, April 25 at 7 PM
June 6 if needed

All meetings are in the AP room.